

Parish Newsletter

Fourth Sunday
of Advent
Year B

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Legend of the Poinsettia

SOME TIME AGO, I heard a lovely Christmas story about Maria, a young girl who lived on a poor family farm in a small village in Mexico. It was a custom in the village to glorify the Christmas season with special events to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, Jesus. Everyone took part in the preparations by festively decorating the village church and the piazza in front of it. Even the children helped by making gifts to give to the Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve.

Maria wanted to make a very special gift. She had helped her mother before with the loom, so she tried, on her own, to weave a colourful blanket. But Maria was too inexperienced and the yarns became an entangled mess. Maria was heartbroken. She wanted so much to be able to march in procession with the other village children, but she had no gift to give to the Christ Child.

Finally it was Christmas Eve! The villagers gathered in the piazza. Some whispered that they thought they could hear angels singing tonight.

Everyone was ready. Holding lit candles, all the villagers began to process down the aisle amid joyous music and singing.

All except for Maria, who hid in the shadows, watching with tears in her eyes as the procession to the church started.

"I don't have a gift for the Baby Jesus," she sniffled softly. "I tried and tried to make something beautiful, but instead I ruined it."

Suddenly, Maria heard a voice. She looked up and saw only a bright star in the sky; it seemed to hover and shine over the village church.

Was it this star that spoke to her?

"Maria," she heard the voice again, "The baby Jesus will love whatever you give because it comes from your heart. Love is what makes any gift special." With that, Maria stepped out from the shadows. Nearby she noticed some tall green weeds. She rushed over and quickly filled her arms with the weeds, covering them with her manto. Then she ran swiftly to the church.

By the time she arrived, the candles were ablaze and the children were singing as they walked down the aisle carrying their gifts to the Christ Child. Padre Francesco placed the figure of the baby Jesus in the manger, with the children's gifts all around it.

Suddenly, Maria was scared when she saw all those people dressed in such beautiful clothes, and she was dressed so poorly. She tried to slip behind one of the big pillars, but she was too slow. Padre Francesco saw her.

"Maria, Maria," he called out. "Hurry girl, come, bring up your gift!"

Maria was terrified. She wondered, "Do I run away? Do I go forward?"

The Padre saw her apprehension and coaxed her more gently, "Maria, come up here and see the Baby Jesus. There is space left for one more gift." Before she could think, Maria found herself walking down the main aisle of the church.

"What is Maria carrying under her manto?" the villagers whispered. "Where's her gift?"

Padre Francesco stepped down from the altar and walked with Maria to the Christmas crèche. Maria bowed her head and said a prayer then opened her manto and let the weeds tumble out.

Voices gasped, "Look! Look at those glorious flowers!"

Startled, Maria opened her eyes. She was stunned. For each weed was now topped with a flaming, bright, red star.

And outside, too, every weed now bore a bright red star.

Maria's love had created a miracle.

St. Peter's Church, Milford

Saturday 23rd

7:30pm Intention

Sunday 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00am Intention

10:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Monday 25th Christmas Day

11:00am The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Saturday 30th

7:30pm Anne Ryan (Anniv)

Sunday 31st The Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph

11:00 Brid Gallagher/Kelly (1st Anniv)

Monday 1st Mary, The Holy Mother of God

11:00am Madge Felle (Anniv)

Friday 5th January First Friday

7:00pm Monthly Anniversary Mass for the Deceased

Saturday 6th The Epiphany of the Lord

11:00am Intention

7:30pm Teresa Devine (Month's Mind Mass)

Sunday 7th The baptism of the Lord

11:00am Margaret Friel (Month's Mind 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 23rd

6:00pm Michael Mc Grath (Special Intention)

Sunday 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30am Intention

8:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Monday 25th Christmas Day

9:30am The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Saturday 30th

6:00pm Intention

Sunday 31st The Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph

9:30am Intention

Saturday 6th The Epiphany of the Lord

6:00pm Mary Ferry (Anniv)

Sunday 7th The baptism of the Lord

9:30am Intention

Please Remember in your Prayers:

All those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

Brid Gallagher, whose 1st Anniversary Mass takes place in Milford on Sunday 31st December.

Eamon Toland, David Reynolds, Hugh & Mary Coll, Kathleen Friel, Fr. Peadar Arnold, Cassie & Desmond Toye, Francis Griffin, Betty & Jim Scally & Alec Alcorn.



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 back Thurs night 11th January in the Milford Hall from 8.30pm. Everyone is welcome, so come along and give it a try.

Eucharistic Adoration Milford

Eucharistic Adoration will not take place in St. Peter's church until Thursday 11th January.

Annual Duck Race

The Annual Milford Tidy Towns Duck Race will take place on St. Stephens Day Tuesday 26th December at 3pm. You can purchase a duck for €5 from any committee member or in the local shops. Your support is very much appreciated. Presentation of prizes takes place afterwards in the Travellers Inn.



First Friday Calls

The monthly First Friday calls to the sick and housebound in the parish will take place on **Thursday & Friday 11th & 12th January. Please note change.**

Milford GAA Notes

Lotto Numbers 7-8-18-21. Two match three, Teresa Mc Cahill and Joe Gallagher, get €35 each. Jackpot next week €1,260. Hamper winners, Bingo Hamper, May Mc Fadden, Ray, Rathmullan .Mc Brides shop Hamper, Edward Friel, The Lagg, Milford. The annual St Stephens day match, Locals V Exiles will take place at Moyle park at 1pm on 26/12/17.

Presentation Dinner Dance will take place in the Mulroy Woods Hotel on the 29th Dec. Guests are All Stars, Ryan Mc Hugh and Conor Mc Manus. M.C. for the night is Charlie Collins. Some tickets are still available from Joe, 086-8547114 or Tracy, 086-3777458. CLG BnaG would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Whoriskey Christmas Lights Kerrykeel

Michael and Mary are having their annual quiz night in the Beachcomber Bar Rathmullan on THURSDAY 28th Dec at 9.30 pm. Draw on night .all proceeds in aid of Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin and the Alzheimer's Social Day, Fanad Day Centre. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Blessings

In this last Parish Newsletter of 2017 and before Christmas, I would just like to wish everyone in the parish a peaceful and happy Christmas celebrating the birth of Christ, and I wish you many blessings for 2018. Fr. Rory Brady.

A Blessing of the Crib in the Home

This blessing can be prayed when the crib is put in place in the home. When the final figures are ready to be placed the family might gather around the crib.

All make the sign of the cross
A member of the family places the final figures into the crib scene. The following blessing is then recited:

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Saviour was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger, may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. R. Amen.

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son...

Church Collections for last weekend were:

Milford: €1,065.00

Kerrykeel: €275.00

Many thanks for your contributions to the Parish.

Thought for the Week

God will answer all our questions in one way and one way only - namely, by showing us more of his son.

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 30th December

Rachel Mc Elwaine

Sun 31st December

Donal Mc Cafferty

Ministers of the Eucharist

Sat 30th December

P. Sweeney, E. Gillespie & B. O'Donnell

Sun 31st December

C. Mc Gettigan, M. Mc Fadden & M. Mc Rory

Children's Liturgy

Sunday 24th Dec Team B

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Year B

Sunday 31st Dec Team C

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph
Year B

Kerrykeel

Ministers of the Word

Sat 30th December

Phonsie Mc Ateer

Sun 31st December

Brid Dougherty

Ministers of the Eucharist

Sat 30th December

Brian Mc Garvey

Sun 31st December

Moira Stilvern