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# PARISH INFORMATION NEWS SHEET

Parish of Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy with Calary



# DECEMBER

# 2020



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[www.newtownmountkennedyparish.org](http://www.newtownmountkennedyparish.org)  
[www.calaryparish.org](http://www.calaryparish.org)

## A letter from Revd. Niall

Dear Friends

What joyous news for the parish and the community at large is the announcement of the appointment of the Revd. Ross Styles as the new Rector. We sincerely wish him and his family every blessing as they prepare to say goodbye to the parishioners and friends in Christ Church Cathedral Group and prepare to say hello to new parishioners and friends here.

Some of us are better facing challenges than others. The pandemic that has shaped our lives, our livelihoods and so sadly taken the lives of so many both here at home but most particularly in other parts of the globe, has dominated so much of what do. It is easy to become down at heart. However, I have continuously made reference to the desire even the necessity to focus on 'Hope'. Medical and scientific research is now answering prayer and making that Hope a reality in the form of many vaccines.

The media, friends, neighbours and our national broadcasters constantly state '*This Christmas is going to be different*'? Maybe I am alone, but is it not the case that the core message of 'Christmas' remains unchanged?

At the time of writing these few words it is still unclear as to what form our traditional Christmas worship will take. Further guidance from Government is awaited.

We are presently in the season of Advent- the time of expectant waiting and preparation. Is it therefore not perhaps a little ironic that with all the time we have had throughout this year - to prepare for the celebration of the greatest event in history - that we now find ourselves so unprepared?

The manner in which we celebrate Christmas changes over time and will be somewhat different this year. However, what is important, is that we engage in celebrating the true meaning of Christmas, remembering that the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us.

We can still continue to be in contact with family, friends and neighbours with the personal call at the door, via telephone or by Skype, 'Teams' or Zoom to mention but some of the ways of communication that have opened up to us during 2020.

Let us continue to remain in Hope and may we find and share Joy as we celebrate the greatest Birthday ever, when '*Love came down at Christmas. – Love incarnate, Love Divine*'.

I wish one and all a peace filled and blessed Christmas.

Revd. Niall Stratford

### **Thank You**

Thank you to all in the parish for your prayers and support during my recent unexpected sojourn in hospital.

All too often we hear and read of criticism of our health service and health system. Such was my experience, that I consider it not merely important- but my duty to comment upon our health care system – particularly during this time of the *Covid 19* pandemic.

From the moment I entered hospital I received nothing but courtesy, respect and professionalism. Amidst the unknown pressures that our medical and health care personnel endure, I received amazing care and concern.

Not only did I feel, but I knew that I had been placed into the hands of some of the nation's foremost '*Frontline Workers*'. I experienced at first hand some of the amazing work they perform and that includes our hospital chaplains.

All our '*frontline workers*' have been and continue to place their lives on the line during this pandemic -for people just like me. It was a 'privilege' to be in the care of such devoted individuals.

To all, I say 'Thank You'.

Revd. Niall Stratford





The Revd Ross Styles, Curate in the Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes, Dublin, has been appointed Rector of these parishes. The announcement was made in both parishes on Sunday November 22nd.

The Revd Styles grew up in the parish of Ballynure, Co Wicklow, part of the Baltinglass Group of Parishes. Following school in Kilkenny College he studied horticulture, which was the focus of his working life in various private and public sectors. As a mature student he graduated from UCD with a degree in history and economics. He is married to Fiona and they have two children, Ben (10) and Ava (8).

In 2010 he began the foundation course in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and in the following year he joined the part-time master's in theology course. He was ordained deacon in 2015 and spent two years as a deacon intern with Canon David Mungavin in the parish of St Patrick's, Greystones.

In 2017 he was ordained priest and has served as Curate in the Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes for the last three years. Commenting on his appointment, Ross says: "It is a great honour to have been appointed to the parishes of Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy with Calary and I am humbled by this faith in me. I have really enjoyed my time as curate in the Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes. I have learnt so much and I will always be truly grateful for the warmth and care that Archdeacon Pierpoint and all the parishioners have shown to Fiona, Ben, Ava and me. We will be sad to say farewell, but we are thoroughly looking forward to serving and getting to know the people of Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy and Calary and becoming part of their community of faith. Please keep them and us in your prayers."



