

## Fourth Sunday of Advent 2020

(Extract from Bishop Brendan Leahy's Christmas Letter)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we approach Christmas I greet you and wish you and your family well.

It's been a year to remember, mostly for the wrong reasons because of Covid-19 but, in many respects too, for the right reasons also because of the resilience, humanity, charity and caring we have seen in response!

Most of the parishes of the Diocese are in Limerick so we finished the year with a great memory to take from it - winning the Liam McCarthy Cup was such a positive end to the year. But we are all mindful of the huge upheaval Covid-19 brought us this year.

The Church is above all *life*, and that means, for most of us, the give and take that goes into family life. We are all baptised. Jesus has committed himself to us. Let's recognise how he is active in our families. It is in the family that we learn to share, that we learn to have patience with others. It is in the family that we learn to work together, play together and pray together. It is in the family we learn how to take care of the sick, look out for one another and comfort and help each other in times of trouble. If we look at all of this with the eyes of faith, we can see that all of this is Church, the living Church, the everyday Church, the Jesus-Church that continues Jesus' mission in the world.

This is a simple but I believe important thought I wanted to share with you as we approach Christmas.

Let's entrust our families to Mary, Mother of Hope and the Un-Tier of knots, that she may help us open our eyes even more to the wonder that is the family, the living Domestic Church with Jesus living among us.

Every blessing for Christmas!

+ **Brendan Leahy**  
Bishop of Limerick

### **CELEBRATION OF MASSES OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

*"We strongly encourage the faithful to keep Christ at the centre of Christmas this year. Clearly it will be impossible for our usual large congregations to assemble for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. But Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany 6<sup>th</sup> January. Christmas Masses will also be available on our webcam on [www.pwbbparish.com](http://www.pwbbparish.com) and we strongly encourage families to "tune in" from their living rooms and join with those who are gathering in welcoming the birth of the Christ-child.*

*It is possible to experience the spiritual richness of this special season in many ways. Our homes can become "little churches" where we invite the Christ-child in. We also invite families or "household bubbles" to pay a visit to their local church at some time during the twelve days to offer a Christmas prayer at the crib and pray together for their families and for those particularly in need".*

Keeping in mind the current Covid-19 restrictions, we have decided to put in place a schedule of Masses to help people celebrate Christmas in a real, meaningful and safe way.

Starting Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December, we are encouraging people to come to a morning Mass at 9.30am.

See schedule of Masses for Patrickswell and Ballybrown overleaf. Schedules of Masses for all other parishes are published on parish websites and Facebook pages and are available in churches for everyone's benefit.

Thank you most sincerely for your continued generosity with the weekly Offertory Contributions and Dues throughout what has been a very difficult year for many.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a safe New Year.

*Fr Mike, Pastoral & Finance Committees.*

**2021 Envelope Boxes:** Distribution of Envelope boxes will take place during the coming days. If you are not on the list of householders receiving the annual box of envelopes and would like to receive one for 2021, please contact Pauline in the Parish Office or you may wish to donate online by going to [www.pwbbparish.com](http://www.pwbbparish.com) and clicking on the Donate tab at top of menu. If you have any queries please phone or email the Parish Office.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FROM MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DEC. AT 1.00PM UNTIL MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY.**





**SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS MASSES IN  
PATRICKSWELL/BALLYBROWN PARISH**

**MONDAY 21st / TUESDAY 22nd / WEDNESDAY 23rd DECEMBER**

**MASSES AT 9.30AM IN BOTH CHURCHES**

**Patrickswell Church – Eucharistic Adoration Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 10am to 4pm.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE – Thursday 24th December:**

**BALLYBROWN MASSES:**

**3.30PM (ON A FIRST COME BASIS)**

**9.00PM: VIGIL MASS (TICKET BASIS).**

**PATRICKSWELL MASSES:**

**11.00AM (ON A FIRST COME BASIS)**

**7.00PM: VIGIL MASS (TICKET ONLY)**

**ZOOM FAMILY LITURGY:**

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY LITURGY AT 5.00PM – Through Zoom. Send an email before Tuesday evening 22<sup>nd</sup> December to Fr. Éamonn Fitzgibbon at [eamonn@ldo.ie](mailto:eamonn@ldo.ie) for link to join.**

**CHRISTMAS DAY – Friday 25th December:**

**BALLYBROWN MASS:**

**10.00AM (TICKET ONLY)**

**PATRICKSWELL MASS:**

**11.30AM (TICKET ONLY)**

**ST. STEPHEN'S DAY – Saturday 26th December:**

**BALLYBROWN AT 8.00PM**

**PATRICKSWELL AT 6.30PM**

**SUNDAY 27th December:**

**BALLYBROWN AT 10.00AM**

**PATRICKSWELL AT 11.30AM**

**MIDWEEK MASSES - 9.30am from Monday 28th to Thursday 31st in both Churches**

**THEME: FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT - MASS ONLINE**

**Wednesday 30th: Patrickswell Church at 7.00pm  
(Members of Bereaved Families Invited to the Church)**

**Thursday 31st: Ballybrown Church at 7.00pm  
(Members of Bereaved Families Invited to the Church)**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY - Friday 1st January:**

**Ballybrown: Mass at 10.00am**

**Patrickswell: Mass at 11.30am**

