



**4th Sunday of Advent**  
Social media is no substitute for real human contact. Sharing good news is exciting. You want to let everyone know about the new baby or the new job or the good test results,

you can't wait to share your joy with them, so you post a message on WhatsApp or Facebook. It is instant, cheap and handy, the modern, convenient way of doing things. These days when we have news to share, it is rare that we rush off to tell family or friends face to face. Instead, we text or instant message them or send an email.

We might pick up the phone and actually speak to people but even that is happening less frequently now. The short text is quicker. It gets the job done. (It's a handy way of breaking bad news too, as people who have been dumped by text know all too well.)

Despite the fact that we can communicate instantly with people thousands of miles away, we seem to be connecting less and less on a personal, human level. A group of friends or family members can be sitting together in a room or walking up the street, but are so engrossed in their smart phones that they may as well not be together at all. Social media has made us less social. There is something sad about this. As today's Gospel reminds us, real human contact is a gift. The human contact enjoyed between Mary and Elizabeth was a gift for both of them. The way so many of us communicate today may mean that we are not enjoying that gift of human intimacy and togetherness as much as we could or should.

Spending real time with others and visiting others is important because relationships grow when we can share experiences and emotions in the present moment, when we can soak in the other person's scent, when we can feel the warmth of a physical handshake or hug or embrace. Would the baby in Elizabeth's womb have leapt with joy had Mary and Elizabeth been texting? Often it is only when we are physically close to the other that we can appreciate what he or she is really feeling and thinking. It is only when we look into the other person's eyes that we can truly be with him or her.

Christmas is the time of year when people

do a lot of socialising and visiting of relatives and friends. For some this can feel like a duty or an imposition, too much of an effort. It's easier just to stay at home with those nearest to us. Mary could have chosen to stay at home and to not visit Elizabeth. After all, she was pregnant herself. But instead she rushed to share with Elizabeth the good news they had both received. Mary knew the importance of the personal touch, the face-to-face encounter.

The season of Advent reminds us of God's personal touch, that God has visited us in human form as one like us. God entered fully into our humanity in order to show us how to be fully human. God visited us and remains with us, through thick and thin. That is the wonderful good news that this season heralds.

As Christians, each of us is a bearer of this good news. Christmas is an opportunity to share the joy that our faith brings us. Very often joy is contagious. If we share our joy with others, if we follow the example of Mary in today's Gospel, then they may catch it and it will spread, so that there is more joy in the world. Perhaps the greatest present we can give anyone this Christmas is to be truly present to them.

**Christmas Eve Mass times Friday 24th** Donoughmore 6.30pm. Miriam and Choir members Knockea 8pm. Singer Francis and Choir members

**Christmas Day Saturday 25th** Donoughmore 10am. Willie Browne and the Donoughmore musicians and singers Knockea is 11am Singer Francis and Choir members **Sunday 26th** Mass in Donoughmore at 10am and Knockea at 11am No limits on Numbers attending religious Services. Protective measures in place

**Unity Gospel Choir Limerick** have recently launched a new CD, "A Joyful, Joyful Christmas" we congratulate the choir and to Kathy who is member of this singing group.



**Christmas Market** is going ahead today Sunday in Ballyneety at 3pm and the big selling point this year is Seamus Flanagan will be raffling off a signed Limerick Jersey if you buy from his stall you'll automatically be entered into the draw

**Christmas Mass Bouquets** are available in our churches /church office if you need some

**Oh, It's a Holy Night**, In Roquemaure, southern France at the end of 1843, the church organ had recently been renovated. To celebrate the event, the parish

## Remembered In Mass

Donoughmore



Sat 18th 7 pm Hugh & Maureen Hurley, Willie & Bridie McNamara & Hughie Hurley

Mon.20th 10 am

Tues 21st 10 am No Mass

Fri 24th 10 am No Mass

**Christmas Eve 6.30**

**Sat 25th 10am**

**Christmas**

**Day**

Sun. 26th 10am

### Knockea

Sun 19th 11am Ciara Ryan, Paddy & Mary O'Dwyer. Dr. John Leahy

Wed 22nd 10am Stella O'Reilly

Sun 26th 11am Michael Fitzgibbon

### Roxboro

priest persuaded wine merchant and poet Placide Cappeau, a native of the town, to write a Christmas poem. Soon afterwards that same year, Adolphe Adam composed the music. The song, O Holy Night, was first premiered in Roquemaure, in 1847 by the opera singer Emily Laurey. The first known recording of O Holy Night was by Enrico Caruso in 1916. no Christmas is complete without at least one rendering of O Holy Night on the airwaves.

**Christmas Greetings:** I wish each and every one of you and families a very Happy Christmas time Unfortunately again for another Christmas with

## Parish of Donoughmore/ Knockea/Roxboro



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The Eircode for St. Patrick's Church, Donoughmore is **V94 V6T3**. Knockea is **V94 D938**.

restrictions on flying all families will not be able to get-together, Let's be safe also on our roads. Thanks to all who are preparing our churches for Christmas. *Fr. Tom*

**Weekly Church envelopes, Christmas dues and Calendar for 2022**

being distributed around the parish Your generosity is very much appreciated. Weekly envelopes, Christmas Dues/ Offertory Collection contributions can be given in using the collection boxes available at Mass. They can also be dropped into the letter box at the Parish Office (Church House) adjacent to Donoughmore church €9,599 Heating and lighting of our Churches 2020 Many thanks.

**Weekly Lotto** €1,800 winning No. 5,15,18,22 no winner lucky dip  
1.Eoin O'Riordan 2.Alan Rowan 3.Violet O'Flynn 4. Mary Scanlan 5. Melissa Lynch 6. Joan O'Riordan  
Next Jackpot €1,900 Dec. 21st, 9.30pm at the Four Elms

