



Year A

# DOORA BAREFIELD PARISH

## NEWSLETTER

21 December 2025

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



In this fourth and final Sunday of Advent, the Gospel guides us towards Christmas through the experience of Saint Joseph, a figure seemingly in second place, but whose attitude encapsulates all Christian wisdom. He is one who does not preach, does not speak, but tries to do God's will; and he does it in the style of the Gospel and the Beatitudes. Let us think of: *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* (Mt 5: 3). And Joseph is poor because he lives on what is essential, he works, he lives by his work; it is the poverty typical of those who are aware that they depend on God for everything, and place all their trust in Him.

Today's Gospel passage presents a situation that is in human terms embarrassing and conflicting. Joseph and Mary are betrothed; they do not yet live together, but she is expecting a child by the work of God. Joseph, faced with this surprise, is naturally disturbed but, instead of

reacting in an impulsive and punitive manner – as was the custom, the law protected him – he seeks a solution that respects the dignity and integrity of his beloved Mary. Joseph knew that if he denounced his betrothed, he would expose her to serious consequences, even death. He had full faith in Mary, whom he chose as his bride. He does not understand, but he seeks another solution.

This inexplicable circumstance leads him to question their bond; therefore, with great suffering, he decides to detach himself from Mary. But the Angel of the Lord intervenes to tell him that the solution he proposes is not the one desired by God. On the contrary, the Lord opened a new path for him, a path of union, love and happiness, and said to him: *"Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife. For that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit"* (v. 20).

At this point, Joseph trusts God totally, obeys the Angel's words and takes Mary with him. It was precisely this unshakable trust in God that enabled him to accept a humanly difficult and, in a certain sense, incomprehensible situation. Joseph understands, in faith, that the child born in Mary's womb is not his child, but the Son of God, and he, Joseph, will be the guardian. The example of this gentle and wise man exhorts us to lift up our gaze and push it further. It is a question of recovering the surprising logic of God which, far from small or great calculations, is made up of openness towards new horizons, towards Christ and His Word.

May the Virgin Mary and her chaste husband Joseph help us to listen to Jesus Who comes, and Who asks to be welcomed in our plans and in our choices. (Pope Francis)

### Mass Times

#### Church of Our Lady, Roslevan

Daily Mass Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9.30am  
Saturday Vigil Mass: 6pm

#### St. Breacan's Church, Doora

Sunday: 9.45am

#### Immaculate Conception, Barefield

Sunday 11.15am  
Tuesday 9.30am

[www.doorabarefieldparish.ie/webcam](http://www.doorabarefieldparish.ie/webcam)

### Contacts

#### Fr. Tom Fitzpatrick, P.P.

Tel. 087 272 0187

Doora Barefield Parish Office,  
3 The Woods, Cappahard,  
Tulla Rd., Ennis

**Cora, Parish Office - Tel. 065 6822225;**  
**Opening Hours: Mon & Tues: 9am-5pm;**  
**Wed: 9am-1pm**

Email: [info@doorabarefieldparish.ie](mailto:info@doorabarefieldparish.ie)  
Website : [www.doorabarefieldparish.ie](http://www.doorabarefieldparish.ie)  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/doorabarefieldparish>.

# Priest on Duty 21st December, 2025

## Contact Fr. Joy - Tel. 065 6869098

### Remembered in Masses this week

#### CHURCH OF OUR LADY

20th Dec: Pat Bennett, Cloverlea, Gaurus. MM.  
Tommy Kearney, Roslevan.  
24th Dec: Vincent Gardner, Millbank, Roslevan.  
27th Dec: Tom Keane, Gaurus. 1st Anniv.  
Mary Cabey, Lios Ard, Tulla Rd.

#### ST. BRECAN'S CHURCH

21st Dec: Margaret McMahon, Ballyglass.  
Frank O'Connor, Kilbricken.  
Thomas & Josephine Heffernan  
& John McInerney, Noughaval  
24th Dec Vigil: John & Teresa Carolan, Kilfilum.  
25th Dec: Christopher & Peggy Horan, Meanus, Clarecastle.  
28th Dec: No intention booked.

#### CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, BAREFIELD

21st Dec: Deceased Whelan Family, Larchill.  
Megan Malone, Ballyduff.  
28th Dec: No intention booked.

9.30am Mass each Tuesday in Barefield Church.  
Novena Mass in Church of Our Lady each Monday.

#### Finance Development Fund

14th December, 2025

Barefield €233: Doora: €141  
Church of Our Lady: €183  
: Development Fund : €718  
Mile buiochas

### Priests Christmas Collection

Christmas Collection for the Priests of our Parish at all Masses on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day. Envelopes are now available in the porches of our three churches or you can use your own envelope, with your name and address on it or donate on line on our website

[www.doorabarefieldparish.ie/donate](http://www.doorabarefieldparish.ie/donate)

QR Code Scan with your phone

You can also scan this code. Mile Buiochas.



#### Parish Office Christmas Holidays

The Parish Office will close on Tuesday 23rd Dec. at 1 pm and will re-open on Monday 5th January at 9am. If urgent, kindly contact the Priest on duty Tel. 065 686 9098.

### REST IN PEACE

Remember in your prayers

Teresa Browne, Clonteen, Ballyalla.

Kathleen O'Shea, Shannon,  
mother of Paul, Bruach na hAbhainn.

Paddy Fahy, Fiddane, Gort,  
brother of Liam Fahy, Doora,.

