

Kilconieran & Clostoken Parish

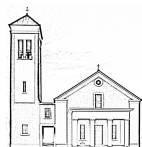
Carrabane, Athenry, Co. Galway



**Holy Family
Clostoken**



**Holy Family Centre
Carrabane**



**Immaculate Conception
Kilconieran**

Fr. Brendan Lawless: Parish Priest

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Pope's Intention for Dec- For Christians in Areas of Conflict: Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

To view the Newsletter online visit www.clonfertdiocese.ie

Sunday 14th Dec. Third Sunday of Advent.

(Lectionary: Year C. Year of Luke Weekdays Cycle 1)

20-C. M.B-25

| <u>MASSES</u> – Weekends & Special Intentions | | Weekday |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Sat: 13 th Dec: Clostoken: 6.30pm No Mass | | Mon |
| Sun: 14 th Dec: Kilconieron: 10am (A) Delia, Eddie & Paddy Cannon | | 9.30am |
| Sat: 20 th Dec: Kilconieron: 6.30pm Choir Mass | | Holy |
| (A) Tom & Julia Haverty & Fahy & Haverty Family | | Family |
| (A) Tom & Emily Jennings | | Centre |
| Sun:21 st Dec: Clostoken: 10am (A) Paddy Joe & Mary Ellen Walsh | | <u>Servers</u> |
| | | Team D |
| | | Team C |
| | | Team F |
| | | Team E |
| <u>Ministers of God’s Word</u> | <u>Eucharistic Minister</u> | |
| Sat: 13 th Dec: Kathy Keane | Catherine McGrath | |
| Sun: 14 th Dec: Mairin Spellman | Eddie Kenny | |
| Sat: 20 th Dec: Ann Dolan | Mary Connolly | |
| Sun: 21 st Dec: Xavier Slevin | Marguerite Martin | |

Weekly Offertory Collection- 7/12/2025: €665.

Christmas School Choir Mass: On Saturday 20th December in Kilconieran church on the 20th December at 6.30pm.

Please Note: Mass in Clostoken church on Sunday 21st December at 10am.

Though for the Day: Advent calls us to stop and think. But for nearly everyone the season of Advent is also the busiest time of year. There is so much to be done to prepare for Christmas; cards, presents, and planning of meals, hospitality in

general. Leaving aside whether we actually need to do all this and whether it could not all be simplified, the actuality of most lives during Advent is emphatically not one of contemplation. We can benefit from moments each day, that we set aside just to keep ourselves grounded in faith. It is Jesus and his birth that we celebrate, not just togetherness. Can we still enter into the spirit of Advent, this holy season?.

Points to Ponder: Imprisoned. When I read the gospel for today I asked myself what's wrong with this picture? On a day the Church celebrates Gaudete Sunday, a word which commands us to rejoice, we hear about John the Baptist the greatest man born of woman, a man who dedicated his entire life to God was now behind bars. Maybe he was asking himself the same question. What's wrong with this picture? Life doesn't always go the way we want. We often find ourselves in circumstances that we really can't make sense of. Situations that not only confuse us but can cause us to question ourselves and even God.

These curve balls that life throws us when we expect one thing and get another can alienate us and result in a faith crisis. We ask Why is God allowing this tragedy, or suffering? Why doesn't God act the way I want God to act? I don't understand it?

Jesus however is saying that in the midst of all the suffering we see and experience, God's Kingdom is present. The greatest challenge to our faith is almost always suffering because it is the most difficult to reconcile with an all loving God, and yet Jesus challenges us to be patient and trust in him and look to the seeds of the kingdom all around us which are signs of hope. He is asking us to believe despite our circumstances and trust in His plan. The weeds grow with the wheat but in the end everything will be okay and if it's not okay it's not the end.

"Have you thought about Fostering?": Change a child's life by becoming a Tusla Foster Carer. Talk to Tusla Fostering by freephone 18002267710. Visit www.fostering.ie to learn more.

Priests Christmas Collection: Will be taken up at all masses next weekend.

International Migrants Day-Thursdays 18th December:

World Youth Day-23rd December:

January 2026 First Friday Calls to the Sick and Housebound: Please note, the January First Friday call to the sick and housebound will take place on **Friday 19th December 2025.**

St. Vincent de Paul: Have been a terrific support to some of our families recently. They have asked for people to get in contact with them if the financial struggle of Christmas becomes too much in this particularly expensive year. If you feel you need extra support this Christmas, please contact them directly, in complete confidence, on 087 3650922 or email request to info.west@svp.ie

Family Carers Ireland: Have launched their Christmas Raffle and you can win €1,000 cash, €500 select hotels voucher or a hotel voucher. Please support family carers in your community by purchasing a ticket at www.familycarers.ie/christmas. Thank you.

