MASS INTENTIONS

Sat	**24 Dec**	**6.30pm**	**Christmas Eve Children's Mass**
Sat	**24 Dec**	**9.00pm**	**Christmas Eve—Vigil Mass**
Sun	**25 Dec**	**10.00am**	**Christmas Day Mass**
Mon	**26 Dec**	**9.30am**	**Remembrance Mass for Paddy & May Daly.**
Tue	**27 Dec**	**9.30am**	**Steve Dunne.**
Tue	**27 Dec**	**10am to 12noon**	**Eucharistic Adoration after Mass.**
Wed	**28 Dec**	**9.30am**	**Communion Prayer Service**
Thur	**29 Dec**	**9.30am**	**Patrick & Mary Moore, Hodgestown.**
Fri	**30 Dec**	**9.30am**	**Remembrance Mass for Thomas Mooney.**
Sat	**31 Dec**	**7.30pm**	**Rita Dunne & remember her husband Tom.**
Sun	**01 Jan**	**10.00am**	**Month's Mind—Michael (Mick) Murphy.**
			Paddy Logan.
Mon	**02 Jan**	**9.30am**	
Tue	**03 Jan**	**9.30am**	**Denis & Joan Doran.**
Tue	**03 Jan**	**10am to 12noon**	**Eucharistic Adoration after Mass.**
Wed	**04 Jan**	**9.30am**	**Communion Prayer Service**
Thur	**05 Jan**	**9.30am**	**Joe Carey & deceased members of the Carey &**
			Clohessy families.
Fri	**06 Jan**	**10.00am**	**Feast of the Epiphany & First Friday**
Sat	**07 Jan**	**7.30pm**	**Michelle Patchell**
Sun	**08 Jan**	**10.00am**	**Thomas & Kathleen Armstrong.**
			Mai Murphy, Landenstown.
			Mary Ennis, Firmount, Clane.
			Margaret Gannon & remember her husband Noel & their daughter Áine.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Teresa Scally, Mapletoft Close, Prosperous

Our sincere sympathy to her family at this sad and difficult time.

PARISH OFFICE

The parish office is now closed for Christmas and will reopen to the public on Tuesday 3rd January at 10am. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our parishioners a happy and healthy Christmas. I thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you again in the New Year. If you need to book in a Mass intention while the office is closed please contact Fr. Bernard on 085-2325095 or Bill O'Reilly our sacristan on 085-7052448.

Angela Delaney

Dear Parishioners

The term of the members of the Parish Pastoral Council, according to our constitution, comes to an end in December. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for each and everyone in the council for their dedication and commitment that were put into so many works in the parish for the last three years.

When I came here in 2019, in that year, our biggest task was to organize the 150th jubilee celebration of the church. Still, I remember how our members of the Parish Pastoral Council put their heart and soul into bringing it to a successful completion. The unity and solidarity we had in the council was excellent and commendable. I must especially thank the chairperson of the council, Colette, for her wonderful talent of moving the council forward with new life and vitality. We thank her and wish her God's many blessings. In the same way, I thank each member of the Parish Pastoral Council for their personal dedication and as well as the great work done as a team to the parish community at large. When the present Parish Council will come to the end of its term, we must form a new one. Because our good work must continue for the betterment and the upliftment of the parish community. So, I make a humble request specially from both our young and elderly members in the parish community to join the council to make our parish more vibrant with their new thoughts, ideas and insights, so that we can take a new turn in the journey of our life towards God. I stop extending a very big thank you to the parish council, and a warm invitation to those who would like to join the new Parish council. Thank you all. Those who would like to join the Parish Council please give your name into the parish office.

Fr. Bernard

PARISH OF CARAGH

Church of Our Lady and St. Joseph Prosperous

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

25th December 2022 **No. 1271**

Christmas Message 2022 from Bishop Denis Nulty

"*You'll never guess what Santa brought, a train set*" the young boy tells his grandad early Christmas morning in the television advertisement. I think it's an ad. for Barry's Tea, but it always gets my vote for the best and simplest Christmas message.

