

## The Poinsettia—A Flower of hope

A charming story is told of Poinsettia, a poor Mexican girl, who had no gift to present to the baby Jesus in his Crib, as was customary on Christmas Eve. As Poinsettia walked slowly to the Chapel with her friends and family; her heart was full of sadness rather than Joy. An Angel appeared to the little girl and spoke to her "I am sure that even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in his eyes". Not knowing what to do, the little girl knelt at the roadside and gathered a handful of common weeds, fashioning them into a small bouquet. Looking at these insignificant weeds, she felt more saddened and embarrassed than ever by the humbleness of her offering. Poinsettia fought back a tear as she entered the small village chapel. As she approached the Crib she remembered the Angels words. She felt her spirit lift as she knelt to lay the bouquet at the feet of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into blooms of brilliant crimson red, all who saw them were certain that they had seen a miracle right before their eyes. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the Flores de Buena, Flower of the Holy Night. Known by all of us for its Christmas colour, called the Poinsettia.

This is a powerful story of Christian Hope in a time of darkness and uncertainty. And yet even where one can be overwhelmed and indeed choked by the overgrowing destructive weeds, regarding so many structures in our society, the Poinsettia offers us hope. This is a time of cleansing, a time for renewal, a time for change. Jesus born in great poverty to a family placed on the margins is our source of new life, renewal, hope and confidence. Jesus feels no doubt the immense pain and suffering that is felt in the hearts of so many good people at this time. He dwells in our hearts that may be disillusioned. The gift of Christmas is to indulge in a bright light that is so much brighter than any darkness. There is no recession when it comes to the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. There are no cutbacks in the unconditional love Jesus has for us all. The new life of Jesus Christ is not something that just once happened but a promise that needs to be realized in all our lives.

*This is the time. It is the weeds of hurt and brokenness, disillusionment and anger that we place at the foot of our Savior this Christmas. His Presence will transform and allow us to begin again.*

Parochial House: 059 9721154

Fr Declan : 087 6684299 Fr Paddy: 087 9948505 /059 97 23886

Pamela Whelan: 085 8230207 Rev Charles McCollum : 087 2885019

Email: [bagenalstownparish@gmail.com](mailto:bagenalstownparish@gmail.com) [www.bagenalstownparish.ie](http://www.bagenalstownparish.ie)

[www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

BAGENALSTOWN - NEWTOWN - BALLINKILLEN

## 'CHURCH NOTICES'

# New Years Day

# 1st January, 2012

## CHRISTMAS 2011

*Thanks to all who contributed in any way to the Christmas Ceremonies, to all who came, to the Choirs, Organists, Readers, Ministers, Servers, Collectors, Sacristans, Cleaners and Flower Arrangers and all who helped in any way.*

*Thanks to all who contributed to the Priest's Collection and to all Collections during the year. Your generosity was marvellous and may God bless and reward all.*

*Thanks to all who have helped the Church and Parish over the Year.*

# Happy New Year

### PRAY FOR

**Annie (Nancy) Guidera**, Ballyknockan. Burial in Cemetery of Assumption after Requiem Mass in Parish Church on Sunday at 11:30am..

**Brigid Deegan**, Newtown, Borris. (*mother of Majella Kidd & Margaret O'Mara*) who was interred recently.

**Sean Malone** (*nephew of Marie Power, Kilgreaney*)

### MONTHS MIND

**Elsie Cummins**, Nurney. Mass in Newtown Church on Sunday 8th January at 9:00am.

### 1ST ANNIVERSARY

**Martin Kane**, Knockullard & Manchester. Mass in Ballinkillen Church on Sunday 1st January at 10:00am.

**John Hunt**, Kilcormac & Pairc Mhuire. Mass in Parish Church on Sunday 1st January at 11:30am.

**Jim Holmes**, Kearnanstown, Mass in Newtown Church on Friday 6th January at 7:00pm.

### Holy Day Epiphany Friday

#### 6<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Bagenalstown **Thurs** 5<sup>th</sup> 7:30p.m.

Bagenalstown **Fri** 6<sup>th</sup> 8:00a.m.,  
11:30am

Newtown **Fri** 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00p.m.

Ballinkillen **Fri** 6<sup>th</sup> 8:00p.m.

### Remembrance

**Pray for All Donors of Life Saving Organs and their Families this weekend. And we pray also for the recipients who have been given the gift of life.**

### ANNIVERSARIES

Mary, Michael & Francis Byrne,  
Rathellan Lane

James Doyle, Barrett Street

Susan Lillis, 2 Fairgreen

Joe & Josie Monaghan, 24

Kilcarrig Street

Pat McDonnell, Rathduff

Michael Brophy, 53 St. Brigids  
Crescent

John & Kathleen Doran & their  
son Ted

**These anniversaries will be prayed  
for on Fri 6th & Sat 7th January at  
10:00am Mass.**

### Readers Sun 8th January 2012

**Sat 7th January 6:00pm**

Katie O'Neill

**Sun 8th January 8:00am**

Anna Monaghan

**Sun 8th January at 11:30**

Annette Reddy



### **First Friday Anniversaries in Newtown 6th January at 7:00pm**

Jim Holmes, 28 Kearnanstown  
Michael Hogan, Lumclone Cross  
Patrick & Susan Hogan,  
Lumclone Cross

Pat Hickey, Rathercan

Josie & Mamie Murphy, Augha

Kathleen Power, Newtown

Ned Murray, Ballaghaderneen

Jim Ryan, 28 Fenagh

Rody Ryan, Kylemaglusk

Joseph Rafter, Kilconnor

Elizabeth Murray, Ballybromhill

Michael Nolan, Ballytarsna

Kathleen Nolan

Jane O'Brien, Rathercan

Patrick Smyth, Newtown

Mary Gregan & her daughter

Nuala, Kildrenagh

Richard Sinnott, Ballywilliamroe

Thomas & Margaret O'Gorman,

Boherduff

Thomas Dobbs, Ballywilliamroe

Kathleen Kerr, Fenagh & Carlow

### **First Friday Anniversaries in Ballinkillen 6th January at 8:00pm**

Alan Hughes, Ballinkillen

Samuel O'Neill, Ballinkillen

John & Sarah Dowling,  
Ballyloughan

John & Kathleen Doran & their

son Ted Doran

Francis O'Shea

Catherine Ryan, Corries



### **Confirmation and First Holy Communion Dates 2012**

- **Newtown N.S.** in Newtown Church on Saturday 12th May at 11:00am
- **Queen of the Universe N.S. & St. Brigids Boys N.S.** in Parish Church on Saturday 19th May at 11:00am.
- **Nurney N.S.** in Newtown Church on Sunday 20th May at 11:00am
- **Ballinkillen N.S.** in Ballinkillen Church on Saturday 26th May at 11:00am
- **Garryhill N.S.** in Parish Church on Sunday 27th May at 11:30am.
- **CONFIRMATION** on Saturday 10th March at 2:00pm.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED  
UNTIL 9th JANUARY 2012**