

The parish of Movice

St Pius X, Movice

St Mary's, Ballybrack

St Columba's, Ballinacrae

St Joseph's Oratory, Shrove

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Despite the best efforts of a huge number of people, the rate of Covid-19 infection has increased alarmingly over the last few weeks.

The government, following the advice of health officials, have placed the whole country in a Level 5 lockdown once again. Sadly, previous advice has been ignored by a minority of citizens (and, perhaps, others from outside the State) who have put themselves and everyone with whom they've come into contact at great risk. What they have done can be described as nothing short of dangerous, irresponsible and immoral.

We need to bring an end to the pandemic and the recurring lockdown which have been part of our lives over the last nine months. Those of us who are doing our best to abide by the regulations must keep ourselves and others on the right track, putting the simple but necessary advice about precautions into action.

There are some who continue, despite the evidence to the contrary, to refuse to accept the reality and the danger of the virus. We need, all of us, to work together to protect ourselves and one another.

We need to beat this virus. We need to make 2021 a happy, healthy and hope-filled New Year for everyone.

Second Sunday after Christmas

Responsorial Psalm: The word was made flesh, and lived among us.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans. Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 3 January 2021. When peaceful silence lay over all, and night had run half of her swift course, the all-powerful word leaped down from heaven, from the royal throne.

Monday 4 January. St Charles of St Andrew (John Andrew Houben) was born in the Netherlands in 1821. He took vows as a Passionist in 1846 and came to Mount Argus, Dublin, in 1857. It was there that he spent most of his priestly life. His ministry in the confessional was renowned and the poor of Dublin found in him a strong support. He died on 5 January 1893, and was canonised on 3 June 2007.

Wednesday 6 January. The Feast of the Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. This great feast celebrates the adoration of the Magi, the wise men who had come from the East to see him. The other great manifestations of Jesus are his Baptism in the Jordan and his first miracle, the changing of water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the Magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations who welcome the Good News of salvation in the birth of the Saviour.

Thursday 7 January. St Raymond of Penyafort (1175 – 1275) was a brilliant lawyer when, at the age of 45, he became a Dominican. Later he became Master General of the Dominicans and Archbishop of Tarragona.

The parish office is now located in what was Fr McGoldrick's house. Normal office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 10am – 2pm

Collection envelopes for 2021 are available in the porch of the church nearest to your address. If you'd like to start using envelopes, or to contribute to the parish by Standing Order / Direct Debit, please get in touch with the parish office.

We offer sincere **sympathy** to the family and friends of Fr Michael Mullan, Limavady, Liam Breslin, Carndonagh, and Maureen (Mary) McLaughlin, Church Brae, Greencastle, who died recently. May they rest in peace.

Mass this week: every morning (except Saturday) at 10am. The Vigil Mass for Sunday will be celebrated at 7pm on Saturday. For the present, our churches are open for private prayer only. Mass may be viewed via the parish webcam.

Thank you for your contributions to the Christmas Collection, and to the parish collection for the past two weeks which amounted to €3963, and for a very generous donation of €1,000.

Greencastle Community Centre: 9381054 / info@greencastlecentre.ie The office will reopen on Wednesday 6 January. TUS worker required for the Good as New shop (contact Tina @ 0860516072). New courses in January: CBT & Self-esteem; Healing Art; Introduction to Web design; Men on the Move.

The next **Parish Draw** will take place on Monday 11 January.

Ministers of the Word may collect their **2021 Missals** in the sacristy of St Pius X church (before or after Masses) or from the porch of the parish office or the porch of the parochial house.

Children in Crossfire Advent Appeal envelopes should be returned to the parochial house or the parish office by Wednesday 6 January.

Messengers for January may be collected in the porch of the parochial house.

Baptism: we welcome into God's family Clara Grace Byrne, Greencastle, Zoey May McDaid, Gulladuff, Jude Brendan Gill, Greencastle, and Ultan Michael Doherty, Ballymacarthur.

The **ticketing system** for our Christmas Masses went very smoothly, thanks to the work of Helen and Anna in the parish office. Sadly, some people couldn't get tickets because the tickets for the most popular Masses were taken very quickly. We're grateful to all those who returned tickets as soon as they knew they wouldn't be able to attend. Unfortunately, a number of people got tickets but didn't use them, meaning that other people who could have used them were unable to do so. Hopefully, we'll not need to use such a system again.

A sincere **thank you** to all those who volunteered their services for the Christmas Masses, with the result that we had enough Ministers of the Word and Ministers of the Eucharist at all of our Masses, and music / singing at six of our seven Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

In the past year, yet again, we've been blessed to have had the services of a large number of **parishioners who have volunteered their time and energy** to the life of the parish in a variety of ministries and in other necessary areas of parish life. Without their help the parish would not have been able to run as smoothly and efficiently as it has, and to offer our parishioners and visitors to the parish the level of service which many have come to expect here among us.

If you'd like to volunteer for any area of parish life and ministry in 2021 – perhaps as one of your New Year's resolutions – please get in touch.

A very Happy New Year to all our parishioners and to those who hope to visit us again in 2021, and to all those who follow our Masses on the parish webcam. May the year just beginning bring us the blessings of health and fresh hope for better times ahead.