

DUNLEER PARISH BULLETIN

Rev. M. Murtagh P.P. 041-6851278 Mob 086 879 5804 **Dec 4th 2016**
 Parish Website www.dunleerparish.ie E-Mail gmmurtagh@eircom.net

Dunleer	Sat 3 rd	7 30	Av	Dec'd of Torris family
	Sun 4 th	11 30	MM Av	Eva Mc Ardle Sarah & Jimmy Mallan
	Mon 5 th	10 00	Av	Molly Kelly
	Tue 6 th	10 00	Av	Jack & Gertie Mc Connon
	Wed 7 th	7 30	Av	Brendan Brown
	Sat 10 th	7 30	Av	Brendan & Margaret Mc Evoy Alice Mc Grane Richard, Robert & Patrick Woods
	Sun 11 th	11 30	Av	Patsy Mc Mullan Sean Mc Creanor
Dromin	Sun 4 th	10 30	Av	Thomas, Gerard & Anne Flanagan
Philipstown	Sun 11 th	9 30	Av	Paddy Halpenny

Carers Group 'C' on duty this week.

Weekly Envelope & Plate collection for 27th €2,145.00

Carol Service Sun 11th at 7p.m. Refreshments in St Brigid's Hall afterwards. See Facebook.

Lann Leire G.F.C. Lotto results 30/11/2016 No's 01.17.25.27. Wkly winners Paula McGuinness & Bernie Carney. Next weeks jackpot €15,000.

Ardee-Collon Parish presents Mary Duff **Christmas Concert** with special guests Mary Byrne, X Factor and Nigel Connell, Voice of Ireland in the Church of the Nativity of Our Lady, Ardee on Thursday 15th December at 8.00pm. Admission €20. Tickets are now available in the Parish Office, Monday - Friday 10.00am-4.00pm (041 685 0920)

Pray For: Anthony McCullough Dromin, Thomas Callan Church View, Michael Higgins Rosses Point (brother to Margaret Campbell School Lane).

The essential characteristics of the Messiah are set out by Isaiah in the poem which forms our first reading. He is to be a descendant of Jesse, father of King David, the prototype of kingly behaviour; the shepherd-king. On him the spirit of the Lord will rest. He will be a person of wisdom and insight. He will have the wisdom which, scripture tells us, begins with and flows from 'fear of the Lord'.

The Messiah will be a person of justice, judging not on gossip, hearsay or appearances. He will champion the poor and wretched of the earth and his words will condemn the ruthless and wicked. His lifestyle and ways will be those of integrity and faithfulness. He will also be a man of vision, a dreamer of things as they might be.

His vision is one of innocence, of peace within the natural world and an absence of violence. Knowledge of the ways of God will fill the land as the waters swell the sea. Justice and peace will be the touchstones of the new order. The psalm tells us of those who are closest to his heart and who will have first call on his ministry and his compassion; the weak, the needy and the poor.

The last and greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist; the link-man between the Old and the New, makes an appearance in the Gospel. He quotes the prophet Isaiah telling people of the need to prepare for the Messiah. The preparation recommended is an interior one; that of repentance. He admonishes his people for being too sure of themselves. 'We have Abraham for our Father', they claimed, as if that sufficed to redeem them. They tried to live off the spiritual capital of the past and to cash in on their rich spiritual inheritance.

John admonishes them in symbolic terms too. He highlights their excesses by living a simple, even austere lifestyle. He lived in the wilderness, being formed in the desert as had the Exodus people of old. He washed away their sins in the waters of the Jordan and spoke of the fate of the tree which failed to produce fruit. The axe was to be laid to it: root and branch destroyed.

He spoke of the enormity of power and authority of the Messiah and the coming of the Holy Spirit. He spoke too of the judgement to come and the condemnation of the unrepentant.

What might our vision for the world be? There are those who dream impossible things and say why not. What God wants to accomplish in the world he first accomplishes in one person. How might we fare if we were being judged on simplicity of lifestyle, on the peace and justice of our ways and words, and on our concern for the needy and poor. Preparation for the coming which brings judgement cannot be put off forever. Now is the favourable moment. The present is pregnant with possibility.