*Now in God's hands, forever in our hearts.*



### Ministers of Eucharist & Readers



#### This week 20th & 21st

|            |                 |                  |
|------------|-----------------|------------------|
| COur Lady  | DLeahy/SGiller  | Jimmy O'Loughlin |
| Doora:     | Maria Considine | Orla Barry       |
| Barefield: | JDevitt/MWhyte  | Maeve O'Donnell  |

#### Christmas Eve

|            |                  |                  |
|------------|------------------|------------------|
| COur Lady: | DLeahy/SGiller   | Jimmy O'Loughlin |
| Doora:     | Martha Neylon    | Seán Conlon      |
| Barefield: | LCorcoran/CLeamy | Bernard Casey    |

#### Christmas Day:

|            |                  |              |
|------------|------------------|--------------|
| COur Lady: | DLeahy/SGiller   | Olive Harvey |
| Doora:     | Bernard Hallinan | Kieran Bell  |
| Barefield: | MHasset/NKennedy | NKennedy     |

#### Next Week 28th

|            |                    |                |
|------------|--------------------|----------------|
| COur Lady: | DLeahy/SGiller     | Olive Harvey   |
| Doora:     | Mary Barry         | Seamus Enright |
| Barefield: | NKennedy/LCorcoran | Nuala Galvin   |

#### Church of Our Lady Basket Collector

20th, 25th & 27th Dec: PPerrill & HHerlihy

#### Doora Sacristan Rota

21st Dec: Mary Hallinan  
24th Dec: Seamus Enright  
25th Dec Anne Marie Custy  
28th Dec: Patricia Hassett

Thank you to Mary & John Burke for supplying Christmas Tree for Barefield Church.

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO 9.30AM MASS ON  
ST. STEPHEN'S DAY.**



## Christmas Mass Schedule

#### Christmas Eve Vigil Masses

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Church of Our Lady Roslevan     | 6pm    |
| Immaculate Conception Barefield | 7.30pm |
| St. Brecan's Doora              | 9pm    |

#### Christmas Day Masses

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Church of Our Lady, Roslevan      | 9am     |
| St. Brecan's, Doora               | 10am    |
| Immaculate Conception, Barefield: | 11.15pm |

#### Christmas Confessions

St. Brecan's Doora **Monday: 22nd 7pm**  
Church of Our Lady Roslevan **Tuesday: 23rd 7pm**

## As we approach Christmas - the Feast of Emmanuel.



Christmas 2025 is almost upon us and what a joy it brings; the joy of being together, parents, children and grandchildren, all sharing, giving, and receiving. It is important that we take time out to celebrate what we have and to give thanks for those who are dear to us. We live in the sure and certain hope that when we gaze on the light of Christ, the Son of God, the star of Bethlehem, all our dreams will come true.

The true spirit of Christmas must always remain with us because it speaks to us of love and peace, forgiveness and reconciliation, sharing richness and bearing burdens. The human heart needs Christmas. Indeed, the human mind would probably have created it had he not come. But isn't it great! He has come! He, the Son of God, in the person of an infant Child, came to a cold, dark stable to satisfy the needs of the human heart and to draw us all to the brightness and warmth of his Father's home. And so we celebrate, we give thanks, we share. We thank Jesus, for lighting up our Christmases, for giving warmth to our homes, for bringing us together as a family to celebrate. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, always!

May every home in our parish experience the joy of Christ's coming among us and may that joy be shared with all the members of our families, especially with those who come home for Christmas. May the light of Christ shine in your hearts and home and may the warmth of His love heal any wounds or hurts. May those of our dear ones who cannot make it home for Christmas hear from us a word of love and an assurance of prayer. We will keep those who are grieving the loss of a loved one this Christmas very much in our thoughts and prayers. Be assured that the merciful love of the Infant of Bethlehem encircles your dear one in an embrace of peace. We remember too all of you who are sick and in hospital. May you experience the love of Jesus as your dear ones visit you over the Christmas period.

To those who day after day, week after week, serve our parish community as members of the Pastoral Council, School Boards of Management, Parish Finance Committee, Sacristans, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Basket collectors and Distributors of Envelopes, Caretaker and members of the Community Employment Scheme, we say a sincere "thank you." Your dedication and service are greatly appreciated.

And so as we enter the Christmas period may we discover the surprises that God's love has in store for us and the warmth of his welcome. May those blessed days allow us to see the love of God shining through the windowed hearts of all of God's people. The message of Christmas is one of Hope and a better way. The one who lay in the crib also knows the pain of the cross. He is Emmanuel, God with us. He welcomes us. May we welcome Him.

In a few weeks from now the decorations will come down and we will pull the plug on the Christmas lights. The toys will be forgotten - but the light and love of Jesus Christ will continue to brighten our pathway as we enter a New Year, confident that He will make all things new and fulfil our desires.

A Happy and Blessed Christmas to all of you and every blessing and good wish for 2026!

*Jon Fitzpatrick.*



# Today's Scripture Readings

## Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

## PENITENTIAL RITE

P. Have mercy on us, O Lord

C. For we have sinned against you.

P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

C. And grant us your salvation.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

C. Amen.

## A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Is 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above'. 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test'.

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us" '.

## The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Response:** Let the Lord enter!  
He is the king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm. **R**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. **R**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R**

## A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans **Rm 1:1-7**

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name.

You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

## The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!

## A reading from holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Mt 1:18-24**

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take

Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.'

Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

## The Gospel of the Lord

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

## Communion Antiphon

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called**