

**Looking Back on 2024 and looking forward to 2025**

As we approach 2025 we look back on 2024 we have had a very busy year in our Parish this year, In January we closed the doors of St Mary & Peter's church on 8th January and all Masses were held in Árus Lorcaín, Funerals were held in Templerainey and after 2 months on the 9th March the doors were opened for everyone to see the professional work that was undertaken and Our Church looks wonderful now.

February was a busy month with Lent and First Confessions and March and April were busy with Ceremony of Light and Confirmations and Easter.

The Month of May brought First Holy Communions, A new roof and work was done in St David's Johnstown. The sad news came that Fr David Brough would be leaving Arklow Parish to become the Parish Priest of Dalkey.

In June Fr Liam Dunne celebrated 60 years of being ordained a Priest, Mass was celebrated on the 8th of June. In July Fr David said goodbye to Arklow Parish A Mass of celebration was held on Saturday 29th June with celebrations after in Árus Lorcaín.

In August we welcomed Fr Martin who joined our parish and has settled in well and we are delighted to have him. The Annual Lourdes Pilgrimage took place in September. Also during the busy year we celebrated many weddings and on the 4th October the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass was celebrated in the Church with a party in Árus Lorcaín after this is always a very enjoyable evening.

We also celebrated many Baptisms. The priest celebrated many funerals and on the 7th November the Annual November Remembrance Mass was held this is always a very sad Mass for family's recently bereaved. It's a lovely Mass to remember our loved ones. Also in November we registered all the School children for Communions and Confirmations for 2025 and meetings have been held with schools and parents about preparing for the Sacraments.

The Organ committee have been busy fundraising for the restoration of the organ which was a great success with a Golf Classic in June and Parishioners purchasing Pipes and donating towards the Organ. Work has started on repairing the Organ and we look forward to hearing it over the next few months.

A New Parish Pastoral Council was also formed we are delighted to have welcomed all the people who have joined and are working hard.

We are blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly for their Church we thank you all most sincerely.

We have had a very happy and productive year in Arklow and we look forward to 2025.

Thanks to all who have returned their Christmas Dues.

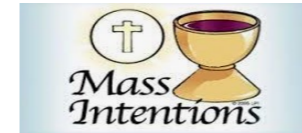


*Parish of Sts. Mary & Peter, Arklow*

*with St David's Johnstown*

*29th December 2024*

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*



**Saturday 28th December 6.30pm**

Mary Keating  
(Birthday Remembrance)  
Phyllis Murray (2nd Anniv)  
**(Anniv)**  
Hattie Walker  
Janie McDonald

**Sunday 29th December 11.30am**

**(Anniv)**  
Eileen Dempsey  
Sean Brough  
Eamy & John Doyle

**Tuesday 31st December 10am**

Sally Farrell (Anniv)

**Wednesday 1st January 10am**

Pat Kelly (Month's Mind)  
Ian English (Anniv)

**Castletown 28th December 8pm**

Matt Byrne (2nd Anniv)

**Johnstown 29th December 10am**

Angela O'Leary (Anniv)

**Polish Mass Sunday 5th January 10am** Kolejna msza w języku polskim odbędzie się 05.01.25 o godzinie 10.00. Po mszy wszystkich serdecznie zapraszamy do Árus Lorcaín na kawę i ciastko. Next mass in polish will take place on 05.01.25 at 10 am.

The Holy Family is seen as the model for the human family, the religious community, and the Church itself. The celebration of the Incarnation has brought us to see God's closeness. In the Holy Family we see the ordinariness of the life of Jesus, the simple acceptance by Mary and Joseph of the marvels of God. In the daily life of family and community we can touch the divine, we can come close to God. But we have to learn to live centred on God, with respect and love for each other

**Liturgical Calendar  
December /January**

Tues 31st	St Sylvester
Wed 1st	Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Thurs 2nd	St Basil St Gregory
Friday 3rd	The Holy Name of Jesus St Munchin

**Wednesday 1st January  
Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

At the message of the angel, the Virgin Mary received the Word of God in her heart and in her body, and gave life to the world. Hence she is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer.

**Gathering Hymn**

**Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child

Holy Infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born

**Recessional Hymn**

**Adeste Fideles**

Adeste Fideles Laeti  
trimphantes

Venite, venite in Bethlehem

Natum videte, Regem  
Angelorum;

**Venite Adoremus, venite adoremus**

**Venite adoremus Dominium!**

Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,

gestant puellae viscera.

Deum veru, gentium non factum

**Venite Adoremus, venite adoremus**

**Venite adoremus Dominium!**

Cantet nunc io chorus  
Angelorum

Cantet nunc aula caelstium:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Thanks to the kind person who donated €550 to St Vincent De Paul.