

Mullavilly News

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Check the website for photos of Parish events

The Magazine
for Mullavilly
Parish

December 2007/
January 2008

In the language of the Church, the word "Celebrate" is understood in a slightly different way to the way in which it is popularly understood. We do not, for example celebrate Holy Communion in the same way that we might celebrate a birthday or a new job. We understand "celebrate" to mean something which has much more depth, which has a spiritual significance and an eternal consequence. The same difference applies in our use of other words. **"Peace"** is more than a quiet night in with a few candles; **"love"** is more than an infatuation with a celebrity or something couples "make" after a casual acquaintance, **"goodwill"** is not just a pleasant smile through tense lips to see you through the Christmas holiday; **"joy"** runs deeper than shallow and fleeting exuberance and **"hope"** is not just a wish but rather a certainty based on promises given.

With all that in mind, the language of Christmas, glibly printed on the inside of greeting cards, is much more significant than we often think at first glance!

Likewise, the birth of **Jesus** was initially viewed as being of very little significance to all but a few. The gospel writer, Mark, the earliest of the four writers, failed to mention it in his account at all. Matthew and Luke do tell the story but it is John, the last of the writers, who describes it in a way that gives it eternal spiritual significance. John does not mention the inn or the manger or other matter-of-fact mundane things but rather writes that **"The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world"**.

2007 has not been an easy year for our community and especially for the families of Stuart, Wayne, James and Lee. Many others have had their own personal tragedies or joys. For those who sorrow, this will not be a Christmas that can be celebrated with a popular understanding of the word. Nor, indeed, should any of us celebrate the birth of Christ in a way which lacks depth and meaning.

However, we do celebrate Christmas in all our circumstances because we are celebrating the light, **the true light**, that shines to give us **hope** in the darkness, **peace** in our turmoil, **joy** in our sorrow and to give us the **good will**, the blessing of salvation.

We can do that alone in the quietness of our home or in the midst of the Body of Christ in worship. In whatever way we celebrate, we do so with sincerity and depth and genuine heartfelt thankfulness that God has intervened, not just in the history of the world, but in your life.

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JANUARY 20TH: WORSHIP IN THE CATHEDRAL. NO SERVICES IN MULLAVILLY

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DATE	FLOWERS	CRECHE	SCRIPTURE
Dec 2nd	Shirley Jenkinson	Pauline King Jacqui Moore	Rebecca Milne
Dec 9th	Maureen Milligan	Julie Magowan Joanne Milligan	Helen McClenaghan
Dec 16th	Roberta Rafferty	Karen McClelland Christine Neill	Heather Harper
Dec 23rd	Christmas Decorators		Elizabeth Harper
Dec 30th	Christmas Decorators	Gladys Shortt Valerie Doyle	Mary McKee
Jan 6th	Geraldine Thompson	Elaine Neill Judith Wilson	Rosemary Neill
Jan 13th	Ann Robinson		Alice Patterson
Jan 20th	ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL		
Jan 27th	Doreen Toal	Laura McMullen Jonathan Harper	Colin Patterson
Feb 3rd	Heather White	Tanya McKittrick Ann Rafferty	Elaine Bleakney

IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS WORSHIP DATES

Sunday 16th	FINAL DAY FOR GIFTS UNDER THE TREE
Sunday 23rd	11am NATIVITY FAMILY SERVICE
	7pm CAROL SERVICE
Monday 24th	11.15pm MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
Tuesday 25th	8:30am HOLY COMMUNION
	10:00am FAMILY WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
	(this service is suitable for children to bring their presents)
Monday 31st	11:30pm WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

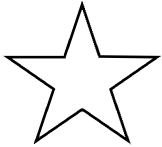
As usual, we support both the NSPCC and the BBC Appeal with gifts at Christmas time. The NSPCC gift labels can be collected at the font. Other gifts must be UNWRAPPED and left at the main tree at the front.

Baptism Anniversaries: (cards presented at Family Service)

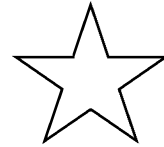
Apologies for forgetting to present the cards for November! These will be presented at the December family Service on 23rd.

DECEMBER: Samantha Milligan (1st); James Rafferty (2nd); Dale Garner (2nd); Alexander Burnett (2nd); Ciara Whalley (3rd); Callum Crawford (3rd); Ross Stewart (3rd); Rebekah Shortt (3rd); Tabitha Pentland (4th)

JANUARY: Josh Bennett (1st); Jamie Rafferty (1st)



WORSHIP IN THE CATHEDRAL SUNDAY JANUARY 20th



On the morning of January 20th, we are invited, as a congregation, to worship in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh. This is a new venture initiated by the Dean, the Very Revd Patrick Rooke, and it has proved to be extremely popular.

