

**PARISH CENTRE: 22229/22779; CATHEDRAL PRESBYTERY: 22505;**  
**BÓTHAR NA NAOMH PRESBYTERY: 22688.**  
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### Christmas Greetings from Thurles Parish Pastoral Council:

Christmas greetings to all of our Parishioners and friends in Thurles Parish as we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Christmas is a time of joy, hope and love, and God knows if ever there was a time we needed to celebrate what is precious in life it is now. Having gone through a difficult year it is more important than ever to embrace the joy of family and loved ones that Christmas brings.

In this past year we have all experienced the challenges of social isolation and distance from loved ones that Covid-19 enforced on us. It has not been easy, and has reminded us of just how important social contact is. While we still need to exercise responsibility over the Christmas period it is an opportunity for us to get a short break from a very difficult year. As we look forward to the New Year we thank God for the good news that vaccines are on the horizon and we can begin to see a way out of this dark tunnel. We pray for a successful and speedy end to this pandemic and a return to normal life.

We are mindful that Christmas can be a difficult time for many, especially this year as family members may not be able to visit. We pray for all who are suffering from ill health or who find the struggles of daily life too much to handle. May the blessings of the new born Jesus strengthen, comfort and heal you. We give thanks to all the wonderful people and charitable organisations who give of their time and skills in providing help and comfort to all in need. We are especially grateful for all their tireless work this past year. So many have come forth with generosity and kindness when we needed it the most. Without you our community would be a much poorer place.

We also remember all our loved ones who have gone to their rest, especially those who were here to celebrate with us this time last year. May we cherish their memories in our hearts this Christmas and be comforted in our faith that love endures forever. This was a particularly difficult year for all those who lost loved ones. We keep you all in our thoughts and prayers during this holy season. Christmas brightens up the dark days of winter and carries us over to the promise of a new beginning in January. As Patrick Kavanagh wrote in his poem 'Advent' - *"And Christ comes with a January flower."*

May the blessings and hope of this Christmas season be with you all and remain with you as we move into 2021. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

### THURLES PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

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

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 24<sup>th</sup> and January 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

- Confessions will not take place in the lead up to Christmas because of Covid-19 restrictions. A **'Contrition Ceremony'** will take place at 7.00 p.m. on Monday December 21<sup>st</sup>, **live stream only.** (NO. 7.00 P.M. MASS)
- **Prayer around the Crib** will take place on **Tuesday December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7.00 p.m., live stream only.** (NO 7.00 P.M. MASS)

**FOR OUR STREAMING SERVICE ON-LINE VISIT: [www.thurlesparish.ie](http://www.thurlesparish.ie)**

All Cathedral & Bóthar na Naomh Masses can also be heard via local radio link.

**WEEKLY ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTION:** We are very grateful for your Weekly Offertory Contributions - **€3,215.00** received. **Donation Boxes for the Weekly Offertory Collection are placed around the Cathedral and Bóthar na Naomh Church.**

**CHRISTMAS CLERGY COLLECTION:** Will take place this weekend, **19/20 December 2020.** 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.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:** Tickets on sale in the Parish Centre - all proceeds to the **Restoration of Bishop Leahy Statue.** Raffle will take place next Wednesday Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

**YOUTH TOGETHER MEETINGS** will be via Zoom initially. Students from all years are welcome. Forms available from the Parish Centre or 087-9804172.

**VINCENT DE PAUL:** For help this Christmas contact St. Vincent De Paul at 086 8437786. If you would like to donate to St. Vincent De Paul at [www.svp.ie/StJospehsThurlesAppeal](http://www.svp.ie/StJospehsThurlesAppeal) or Thurles Parish Centre, both Churches and St. Vincent De Paul Centre.

**SCOIL ANGELA:** Have launched a fundraiser to build an Outdoor Classroom in honour of the late Sr. Xavier. We have created a photo archive of school life dating back to 1956. Each donation received will be responded to with access to the archive. Please visit our GoFundMe page. [gf.me/u/zcugis](https://www.gofundme.com/u/zcugis). Donations will also be gratefully received in the school in January.

**MOYNE DRAMA GROUP** will broadcast their first Radio Play **"In My Father's House"** by **Sean Dunne** on Christmas Day @ 4.00 p.m. on Tipp FM 103.9FM

**NEWLY BAPTISED:** \*Grace Eithne Dwyer, Commons House, Holycross Road. \*Seamie Patrick McCormack, Tonagha. \*Ailbhe Elizabeth Scanlon O'Donovan, Bohernanave.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** †Gary Lanigan, Portarlinton & Marlstone Manor. †Jack Doherty, Aughnagomaun, Horse & Jockey. †Larry Moloney, London, formerly Innisfallen Avenue.

**May They Rest in Peace**

*Father, lift our minds in watchful hope  
to hear the voice which  
announces His glory  
and open our minds to receive the Spirit  
who prepares us for His coming. Amen.*