Christmas is a time for gift-giving. Children, like that little boy in the television ad., are attracted by the gifts; we all are. But we also need to be attracted to the crib, to the Christmas creche, where we will learn the message that God's greatest gift to us is His Son. Whatever we receive this Christmas, we will be very grateful for; but the gift that will last the longest is the knowledge and realisation that we are loved, cherished and held by God.

To understand Christmas we have to understand the language of God, the greatest gift-giver. We find the language of God as we look into the crib. The inn-keeper closed one door but left the stable door ajar, enough for Mary and Joseph to squeeze through, exhausted by the census journey. The empty manger has been filled. God's gift comes not in tinsel and glitter but "*wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger*" (Lk. 2:12). God speaks to us from that manger, in the simplest of languages; we are the ones who too often complicate that message.

Christmas brings out the best in all of us. It's a busy time, it's a hectic time, but we wouldn't want it any different. I am so impressed by how the commercialisation of Christmas is matched by the generosity in giving to those in need: the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with their outreach in every parish, the local food kitchens, the Ukrainian appeals, support for Trócaire as it enters its fiftieth year and the many other causes that command our attention these days. Christmas brings out the best in all of us. As much as is spent in gifts, a huge amount is generously donated to charities.

And every gift doesn't necessarily cost hard-earned money, such as the gift of generosity, so obvious in the great response to those charitable appeals. Christmas is a celebration centred on generosity, God generously sharing with us His Son. The gift of time, spending time with those close to us is a precious gift, enjoying one another's company. The gift of kindness, words used to heal rather than hurt.

Christmas doesn't have to be complicated. The message is simple, like the boy's train set. The message that God's greatest gift to us is His Son Jesus, and that's a gift that keeps on giving all year round.

May the peace and joy of Christmas be in your heart and every good wish and blessing for 2023.

✠Denis Nulty

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Love the giver more than the gift."

PRIEST PHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office: **045-841806**
Fr. Bernard Reyhart 085-2325095
Our Diocesan Website is **www.kandle.ie**
Our Website is: Prosperousparish.net
Parish Email: parishoffice@prosperousparish.net

Safeguarding children
Parish Designated persons:
Máiread Harman & John Dunne
Contact through Parish Office on 045-841806

Diocesan Safeguarding Director:
Ms. Kathleen Sherry Tel: 085-8021633
Email: safeguarding@kandle.ie

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Sat 24 Dec 6.30pm: Siobhan Mullins
Sat 24 Dec 9.00pm: Denis McKennedy
Sun 25 Dec 10.00am: Deirdre Fitzpatrick
Sat 31 Dec 7.30pm: Anne Garry
Sun 01 Jan 10.00am: Betty O'Connor
Sat 07 Jan 7.30pm: Kevin Kiernan
Sun 08 Jan 10.00am: Marie Gordon

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Sat 24 Dec 6.30pm: Anne Dempsey
Sat 24 Dec 9.00pm Rosarii McKennedy
Sun 25 Dec 10.00am: Mary Daly
Sat 31 Dec 7.30pm: Anne Dempsey
Sun 01 Jan 10.00am: Pat Dunney
Sat 07 Jan 7.30pm: Angela O'Dwyer
Sun 08 Jan 10.00am: Gay Blake

Collections

Weekend 17th / 18th December
Envelopes €2286.00 **Basket** €599.18

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our Christian Community of Prosperous:

Joey Hongwei Murphy
Coolree, Robertstown

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration continues every Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon and is also available via our webcam.

iCatholic Player can be accessed via www.icatholic.ie

CHURCH CALENDARS

Our 2023 Church Calendars are now available in the church porch free of charge . Please take one.

CHRISTMAS ENVELOPE COLLECTION

The Christmas dues for the support of the priest in our parish is now due. Please use the grey envelope in your box of weekly envelopes. Extra envelopes are available in the church porch if you do not already have one.

CHRISTMAS BASKET COLLECTION

The basket collections taken up during the masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas day will go towards the support of the priest here in our parish.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Friday 6th January is the feast of the Epiphany, a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated here in our church at the slightly later time of 10am.

