

PARISH CENTRE: 22229/22779; CATHEDRAL PRESBYTERY: 22505;
BÓTHAR NA NAOMH PRESBYTERY: 22688.
PARISH CENTRE MOBILE NUMBER: 085 8819575
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THURLES PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

The season of Advent has taken on a new perspective in preparation for Christmas, as we make this journey together towards Christmas week. We believe the spirit and true meaning of Christmas can still exist, and it is something we can all contribute to by being considerate to each other in how we participate.

Please be reassured that the obligation to attend Mass is still suspended, and this will continue over the Christmas period, and into the New Year.

We gently encourage people to consider attending Mass anytime between December 24th and January 6th if you wish to attend Mass over the Christmas period. The Christmas Mass Times are printed below for your convenience. **There is no requirement to register for Mass in advance**, but please be aware that the capacity in both churches still remains the same – **70 in Bóthar na Naomh, and 150 in the Cathedral**. Once capacity is reached, the doors are closed to ensure safety and wellbeing of everybody. Please be mindful and respectful of the role of the stewards in this instance. Should this be the case when you arrive, we ask you to consider attending the next available Mass, or to consider viewing the Mass on-line. We really ask for your co-operation in preventing gatherings in the yards outside the church buildings please.

While families may sit together, please bear in mind that each member of the family is counted as an individual. The streamed Mass may be an option for families to be together at home to participate in the Christmas Mass. It is also an option for the vulnerable in our community, or those who may be fearful of the larger numbers at Christmas. It is our hope that each Mass celebrated on-line will enter the homes of the wider community connecting us all in the true Christmas spirit. **All of the Cathedral Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas day will be livestreamed.**

If attending Mass, the wearing of face coverings is expected, with exceptions for medical reasons. Social distancing is essential.

| DATES | CATHEDRAL Capacity: 150 people | BÓTHAR NA NAOMH Capacity 70 people |
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| Thursday December 24th CHRISTMAS EVE | 4.00 p.m. 6.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m. | 3.00 p.m. 5.00 p.m. 7.00 p.m. |
| Friday December 25th CHRISTMAS DAY | 7.00 a.m. 9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. | 8.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m. |
| Saturday December 26th ST. STEPHEN'S DAY | 11.00 a.m. 7.00 p.m. | |
| Sunday December 27th | 11.00 a.m. 7.00 p.m. | 9.00 a.m. |

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation will not take place in the lead up to Christmas because of restrictions. A 'Contrition Ceremony' will take place with Mass at 7.00 p.m. on Monday December 21st.
- Prayer around the Crib** will take place on **Tuesday December 22nd, 7.00 p.m., live stream only.**
- Baptisms are permitted with the maximum number of 10 people present.
- Weddings and Funerals remain at 25 people.

FOR OUR STREAMING SERVICE ON-LINE VISIT: www.thurlesparish.ie
 All Cathedral & Bóthar na Naomh Masses can also be heard via local radio link.

ADVENT FAMILY MASS: This Saturday @ 7.00pm (live-streamed from www.thurlesparish.ie) The theme is '*Waiting in joyful hope.*'. We pray to God asking him to help us prepare well for Christmas. We will decorate a Christmas Tree using decoration sheets which were distributed to the schools during the week. We hope you can join us on the night.

JESSE TREE: We will reflect upon the promise of a Saviour during our Advent Masses.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed daily on the main altar in the Cathedral from **Monday – Sunday incl. 11.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.**

VISITING OF THE SICK & FIRST FRIDAY CALLS: First Friday house visits and other pastoral house visits have ceased except in the case of emergency.

CHRISTMAS CLERGY COLLECTION: Will take place next weekend, **19/20 December 2020.** (White Envelope -20-Dec-20) The money collected in each parish goes to a central diocesan fund from which all the priests are paid. Jim, Joe & Vincent say '*thank you*' for your continued support on behalf of the Priests of the Archdiocese. We greatly appreciate your generosity – however we understand if you are unable to contribute during these difficult times.

WEEKLY ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTION: We are very grateful for your Weekly Offertory Contributions - **€2,880.00** received. **Donation Boxes for the Weekly Offertory Collection are placed around the Cathedral and Bóthar na Naomh Church.**

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Tickets on sale in the Parish Centre – all proceeds to the **Restoration of Bishop Leahy Statue.** Variety of prizes. (Tickets €2 each/ 3 for €5).

ENVELOPE DISTRIBUTORS: The Christmas package containing a Parish Book Mark and Box of Envelopes will be distributed to your home over the next few weeks. **Thurles Parish 2021 Calendar** is available at the Parish Centre as it is not part of Christmas package this year due to Covid-19.

YOUTH CHOIR: Rehearsals - via Zoom for the moment! If you are in 3rd, 4th, 5th or 6th class and would like to join contact the Parish Centre or Deirdre on 087-9804172.

YOUTH TOGETHER has re-commenced for the new school year. Meetings will be via Zoom initially. A particular welcome to those in 1st year who would like to join us but students from all years are welcome. Forms are available from the Parish Centre or contact 087-9804172 for further information.

VINCENT DE PAUL: If you need help this Christmas, please contact Society of St. Vincent De Paul at 086 8437786. If you would like to donate to St. Vincent De Paul at www.svp.ie/StJospehsThurlesAppeal or Thurles Parish Centre, both Churches and St. Vincent De Paul Centre.

CARING IN OUR COMMUNITY: Do you know a Nurse or retired Nurse willing to help in a Nursing Home within our Parish Community? Contact the Parish Office for further details.

COVID-19 SUPPORT LINE - ALONE: National support line & additional supports for older people who have concerns relating to COVID-19. The support line is open seven days a week, 8.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m. by calling **0818 222 024.**

*The Advent Journey:
 Hope becomes peace. Peace becomes joy.
 Joy becomes love. Love becomes Christ.'*



RECENTLY DECEASED: †Norah O'Grady, Willowmere Drive. †Phyllis Bilogan, Kennedy Park & St. Theresa's Nursing Home, Cashel. †Monica Doherty, Ballycahill. †Coleen Abbott, née Quigley, Pontefract, formerly College View. †Anne Honeyman, Ringsend, Dublin. †Sandra Grantham, England.

May They Rest in Peace.