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### A GOOD CONFESSION

It was with great joy that I received the news that the Irish Bishops had asked all the faithful to go to Confession as part of a great spiritual preparation for my visit to Ireland. You could not have given me a greater gift. And if today there is someone who is still hesitating, for one reason or another, please remember this: the person who knows how to acknowledge the truth of guilt, and asks Christ for forgiveness enhances his own human dignity and manifests spiritual greatness.

Because of Christ's love and mercy, there is no sin that is too great to be forgiven; there is no sinner who will be rejected. Every person who repents will be received by Jesus Christ with forgiveness and immense love.

Pope John Paul II  
Ireland, September 29, 1979

### STEPS TO A GOOD CONFESSION

1. Examine Our Conscience
2. Be Sorry For Our Sins
3. Make a Firm Purpose of Amendment
4. Confess Our Sins to a Priest
5. Perform Our Penance

### Confession Sustains Christian Life

"What is needed today is to ensure that people who confess experience that divine tenderness for penitent sinners which so many Gospel episodes express with intense emotion," Pope Benedict XVI. Referring to the episode of the sinful woman in the Gospel of Luke, he highlighted "the eloquent message that emerges from this Gospel passage: To those who love much God forgives everything.

"Those who trust in themselves and in their own merits are, as it were, blinded by their own 'I' and their hearts harden in sin.

**"On the other hand, those who recognize themselves as weak and sinful entrust themselves to God and from him obtain grace and forgiveness."**

"What is most important," Benedict XVI said, "is to make it clear that in the sacrament of penance - whatever the sin committed - if sinners recognize it humbly and entrust themselves to the priest confessor, they will always experience the soothing joy of God's forgiveness."

**CONFESSIONS: Kerrykeel 7PM - TUESDAY 19TH DEC / Milford 7PM - THURSDAY 21ST DEC**

### St. Peter's Church, Milford

#### Saturday 16th

7:30pm Intention

#### Sunday 17th Third Sunday of Advent

11:00am Jean Conlon (1st Anniv)

#### Tuesday 19th

10:00am Intention

#### Thursday 21st

10:00am Intention

#### Friday 22nd

10:00am Intention

#### Saturday 23rd

7:30pm Intention

#### Sunday 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00am Intention

10:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass

### Eucharistic Adoration

#### Tuesdays - Kerrykeel

9: 00 am – 8: 00 pm

#### Thursday's - Milford

10: 00 am – 10: 00 pm

*(Directed Holy Hour from 9: 00 pm the second Thursday of every month)*

### Confessions

#### Milford

After 7: 30 pm Mass every Saturday

#### Kerrykeel

5: 30 pm on Saturday's

### Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Kerrykeel

#### Saturday 16th

6:00pm Peter Doherty (Anniv)

#### Sunday 17th Third Sunday of Advent

9:30am Intention

#### Monday 18th

11:00am Nancy Deeney Funeral Mass

#### Wednesday 20th

10:00am Intention

#### Friday 22nd

11:00am School Carol Service

#### Saturday 23rd

6:00pm Michael Mc Grath (Special Intention)

#### Sunday 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30am Intention

8:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass

## Please Remember in your Prayers:

**Nancy Deeney**, Glasgow/Gortcally, who died on Wednesday, funeral Mass Kerrykeel on Monday at 11am.

**Margaret Friel**, The Lagg, whose funeral took place in Milford on Monday.

**Catherine Gallagher**, Portnablagh, who died recently.

**Jean Conlon**, whose 1st Anniversary Mass takes place in Milford this weekend.

**And also all those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:** Peter Doherty, Neil Mc Bride & Alan Smyth.



### St. Vincent de Paul

The local SVdeP number 086 0611040 is a dedicated confidential number.

### Baptisms—Milford and Kerrykeel

Baptisms in Milford can be arranged for a Saturday at 4pm only and Sunday at 12noon. In Kerrykeel on a Saturday at 5pm.

