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The Grapevine



Mooncoin Parish Newsletter

Vol. 35 No. 44

14th December

Third Sunday Of Advent

Advent & The 3rd Sunday (Gaudete Sunday)
 Advent is a season of hopeful preparation for Christ's coming—at Christmas, in our hearts, and at the end of time. The 'Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)' shifts emphasis from penitential waiting to joyful anticipation, as the Lord draws near. The liturgical colour **rose** symbolises this joy, lighting up the purple of preparation, reminding us our waiting is tinged with glad certainty. The theme is **"Rejoice!"**—our patient hope is not in vain because our salvation is at hand.

Explanation of the Sunday Readings
 The readings proclaim a joyful promise: God Himself is coming to save us, bringing healing and liberation (Isaiah), and calling us to patient, hopeful trust as we watch for His coming (James), even when, like John the Baptist, we face moments of doubt or darkness (Matthew).

Insight & Christian Action
 In our lives, we can sometimes feel like John in his prison—confused by suffering or waiting, wondering "Are you the one?" Jesus' response is to look at the quiet miracles already happening: wounds healed, hearts softened, hope shared. **This week, actively look for one sign of God's healing presence in your life or community, and then be that sign for someone else.** Perform a concrete act of kindness that helps another person "see" or "hear" a reason for hope.

THE PARISH OFFICE will close on Monday 22nd December @ 12.45pm for the Christmas Holidays. The office will re-open on Monday 5th January @ 9.45am. Nollaig Shona Dhaoibh.

Priests: Fr. Martin Tobin Adm. 086 240 1278
 Fr. Michael Kelly, SJ. CC Kilmacow and Pastoral Area Assistant 087 3791406
 Parish Secretary: Tracy Driscoll Office Phone : 051-895 123
 Email: mooncoin@ossory.ie
Office Opening Hours
 Monday - Wednesday - Friday 9.45am - 12.45pm (closed bank holidays)
 Radio Frequency: MHz 108 FM . Website: www.mooncoinparish.ie
 Live Streaming: www.churchservices.tv/mooncoinparish

Next edition of the Newsletter
21st December 2025

MOONCOIN CHURCH will be closed at 5pm for the winter months.

CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUETS now available from the Parish Office. There is limited supply. **No orders for Christmas Mass cards can be taken over the phone.** Apologies for any inconvenience.

PLEASE NOTE: The number for the Mooncoin Cancer Support Group (on the back page) is **no longer in use.** The NEW NUMBER is **089 264 0083.**

Masses for Christmas 2025

Christmas Eve:

Wednesday 24th December

4.30 p.m. Mooncoin Church

6.00 p.m. Carrigeen Church

7.30 p.m. Kilnaspic Church

Christmas Day,

10 a.m. Mooncoin Church (only)

South Kilkenny Historical Society

Lá an Dreoilín (Wren Day) event
Friday, December 26th (St. Stephen's Day).
Venue: Mullinavat Parish Hall and Church
Car Park. Time: 11am

Lá an Dreoilín, in Ireland, centers around the tradition of capturing a wren, which is said to bring luck. People march dressed in garbs made of straw, including headwear that is woven into a bell shape, playing drums and traditional music, and singing.

At 11am a new 'King Wren Boy' will be crowned who will, weather permitting, lead the parade from the hall to Main Street and return to the hall for some music. Local musicians will provide music and people of all ages are asked to participate in the event. Participants are not restricted to 'boys' - for this event the term 'boys' means any gender and any age! Participation is not restricted to those who have costumes and/or can sing or play a musical instrument - people are asked to participate in whatever way they can, or are comfortable doing and everyone is welcome to join in on the fun.

Masses for the week, Monday 15th December to Friday 19th December

Monday 6.30 p.m. Kilmacow (only) with Penitential Service (Confession for Christmas)

Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. Mooncoin Residential Care Centre annual Christmas Mass

Wednesday 9.30 a.m. Mooncoin Parish Church

Thursday 7.00 p.m. Mooncoin Parish Church with Penitential Service

(Confession for Christmas) Please note there is no 9.30 a.m. Mass.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Nagle Chapel will continue from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Friday, 9.30 a.m. Mooncoin Parish Church

MOONCOIN PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS: Katherine Hogan. Miriam Grace. Marian Walsh
c/o Mooncoin Parish Office 051 895 123

RECENTLY DECEASED: Nonie Johnston nee Brogan, Clonmore. Mark Grace, Windgap.

ANNIVERSARIES: Thomas O'Keefe, Butlerstown. Catherine Kelly, Silverspring. Tommy Lynch, Ballincur. Michael 'Mick' Fitzpatrick, Clonmore. Mary Ann Murphy, Barrabehy. Jimmy Murphy, Kilnaspic. Paddy Purcell, Middlequarter. Sr David Lewis, Wales/Mooncoin & her parents Annie & Jimmy Keane, Mooncoin.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE: Bridid O'Keefe, Butlerstown

WINTER MOMENT from the Year of Hope Sub-Committee, PPC

Today is Gaudete Sunday – meaning Rejoicing Sunday. This week we wait in JOY for the birth of Jesus.

Pope Saint John Paul 11 began the beautiful Advent Tradition of Baminelli Sunday. On Gaudete Sunday, children and adults bring their Baby Jesus figures or *baminelli* from the crib at their homes to St. Peter's Square where the Pope blesses them. Maybe after Mass today, you can wrap up your Baby Jesus figure like a gift. It could be the first gift that your family opens at Christmas and a reminder of the real reason for celebrating Christmas.

Hopeful Moment: Jesus is the gift that perfectly fits the size of every heart.

#HaveYourSay about your Catholic School

For Attention of Parents of children attending Primary Schools or have yet to start: The Department of Education is currently conducting a Primary School Survey that will determine the future provision of Primary Schools and crucially could lead to lasting changes in your school. In simple, direct terms, you are being asked if you want your school to stay a Catholic school or if you want that to change. Don't leave it to others, have your say before 16 December 2025. See - gov.ie/primaryschoolsurvey

Prayer of the Faithful – (Sunday, 14 December)

For our Catholic school communities: That the Lord, who calls each person by name, may bless our schools with wisdom, compassion, and a deep sense of purpose. May they be places where every child is cherished, where faith is nurtured, where justice and kindness guide our actions, and where the gifts of each young person are encouraged to flourish. May all who teach and learn be strengthened in hope as they grow in truth, love, and generous service. Lord, hear us.



REMEMBRANCE TREE Our annual remembrance tree is going up this weekend outside Mooncoin Church. The tree every year stands as a beacon of remembrance for all those who cannot be with us for whatever reason this Christmas. The lights on the tree will be switched on by Fr Martin before Saturday evening mass. For a small donation, you can get bows for the tree from the parish office. All donations to the recent renovations of Mooncoin Church. Thank you in advance for your generosity and may God bless you and yours this Christmas.

Christmas Craft Fair this Sunday in Mooncoin Parish Hall. Free entry to everyone, doors open at 1pm and Santa will make a surprise visit to all the kids of the village in the afternoon.

The Parish of Mooncoin would like to thank most sincerely the very generous donations to the Parish Church renovation fund:

1. €2000 anonymous donor
2. €1000 anonymous donor
3. €200 anonymous donor.