

**PARISH CENTRE: 22229/22779; CATHEDRAL PRESBYTERY: 22505;
BÓTHAR NA NAOMH PRESBYTERY: 22688**

WEBSITE: www.thurlesparish.ie email: parishcentre@thurlesparish.ie
WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Bóthar na Naomh: Saturday 6.30 p.m.; Sunday: 9.30 a.m. & 11.30 a.m.

Cathedral: Saturday 7.30 p.m.;

Sunday 8.30 a.m., 10.30 a.m. & 12 noon.

Pallottine College Chapel: Sunday & Weekday Masses @ 10.00 a.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL:

Weekdays: 11.30 a.m. – 7.30 p.m.; Sundays: 1.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS 2019:

CAROL SERVICE: Cathedral Sunday Dec. 22nd, 7.00 p.m. We continue this century old tradition, started by St. Francis of Assisi, of expressing through carols, words and dance our joy at Christmas and the Birth of our Saviour.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION TIMES:

CONFESSIONS: Tuesday December 24th, all day from 11.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

CATHEDRAL: Christmas Eve: 8.00 p.m.; Christmas Day: 8.30 a.m.; 10.30 a.m. & 12 noon.

BÓTHAR NA NAOMH CHURCH: Christmas Eve – Family Mass: 6.30 p.m. Christmas Day: 9.30 a.m. & 11.30 a.m.

PALLOTTINE COLLEGE CHAPEL MASS TIMES: Christmas Eve – 8.00 p.m.; Christmas Day 10.00 a.m.

BLESSING OF CATHEDRAL OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS TREE: After 7.30 p.m. Mass this Saturday, December 21st.

DAILY MASS TIMES AFTER CHRISTMAS: Bóthar na Naomh 10.00 a.m.; Cathedral 11.00 a.m. only (No 8.00 a.m. Mass) until Monday January 6th, 2020 when 8.00 a.m. Mass recommences.

CHRISTMAS CLERGY COLLECTION: This weekend, *December 21st & 22nd*. This collection is for the support of priests, active and retired in the Archdiocese. This is the last Clergy Collection for 2019 and we would like to say a very big thanks to all who contributed so generously to our collections during the year. Target: **€146,433.00**. Amount received to date: **€131,716.83**.

DECEMBER 2019: Each household will receive the Parish Calendar, Christmas Card, Letter to Parishioners and a package of envelopes for all Church Collections 2020 including Weekly Offertory Collection Envelopes which begin Jan. 5th 2020. If you do not receive a package please contact the Parish Office.

PARISH CRIBS: We invite you to visit our cribs in Bóthar na Naomh and the Cathedral during the Christmas season.

PARISH CENTRE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: **€2,210.00** was raised for the Cathedral Reroofing Project. A big thank you to all who so generously supported this venture.

HOLY FAMILY CONFRATERNITY MASS: Holy Family Mass will resume in the Cathedral on Tuesday January 7th, 7.30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS AFTER CHRISTMAS: No Confession **SATURDAY DECEMBER 28th** and **SATURDAY JANUARY 4th**. Confessions recommence in the Cathedral on Saturday Jan. 11th.

PARISH OFFICE: Open Christmas Eve 10.00 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. Re-opens after Christmas Tuesday, December 31st (usual times). Closed on New Year's Day.

ROTARY CLUB MEMORIAL TREE FOR HOSPICE continues in Thurles Shopping Centre. Proceeds to Suir Haven/North Tipperary Hospice.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas Thurles Parish Pastoral Council wish everyone the joy and peace that the new born Saviour brings. May this be a time of happiness, celebration and renewal in all our lives as we spend time with our loved ones. We gratefully welcome home all our family and friends who have returned to celebrate Christmas.

We are mindful that Christmas can be a difficult time for many. We pray for all who are suffering from ill health or who find the struggles of daily life too challenging to handle. 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 memory in our hearts this Christmas and be comforted in our faith that love endures forever.

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 2020. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Christmas Greetings from Frs. Jim, Joe & Vincent and all the members of Thurles Parish Pastoral Council.

PATRICK FEENEY IN CONCERT: Sunday March 8th 2020 in SS Joseph & Brigid Church, Bóthar na Naomh as part of his Gospel Choir Tour. Tickets now available in the Parish Office, Cathedral Street & Bookworm, Liberty Square - an ideal Christmas gift! Ticket Donation: €25. Proceeds to the Cathedral Reroofing Project.

NEW BOILER APPEAL: The new boiler and its installation are costing approximately **€55,000**. Through your generosity **€525.00** was received during this past week bringing the total collected to date to **€36,369.10**. *Mile Buíochas!*

YOUTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: Dec. 27 – 30th, Clongowes Wood College, Kildare. Info @ 0857340862 or visit www.afcmteamire.and.org.

MONKS CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGERS IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE MONKS GOLF SOCIETY: Carol Singing in Thurles in the lead up to Christmas in Aid of Local Charities. We would gratefully appreciate your support at this time of great need.

FOOD AND CRAFT FAIR: Bowe's Yard, Friar Street, on Monday Dec 23rd 3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. Live music, mulled wine, hot chocolate. Come out and support local this Christmas.

MEN'S SHED: Sincere thanks to all who donated Spot Prizes for our recent Christmas Party.

"SECOND CHANCE AS GOOD AS NEW": Huge thanks to all who supported our recent Fashion Sale. Your contribution of clothes & purchases on the day helped us raise in excess of €3,000. This money has been distributed between Cameo Care & Thurles Care. See you again in Spring 2021.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Dec. 14th & 15th 2019:

Cathedral: €3,032.00; Bóthar na Naomh: €2,061.00.

NEWLY BAPTISED: *Demi Eve Lynch, Bridge House, Liberty Square.

RECENTLY DECEASED: †John Butler, Kavanagh Place. Funeral Mass this Sunday, Cathedral at 12 noon followed by cremation in Shannon Crematorium. †Sally O'Rourke, Slievenamon Road. †Brian Minihan, Abbey Road. †John Doherty, Golden, formerly Garrynamona, Ballycahill. †Joan Flynn, née Fitzgibbon, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, formerly Friar Street. †Angela Glynn, née O'Meara, Killiney, Co. Dublin, formerly Ardfort, Thurles. †Vincent Griffin, Clonakilty, Cork.

May They All Rest in Peace.

CHRISTMAS THOUGHT:

'Lord, you come among us to teach us the way of love. Lord, you come among us to offer us forgiveness. Lord, you come among us to bring us peace. Lord, you come among us to give us joy. May our celebration this Christmas be blessed.