**DECORATE**  
t h e C h u r c h

**Newcastle Church will be decorated on  
Friday 18th and Saturday 19th December**

### **St Matthew's Church**

**We are sad to announce that St Matthew's Church will not re-open in December. This is due to damaged plasterwork falling into the body of the church. It is hoped that work will begin on restoring the plaster early in the New Year.**

## **CALARY NEWS**

### **Proposed Fundraiser for Mukuru**

Calary has supported the work of Sister Mary Killeen and her colleagues working with the street children of Mukuru, Nairobi. Over the past few years, a concert and supper has been arranged to raise money for the project and one was due to take place this year but, in the current circumstances, this has not been possible. However, arrangements are being made to hold a virtual supper and concert, hopefully in December and further information will be sent to all those on Calary's concert email list.

Watch out for more details on Calary's facebook page or contact Charlotte O'Brien (086 8354394) or Derek Neilson (086 8319457).

## **How Our Community Can Help Another**

Newcastle & Newtownmountkennedy Parish is reaching out to help others less fortunate this Christmas. We are helping The Lighthouse Homeless Centre in Pearse Street, Dublin which has teamed up with Tiglin's homeless outreach No Bucks Cafe during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Lighthouse helps the homeless and children in poverty in the Dublin area. They provide 300 meals a day, six days a week, and this year the Parish is collecting items to put some Care Packages together for children in poverty and the homeless.

The Lighthouse, which works closely with children in poverty, holds weekly/yearly activities, camps, afterschool clubs etc. These care packages will be delivered to their family homes in the lead up to Christmas. Care packages will also be handed out to the homeless with their Christmas meal (which is being provided by St Patrick's Church, Greystones)

See the flyer which outlines items that you can donate. Children are welcome to include a card/note/drawing also, as this little gesture means so much to those who receive the packages. We are hoping to use backpacks/rucksacks or string packs for the packages so they can be reused. So donations of new (or next to new) bags would also be appreciated.

A box will be placed outside the Parish Centre on 7th and 8th December. Please help in any way you can.







## A Lighthouse Christmas

A simple care package, filled with love and care, can give a huge impact.



### Items to donate for ADULTS

- Socks, beanies, scarfs, gloves
- Ladies hair accessories
- Hair brush/comb
- Hand cream
- Lip balm
- Ladies Personal Hygiene products
- Hand wipes
- Pocket-size Kleenex
- Tooth brush & toothpaste
- Nail clippers
- Biscuits/treats/chocolate
- Heat packs
- Mints, cough drops or gum
- Watertight gallon-size zipper lock bags
- Razors & shaving foam
- Deodorant
- Shower gel/soap

### Items to donate for CHILDREN

- Arts and crafts materials/kits
- Colouring in books
- Crayons, pencils
- Games
- Toys
- Reading books
- Hair accessories for girls
- Hats, gloves, scarves
- Footballs/football related items
- Balls, small cars, puzzles
- Chocolate, selection boxes, jellies

*Please avoid items such as mouthwash or hand sanitiser that contain alcohol*





# FESTIVE BINGO 2020

**WHAT:** Bingo Night

**WHEN:** Saturday, 12th December 2020

**WHERE:** Zoom

**WHY:** To raise funds for the **Parish of Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy with Calary...and to have some good old fashioned fun!**

**COST:**

Child: €5

Adult: €10

Family: €25

**HOW:** To buy tickets, register using our **GOOGLE FORM** and pay using our **PAYPOOL**

**QUESTIONS:**

[FestiveBingo2020@gmail.com](mailto:FestiveBingo2020@gmail.com)

Support local this Christmas and shop local too. Thanks to all local businesses who generously helped with prizes for this event!  
In no particular order:  
The Divine Foodie |  
The Sweet Boutique |  
Apple Tree Crafts |  
Halfway up The Stairs |  
Wicklow Wolf |  
McCabe's Cofee



# ORDER OF THE EVENING

7:00pm Family friendly Bingo

7:45pm Children's Raffle (Family Bingo End)

8:00pm Regular Bingo and Main Raffle

9:00pm End of Bingo Evening

## RAFFLE DETAILS

### CHILDREN'S RAFFLE

Prizes Include:

Family Hamper from **The Sweet Boutique**

€20 Voucher from **Halfway up The Stairs**

Sewing Kit from **Apple Tree Crafts**



### MAIN RAFFLE

Prizes Include:

Hamper from **O'Dwyer's Pharmacy**

Case of Ale from **Wicklow Wolf**

Coffee selection from **McCabe's Coffee**





# ART COMPETITION

**Judge: Mary Duffy**

As part of our celebrations we are asking for entries from local children to our art competition...

