

The coming year...

As we face the new year, new challenges will present themselves both locally and at diocesan level.

Changes are therefore inevitable. Please be patient with these changes that will happen locally in our parish, as we continue to navigate these challenging times together. They will always be discerned in a prayerful manner while trying to care for the pastoral needs of all in our parish.



DATES FOR CHRISTMAS

Reconciliation Services

St. Anne's Shankill- Mon 16th @ 7.30pm
OLGC Johnstown - Wed 18th @ 7.30pm



Mass Times

Monday 23rd: 9am Mass & 8pm Holy Hour for Healing
Christmas Eve: 8pm (Carols @ 7.30pm)
Christmas Day: 9am & 11am
Thurs 26th: 9am
Fri 27th & Sat 28th NO Mass
Sun 29th: 9am & 11am
Mon 30th: 9am
Tues 31st: 9am & 11.30pm
Wed 1st: 9am
Thurs 2nd: 9am
Sat 4th: 9am
Sun 5th: 9am & 11am
Mon 6th: 9am & 6.30pm (The Epiphany)

NOTE
Please check
CALENDAR on parish
website for any
changes

Normal timetable resumes now ...



We will be remembering, at our Christmas masses, all of your loved ones who have died and especially those in the last year. Renewed by the spirit of Christmas, we look forward to the coming year as we continue to build up our parish faith community.

Happy Christmas and every blessing for 2025.



Our Lady of Victories

Sallynoggin / Glenageary

Christmas

2024



Once again we have arrived at this wonderful season in the Church's calendar where we welcome the "**Christ-child**" into our hearts and our homes. There is no doubt that the Christmas season always heats up with sport & entertainment on TV.

But when we step out of the view that this world presents we see a great festive season where we celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a season of Hope where we are invited to open our hearts and embrace the One who is Love and who loves us unconditionally.



I welcome you all to join in our Christmas ceremonies as we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Saviour. **Everyone** is welcome !

Let us pray that this Christmas may be a time when we allow Christ to be born in our hearts again. Let this be a time of thanksgiving for the many gifts we have received in our lives and a time of renewed Hope in all that we face in the coming year.

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A Christmas thought

Sometimes Christmas has a way of throwing up a few surprises for the coming year! We may say to ourselves... What is it that I'm looking for this Christmas? Will there be any surprises in my life this Christmas? Will I allow change to happen in my life? What is it I hope for? I believe that all of this will depend on the direction in which I'm looking.

I read an article once where the screenwriter (Todd Komarnicki) of the film "Scully" was quoted as saying... *"Some people's attitude to the church sort of mirrors the person who goes to the rowdiest football match and only looks into the stands at the fans. There is a game on the pitch. That should be the focus. You don't become a fan by looking at the fans. If you're trying to understand Christianity by looking at Christians you've gone wrong. We are all fallen, we are all saved by grace."*

What direction am I looking in to find God in my life? Christ is the main player on the pitch laid out in front of each of us. It's easy to lose focus on Him by worrying and looking at all around us.

Every Christmas we celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It's a season of **Hope** where we are once again invited to open our hearts and focus on the One who is Love and who loves us unconditionally. When we do that, then change will happen in my life and God will surprise me in many ways.



*Love is what God is.
And that Love has
come amongst us!
Emmanuel*

Happy Christmas and every blessing for 2025, Fr. Robert

*"When the power of love overcomes the
love of power then the world will be at
peace." Jimi Hendrix*

*Let us all stop at some point during the
festivities and take a moment, out of love for
our neighbour, to pray for peace in our world.*

At the heart of Christmas is a "relationship". This is a relationship between "you" and "Jesus". Christmas is a great time to stop and see how I'm doing in this relationship. It can be a time to Start-over the relationship; to renew the relationship; or to strengthen the relationship. Whatever it is, Jesus waits for us! "Christmas is the mystery of this 'marvellous exchange'" (CCC 526).

A Christmas Prayer

Lord God, come into our homes, our families, our relationships, and our hearts this Christmas. Bring your Peace, Joy and Love into all that we do and all who we meet.



Help us where we struggle in life.

Shine your peace into those areas and give us the courage to face them.

Strengthen us where we may have fear in our lives.

Wrap us in the protection of your mother Mary.

Comfort us if we miss the presence of a loved one at home this Christmas.

Help us with the wounds we carry. Reach into our hearts and heal us.

May the birth of your Son Jesus, that we celebrate this Christmas, give us

Strength and Hope now, and in the year ahead. Amen



So many people support our parish by giving of their time, or through financial contributions, or through their prayers. All these generous gifts contribute to building up our parish which bears witness to Christ in our community.



Thank you to all who support us financially, your support helps us to meet our running costs and fund projects as they arise. Thank you to the many people who enrich our liturgies through their participation. Thank you to all who decorate, clean and maintain the physical church both inside and outside the walls. Finally, Thank You for all your prayers and hospitality that you have shown me since my arrival in the parish.

*There is
no darkness*



*Where God's
light is
present*



Once in a while you get shown the **light** in the strangest of places if you take the time to look. This Christmas why not take the time to look?

*The challenges in front
of you in 2025 are
never as great as the
power of God behind
you.*



"Will the technologies of communication in our culture, serve to enlighten us and help us to understand one another better, or will they deceive us and keep us apart?" (Roger Waters)

Over **Christmas**, why not put the phone down, turn the TV off, speak to family or step **outside** and visit a neighbour?