



Parish Newsletter

Sunday 28 December 2025



Parish Office

The parish office will re-open on Thursday 8th January.

We wish all parishioners every blessing over the Christmas season.



Services this Week

Saggart

- Mass: Sun 9am; Wed and Fri 11am
- Adoration: Sat and Sun 2–5pm

Rathcoole

- Mass: Sat 6pm; Sun 12pm; Tue and Thu 10am
- Adoration: Sun 4–6pm; Tue 10.30–1 and 3–5pm; Fri 9–12 and 3–7pm

Newcastle

- Mass: Sun 10am; Mon 10am
- Adoration: Sat 3–6pm

Confession: Generally available after any Mass by request

Baptisms/Marriages: Contact Parish Office (0860108420, Tue–Thu 10–12.30)



Thank You

Our thanks to all who have helped in any way with the celebration of Christmas this year. Those who cleaned and decorated the church, supplied the tree, put up the crib; Our readers, ministers of the Eucharist, choirs, musicians, servers, stewards, sacristans; And to our regular parishioners and our visitors for your participation in the Christmas Ceremonies.

Thanks also to those who have contributed towards the support of the parish through the Family Offering envelopes and standing orders as well as the upkeep of the priests through the Christmas Dues envelopes and the regular Sunday collections.



12 Days of Christmas

Modern culture treats Christmas as a single day, as an event to be consumed, packed away, and forgotten by December 26. Trees come down, music stops, and the world rushes back to routine.

In the Christian tradition, Christmas only begins on Christmas Day. December 25 is not the finale; it is the start of a sacred season. The Church celebrates twelve full days of Christmas, extending from Christmas Day until 6th January, the Feast of the Epiphany, when Christ is revealed to the nations.

This is not sentimental nostalgia—it is deliberate theology. The Incarnation is too profound to be contained in a single day. God entering human history deserves time, space, and sustained joy. That is why the Church invites the faithful to keep decorations up, continue singing Christmas hymns, and let homes remain visibly festive. The lights are not excess; they are proclamation. The music is not background noise; it is celebration. Joy is not something to rush through—it is something to dwell in.

The Twelve Days of Christmas remind us that Christian joy is not dictated by commercial calendars. While the world moves on, the Church stays. It lingers at the manger. It contemplates the mystery. It allows joy to deepen rather than evaporate.

Epiphany completes this arc by widening the lens. Christ is not only born for one people or one night. He is revealed to all nations, all cultures, all times. The season ends not in exhaustion, but in expansion. So let the joy continue. Let your home reflect the season. Let Christmas be what it

was always meant to be—not a moment to survive, but a season to inhabit. Christmas does not end on December 25th. It begins there!



Appeals & Charities

Crosscare Christmas Appeal

Your donation will help provide food, stability, and a pathway toward independence for those who need it most.

Donate at www.crosscare.ie or call 01 8360011. Donate at crosscare.ie.



Retreats

- **Manresa Retreats:** New Year Retreat, Dec 29–Jan 1. Book at manresa.ie.
 - **Priory Institute Online Advent Retreat:** Free reflections by Fr John Harris OP. Register at prioryinstitute.com.
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Support & Ministries

- **Young Adult Ministry Certificate:** Practical formation course. Register [here](#).
 - **Aware Support Groups:** Phone-in & Zoom support. Visit aware.ie.
 - **Bethany Bereavement Support:** Free, confidential help. Visit bethany.ie.
 - **Weekly Ezine – Sharing Good News:** Subscribe at catholicnews.ie/newsletter.
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