## "WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME"

**Entry Details:** Please create a piece of art work to show us what Christmas means to you and get your parent or guardian to take a picture and email it along with your details to...

**FESTIVEBINGO2020@GMAIL.COM**

**Information we need:** Your name, age and how best to contact you if you win!

**Deadline for Submissions:** Wednesday, Dec 9th

Winners will be announced during our bingo night  
on Dec 12th

Please note, submissions will be displayed during the event and may be used on social media associated with the Parish





# Virtual Santa: Saturday 19th December

Since it's difficult to visit Santa this year, we have arranged for him to do a special Zoom call with children from the parish!



## Prices:



- Family with 1 child: €10
- Family with 2 children: €15
- Family with 3 children: €20
- Family with 4 children: €25



All prices include a small wrapped gift for each child (which can be collected in advance from the Parish Centre)



Sign up via our Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/9bw7E73afQNzTaGC6>



Pay at our Paypal Pool:

<https://paypal.me/pools/c/8uEz92ZXq7>





# **Christmas Surprise!**



**If you normally drop in  
to the weekly coffee  
in the Parish Centre,  
or attend the monthly lunch,  
or the festive Christmas lunch,  
or come along on our  
annual Christmas outing,  
then make sure you stay home  
on Tuesday 22nd December**

**There's a surprise on the way!**





# CastleKidz

## Pre-school Places

**Our pre-school is now fully booked for the year starting September 2021. We would like to remind anyone considering us for their little ones for September 2022 onwards to get in touch to avoid disappointment.**

**Email Joanne at [parishcastlekidz@gmail.com](mailto:parishcastlekidz@gmail.com)**

## **Thank You**

Margaret Murphy and her daughters Lynne and Sheelagh and their families would like to thank the parishioners and friends who lined the road or stood outside the church to say farewell to Colin.

Also thanks to those who sent cards and telephoned. We appreciate all your support.

## **PINS**

If you (normally) receive PINS by post please forward €10 to the Parish Office for 2021. Remember you can receive PINS by email or check it on the parish website if you are not in a position to pick up a hard copy of the newsletter.

