

Mallow and Mourneabbey Parishes—Sunday, 24th December 2023

Priests of our Parishes:
Msgr. Anthony O'Brien, P.P., V.G. 087 6834193.
Fr. Andrew Carvill, C.C. 022 51606.
Fr. Anthony Sheehan, C.C. 087 6563997
Fr. Damien Lynch, C.C. 022 53909
Sick Calls:- Please call 022-21251
Parish Youth Minister—Bernadette O'Connor 086 8031126

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2023

My friends,

There is much about these days that make us anxious and fearful about the future. The two major wars of the Ukraine and Gaza brings us experiences that we thought were history. The predictions about the impact of global warming and the growing influence of artificial intelligence only add to what seems a gloomy if not hopeless future.

These uncertainties make the world seem fragile and fragmented. We are in need of healing of mind and spirit. We need to reshape our priorities. We need to reorganise our lives into a more humane pattern. The stress that so many experience in work, education and family is pushing us to our limits.

Yet one fact is shared in this global reality which is the human heart and mind. We still can make and shape our future by the choices we make. Therein lies our hope. Into this world comes the Christ child with a message of light for a world enshrouded in the darkness of war and conflict, lies and deceit. We sadly have become a deeply polarized society.

This message of light is not just to the world in general but to us personally also – he brings light and hope to whatever darkness we meet in life, sickness of mind or body, strained relationships or economic hardship. The message is “come to me you who labour and I will give you rest”. He lifts the load and lightens the burden.

Open your hearts to God in reflection and prayer and you will find calm and peace. May your welcome of the Child of Bethlehem bring you and yours the Joy and Peace you wish for over these special days.

Happy Christmas
+ *Wm. Crean*

Christmas Offerings for the Priests of the Parish may be handed in at any of the Masses this weekend, or at any of the Masses over the Christmas period. Your offerings are much appreciated.

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday, 22nd Dec., for Annual Leave until Monday 8th January, 2024.

Mallow Mass Times:

Weekend Masses: St. Mary's Vigil 6.30 p.m. Sunday 8.30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Church of the Resurrection: Vigil 7.30 p.m. Sunday 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon.

Weekday Masses: St. Mary's: 10 a.m. Tuesday—Saturday, **this week.**

Church of the Resurrection: 9.15 a.m. Tuesday—Friday, **this week.**

Mourneabbey Mass Times:

Weekend Masses: Analeentha—10.00 a.m. Sunday., Burnfort—11.30 a.m. Sunday.

Weekday Masses: Burnfort 9.30 a.m. Thursday., Analeentha—9.30 a.m. Friday.

Notices—

1. **Weekly Envelope Boxes 2024**—The envelope year commences Jan., 1st 2024. Renewed thanks to all who support the church funds, and those who use the envelope method. If you have not received a box and would like to join, please contact the Parish Office— 022/20276 or email sacristanmallow1@gmail.com.
2. Goal Mile, Doneraile Park, Christmas Morning 10.00 a.m.,— 12 noon. Please Support.
3. Bethany Bereavement Service—Support for all types of bereavement and losses. Inquiries to 086 3918751.

A Word of Thanks

Thanks to all who participated in any way in the Christmas Carol Services on Sunday 10th in Church of the Resurrection and on Sunday 17th December, in St. Mary's Church. Thanks to the Principals, Teachers and Children of all the School Choirs for their singing and instrumentals. Thanks also to the Church of the Resurrection Choir, St. Mary's Choir and Cór Mhagh Ealla for participating in this joyful Carol Service.

Our Prayer for You

The Priests of the Parish wish all the people of Mallow and Mourneabbey a Happy and a Holy Christmas.

May you and yours be blessed with an awareness of God's closeness to us in the coming of his Son, Jesus.

May his coming bring peace to your homes and to your hearts, Amen.