### Rosary

No Rosary until Tuesday 9th January.

### Dancing Milford Hall

Two-hand and Ceili dancing every Thurs night in the Milford Hall from 8.30pm. Everyone is welcome, so come along and give it a try.

### Choir Practice—Kerrykeel

A choir practice will take place in Kerrykeel Church on Monday evening the 18th December at 7:30pm. All members please attend. New members welcome.

### Thank you

Thank you to all who baked, provided the refreshments and who helped out in any way at the tea after Fr. Adrian's farewell Mass on Friday evening. Your help was greatly Appreciated.

### *PARISH NEWSLETTER*

#### No Newsletter will be printed for Sun 31st Dec

Anyone wishing to submit Announcements or Anniversaries for inclusion in the Parish Newsletter for this week please do so before **12noon Thursday 21st December** and they will be included in the newsletter on Sun 24th Dec.

### Confessions For Christmas

Confessions for Christmas will take place on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm in Kerrykeel**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm in Kilmacrenan**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> @ 8pm in Creeslough**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7pm in Milford**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> @ 8pm in Ramelton**

### A Future for Michael

Carol Singing will take place on Saturday 23rd December at approx 6:30pm (after Mass) in Kerrykeel. Donations on the night are in aid of The Michael Mc Grath Fund. Michael is the son of Mary Mc Grath (nee Toland). Refreshments will be served afterwards in The Village Inn. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

### Rotas—Milford

New rotas are available in the Sacristy for Eucharistic Ministers & Ministers of the Word.

### **THE DEEP END:**

#### Light and Darkness

Last week we were introduced to John the Baptist as part of our Advent journey. We hear his story again today, and in this account, from the fourth gospel, we hear John's voice and his testimony about Jesus. Light and darkness is a key theme of the fourth gospel and its opening verses proclaims that this light has always shone in the dark; the darkness cannot overpower it.

The evangelist goes on to tell us that John the Baptist's mission is that he has been sent by God to 'speak for the light'. John is a light-bearer, he is not the light, but he points to the light. He is a witness to the light of God in our world, a light that cannot be put out.

We celebrate this light today on Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means 'rejoice'; we light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy. It might be a good opportunity to ask today: 'who have been the light-bearers on your own faith journey'? Who testified to the Light of God and passed the torch on to you?

We thank God for them.

Lord there is much darkness in society and in our church ... We become cynical and settle for mediocrity. We thank you that someone always comes on the scene, sent by you as a witness to speak for the light ... teachers, community leaders, grandparents, children, a friend ... they bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light shines that darkness cannot overcome.

### Church Collections for last weekend were:

**Milford:** €1,085.00

**Kerrykeel:** €240.00

Many thanks for your contributions to the Parish.

### *Thought for the Week*

*The best way to prepare for the coming of Christ is never forget the presence of Christ.*

*W. Barclay*

### Milford Hall Bingo

Bingo Sunday Night at 8:30pm in the Hall.

**Snowball tonight is:**

€8,000. 00

**Second Snowball**

€7,300. 00



## *Church Ministries*



### *Milford*

#### Ministers of the Word

**Sat 23rd December**

James Gibbons

**Sun 24th December**

Geraldine Mc Gee

#### Ministers of the Eucharist

**Sat 23rd December**

K. Logan, M. Mc Nulty & O. Gallagher

**Sun 24th December**

S. Lynch, T. Reynolds & Bernie O Donnell

### *Children's Liturgy*

**Sunday 16th Dec Team A**

Third Sunday of Advent  
Year B

**Sunday 24th Dec Team B**

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Year B

### *Kerrykeel*

#### Ministers of the Word

**Sat 23rd December**

Kay Mc Groy

**Sun 24th December**

Cabrini Friel

#### Ministers of the Eucharist

**Sat 23rd December**

Jacinta Callaghan

**Sun 24th December**

Eileen Mc Ateer