

# Dunleer Parish Bulletin

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Issue Date: Dec 16<sup>th</sup> 2018



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Dunleer

Sat, 15<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2018 @  
7.30 pm

Av	Cora & Tony Quinn Alice & Joe Johnston Peter Carron & Caroline Carron Lil Bellew
BM	Cameron Reilly

Sun, 16<sup>th</sup>-Dec-18 @  
11.30 am

Av	Séan Mc Creanor Peter Byrne Peter & Loreto Landy
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Sat, 22<sup>nd</sup>-Dec-2018 @  
7.30 pm

Av	Claire & Johnny Mc Mahon & dec'd
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### Philipstown

Sun, 16<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2018 @  
9.30 am

Av	Alo Callan
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During the season of Advent we pay attention to John the Baptist. He was the one given the task of preparing the way for the promised Messiah, for the Christ-Child, for the Word made flesh. His manner of preparation was straightforward and simple. He asked people to wash away their sin in the waters of the Jordan River. He preached to them to repent, to change, to turn back towards God. He also preached to them by the manner of his life and death. He went out into the desert wilderness, reminding people of their spiritual history and background when they had been moulded and formed into a people by God under the leadership of Moses. He invites those who would prepare for Christ to follow his example, to go aside, away from the distractions of the world, into the quiet and the solitude of the desert to think and to pray and to focus. He also gives all of us a lesson in the way he dresses and in his diet. He dresses in a simple, even an austere manner so as to remind us that externals are not all-important, and that the real beauty of a person is internal. His diet is simple too reminding us perhaps of the extravagance and waste of our own lifestyles, reminding us of the huge amounts of money and resources we as a society will spend and sometimes waste this Christmas time. Even the death of this great man who was the last and greatest of the prophets was an act of witness. He lost his life because he denounced wrong and preached against the breaking of the Law. His whole life was dedicated to preaching Christ, preparing the way for Christ and pointing the way towards Christ. He is a walking sermon, a speaking parable. Saint Francis was reputed to have said to his followers 'preach always-where necessary use words'. John the Baptist seldom needed words but when he did his message was characteristically straightforward and uncompromising. These were people coming for baptism to John – a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. They were asking practical questions as to which behaviours they needed to change. This honest and repentant look at ourselves and our patterns of behaviour and the necessary and consequent change of heart is taught by John as the preparation required. The people are full of expectancy and in danger of confusing John with the Christ so John clarifies that not only is he not the Christ but that he is unworthy to do the work of a slave – to untie the dusty sandals from the feet of the Master. When the Christ, whose sandals he is unfit to tie, does come, his baptism will be of the Holy Spirit and fire. He will gather the wheat and burn the chaff. The coming of Christ will bring judgement, and purification – so John exhorts them to prepare for judgement by changing and renewing their lifestyles. We may, of course end up judging ourselves by the standards we choose to live out. We may judge ourselves by our own behaviour and activity. It is on our integrity of life, on our generosity of heart, on our treatment of others that we will be judged by God. The dress that pleases God is the cloak of integrity – the diet that pleases God is a diet of simplicity and goodness. With advice such as this and more, John exhorted the people, while pointing towards the Christ – and announcing to them the good news – that the long night of death was over, and eternal life was promised – to those who would walk with the Christ who was about to come among them. The road to the Good News and its fulfillment goes through purification and suffering. The challenge of the Advent season and of life is so to purify and prepare ourselves that, in the words of the first reading and prophecy. God may 'exult with joy over you/ renew you with his love/ dance with shouts of joy for you/ as on a day of festival.'

**Carers Group 'A' on duty.**

### Parish Envelope

Collection 09/12/18  
€2,190.00

**Sat Evening Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Carols before Mass @  
7p.m.**

**Lann Léire C.P.G.** Lotto results 12/12/2018 No's 05.16.20.23. J'pot winner Gerry Duffy. J'pot €1,500.00.

**St Kevin's Club** Lotto results 06/12/2018 No's 02.16.20.25. Wkly winners Anne Mc Donnell & Louise Larkin. 13/12/18 No's 13.18.29.31. Wkly winners Ian Corrigan & Noel Torris. J'pot €10,000.00.

**Penance Services in Ardee on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 and in Dunleer on Fri 21<sup>st</sup> at 8 p.m. Christmas Eve masses in St Kevin's at 8p.m Dromin at 9.30pm and Dunleer at 9.30pm. Christmas Day Masses in Dunleer at 9.30 a.m. and 11 30 a.m.**

**Dromin 10.30am and St Kevin's at 9.30am.**

**Parish Envelopes** should be going out about now. Thank you for your cooperation in using these to make your contribution. Last year we were able to reclaim over €13K in Tax rebate. Envelopes available at church porches. There is an on-line PayPal facility on the website and Standing Orders can be made at your bank.