In order to make the most of the occasion, the Select Vestry will provide a coach from our church car-park leaving at 10:15am sharp. There will be no charge for this. Following the service, lunch will be provided in Church House beside the Cathedral. The price for this has still to be arranged. We may also get a guided tour of the cathedral and the Library before lunch. A booking list will be available over the Christmas period.

Without a doubt, this is a unique opportunity for us all to worship together in a different environment and style and to share a day out together. There will be no worship in Mullavilly that Sunday morning or evening.

Country & Gospel Concert Wednesday February 6th 2008

Mullavilly Parish Centre

Artists include:

*Fiddler Adam, Boxcar Brian, the Singing Brickie, Donna Duffin,
Mary McKee, Bonnie Stewart*

With Lionel Shields (compere) and backing band "Breakway"

*Admission £10 to Parish Development Fund
Tickets at the usual local outlets*

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will take place on the evening (7pm) of Sunday May 25th. Formal classes will commence in February. I currently have 10 names who have expressed an interest. You must be in school year 10 or above. All parents who have had their children baptised have promised to encourage their children to be confirmed. The final decision, after the formal preparation, lies with the candidate and myself.



For a long time, we have enjoyed an open policy on graveyard access. The path by the front of the church is frequently walked. Sadly, from Jan 1st, we have to request that dogs are not walked on church property, either in the field, graveyard or car-park. The freedom to walk dogs at the church has been abused by a very few people who have left dog poo around the centre and in the graveyard. This is unsightly and makes the maintenance of the grounds difficult and unpleasant. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause to responsible dog owners and we will keep this policy under review.

THE SELECT VESTRY

DECEMBER

Sun 2nd	9:30 & 11am Holy Communion 7pm Evening Prayer 8:15pm Youth Fellowship
Mon 3rd	6:30pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides 8pm Bowls
Tues 4th	10am Prayer Meeting 7:30pm MU Christmas Supper
Wed 5th	6:30pm Boys' Club 7:30pm Choir Practice 8pm Badminton
Thurs 6th	12:30 Seniors Christmas Dinner 8pm Bowls v Armagh
Friday 7th	8pm The Fridge
Sunday 9th	9:30am Holy Communion *10am Sunday School* 11am Morning Prayer 7pm Evening Prayer 8:15pm Youth Fellowship
Mon 10th	6:30pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides 8pm Bowls
Tues 11th	10am Prayer Meeting
Weds 12th	6:30pm Boys' Club 7:30pm Choir Practice 8pm Badminton
Thurs 13th	8pm Bowls
Friday 14th	6pm The Fridge Christmas Outing
Sunday 16th	9:30 & 11am Holy Communion 7pm Evening Prayer 8:15pm Youth Fellowship
Mon 17th	6:30pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides 8pm Bowls
Tues 18th	10am Prayer Meeting
Weds 19th	5pm Sunday School Party 8pm Badminton Christmas Chinese
Thurs 20th	8pm Bowls
Sunday 23rd	9:30am Holy Communion 11am Christmas Nativity 7pm Carol Service
Monday 24th	11:15pm Midnight Communion
Tues 25th	8:30am Holy Communion 10am Holy Communion
Weds 26th	10:30am Walk the Tow Path
Sunday 30th	9:30am Holy Communion 11am Morning prayer 7pm Evening Prayer
Monday 31st	11:30pm Watchnight Service

JANUARY

Sun 6th	9:30 & 11am Holy Communion 7pm Evening Prayer 8:15pm Youth Fellowship
Mon 7th	8pm Bowls
Tues 8th	10am Prayer Meeting 7:30pm Select Vestry
Wed 9th	6:30pm Boys' Club 7:30pm Choir Practice 8pm Badminton
Thurs 10th	8pm Bowls
Friday 11th	8pm The Fridge
Sunday 13th	9:30am Holy Communion 11am FAMILY SERVICE 7pm Evening Prayer 8:15pm Youth Fellowship
Mon 14th	6:30pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides 8pm Bowls v Lakeside
Tues 15th	10am Prayer Meeting
Weds 16th	6:30pm Boys' Club 7:30pm Choir Practice 8pm Badminton
Thurs 17th	8pm Bowls
Friday 18th	8pm The Fridge
Sunday 20th	CATHEDRAL DAY
Mon 21st	6:30pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides 8pm Bowls
Tues 22nd	10am Prayer Meeting
Weds 23rd	6:30pm Boys' Club 8pm Badminton
Thurs 24th	8pm Bowls
Friday 25th	8pm The Fridge
Sunday 27th	9:30am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer 7pm Evening Prayer 8:15pm Youth Fellowship
Mon 28th	6:30pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides 8pm Bowls
Tues 29th	10am Prayer Meeting
Weds 30th	6:30pm Boys' Club 8pm Badminton
Thurs 31st	8pm Bowls away v St Malachi's

*Have a joyful Christmas and a blessed
New Year*