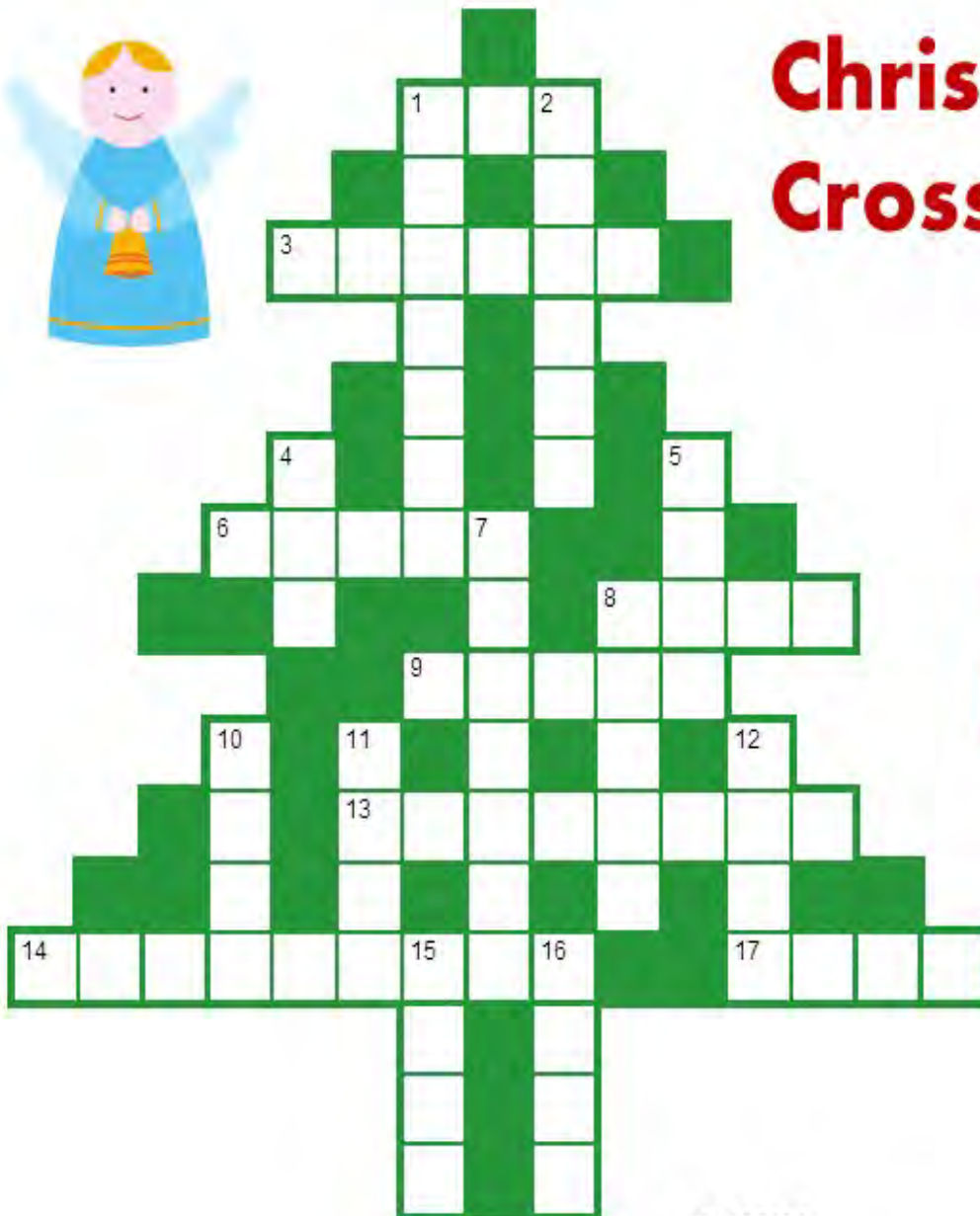
## **Monthly Church Review**

As usual Pauline will be collecting the annual subscriptions in January for 2021's monthly Church Review.

If you would like to be included for next year's issues please contact Pauline at 087-9535981



# Christmas Crossword



## ACROSS

1. Pumpkin or mincemeat
3. Santa's ride
6. Celebration
8. Newborn
9. Northpole crew
13. Word of praise
14. Words on a Christmas card
17. It's opened on Christms

## DOWN

1. Alternative word to 17 across
2. Christmas drink
4. Christmas dinner centerpiece
5. Dec. holiday
7. Christmas warmer
8. "Jingle \_\_\_\_\_"
10. Christmas tree
11. O. Henry's "The Gift of the \_\_\_"
12. What carolers do
15. French Christmas.
16. Snow glider





# Merry Christmas Word Search

Search for the words going up, down, left and right.

c h r i s t m a s s  
 t o s d t r e e u t  
 w l a m a a s v l o  
 i e c a l t t h i c  
 n g k r e n n g g k  
 k n h a s a e i h i  
 l a i t n s s e t n  
 e g u s i o e l s g  
 g l i t t e r s z m  
 f r u d o l p h l l



tinsel

presents

sack

Santa

lights

tree

Rudolph

sleigh

glitter

Christmas

angel

twinkle

stocking

star



# SERVICES IN DECEMBER

DATE	CHURCH	TIME	?	SERVICE
<b>Sunday 6th</b>	Calary	9.30	NS	MP
	Newcastle	11.00	NS	MP
<b>Sunday 13th</b>	Calary	9.30	NS	HC
	Newcastle	11.00	NS	HC
<b>Sunday 20th</b>	Calary	TBA	NS	Carols
	Newcastle	TBA	NS	Carols
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	Newcastle	10.30	NS	HC
<b>Christmas Day</b>	Calary	TBA	NS	TBA
	Newcastle	TBA	NS	TBA
<b>Sunday 27th</b>	Calary	9.30	CT	MP
	Newcastle	11.00	CT	MP



**Due to Covid-19 restrictions, all services are subject to change. Details of Carol services and Christmas Day services will be announced closer to the dates.**