SICK CALLS

Friday 6th January is the first Friday of the month. Mass will be celebrated in our church at 10am and Fr. Bernard will make his house visits after Mass.

THE LITTLE WAY

Thank You For Your Support in 2022

As we rapidly approach the end of 2022,the Little Way Cancer Support Centre would like to express our sincere thanks for your generosity and support this year. We've seen a significant increase across all areas of our service as we emerged from the pandemic. This demand saw us having to increase our therapeutic and counselling services to our clients. We owe a debt of gratitude to you and the wider community that through your generous donations it has enabled us to ensure that we provide a vital community cancer support service in Kildare. Little Way Cancer Support Centre services will re-open on the 9th January 2023 at 10am. On behalf of us all, we wish you a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

ALONE are seeking volunteers

Would you be willing to provide companionship or make calls to Older People once a week? ALONE are seeking volunteers in your area. Full training and support provided. If interested please sign up here: https://alone.ie/volunteers/

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2-6)

This was what the prophet Isiah circa 600 years before Jesus foretold about the birth and the coming of the Messiah, the liberator whose way of governance will bring justice and peace to the whole world.

These words emphasize that all forms of oppression and domination will be done away with. People will be taught to transcend all divisions among them and reach out for peace, joy and unity. No wars. No production of arms for wars. And it will be a time of love, peace and justice.

2022 years have passed since the birth of Jesus. Do we as individuals, families, countries and the world experience love, peace and justice — salvation, redemption or liberation? No!

Why? Jesus and the whole of salvation history teach us that the true way towards salvation and liberation is the way of love and justice — but over the years and today, we, as individuals and as a world, have not chosen and do not choose that way. Instead, we have chosen the way of greed and profit which is opposite to the Way of Love.

Christmas is not just an external celebration during a particular season, It invites us to celebrate love, justice and peace in our day-to-day real life. Only then, salvation and liberation become a reality in our lives and in our world.

May the birth of Jesus guide us to commit ourselves to the cause of love, justice and peace. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone for all their help and support here in the parish. We have a very good parish team, working tirelessly and helping out behind the scenes. To our sacristan Bill O'Reilly, our parish secretary Angela Delaney, to the altar society for the beautiful church flowers, to the people who clean our church, to our readers & Eucharistic ministers, to our stewards, to the members of our pastoral council & finance committee, to the money counters, to Muintireas, to Betty O' Connor, Anne Garry, Marie Gordon, Kitty Fox, Deirdre Fitzpatrick, Seanie Ward, to our senior choir, to our folk group, to Fr. Ruairí in Newbridge and the parish team, to Paul Cassidy and all the staff in our primary school but in particular Eilis Cox and the teachers of Confirmation and First Holy Communion classes. We give thanks for the many parishioners who have given generously of their time and talents in making this parish such an energetic faith-filled community. Thank you for helping the parish community along the journey. May you be blessed with peace and joy at Christmas and in the New Year. Finally I thank you our parish family for your ongoing commitment and faith in God. God bless each and every one of you. Let Joy be your gift this Christmas, and may the year ahead be blessed with Faith, Hope and Love.

Fr. Bernard

USED STAMPS

Keep collecting your used stamps and drop them into the Parish Office and we will send them on to St. Patrick's Missionary Society, Kiltegan.

A message from an Garda Siochana

An Garda Siochana wish to warn people of a doorstep fraud and theft offence which has become prevalent over the last number of weeks. Elderly People are being targeted at their homes by Criminals who are impersonating Gardaí. The offenders are fraudulently pretending to be plain clothes Gardaí who are checking for dud money. They have duped people all around the country and stolen their cash on the pretense of checking to see if it is genuine money. They are producing false identification to assist the process.

Advice:

An Garda Siochana will never ask people about their finances on the doorstep of their homes and will never ask to check money. Always ask for Identification and do not be afraid to question it. If in doubt politely tell the caller that you want to verify their true identity. If necessary contact your local Garda Station who will be able to establish quickly if the caller is a member of An Garda Siochana. Report any such activity to your local Garda Station even if you have not been the victim of a theft. That report could save a neighbour or someone else close by. Please check on elderly neighbours, family and friends and advise and reassure them.