



*St. Anne's Church, Shanvaghera & Church of St. John the Baptist, Knock*

## **Christmas Newsletter 2025. Year A**

**Fr. Richard Gibbons, P.P. tel: 094 93 88100**

### **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT KNOCK SHRINE**

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE:**

9.00am, 12noon and 3.00pm in Parish Church  
7.30pm: Christmas Vigil Mass in Basilica  
12midnight: Midnight Mass in Basilica

#### **CHRISTMAS DAY:**

9.00am: Parish Church  
10.30am: Basilica  
12noon: Basilica

#### **ST. STEPHEN'S DAY:**

12noon and 3.00pm in the Parish Church.

#### **SATURDAY 27th December:**

12noon, 3.00pm and 7.30pm in the Parish Church

#### **SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER:**

9.00am Parish Church  
10.30am Parish Church  
12noon: Basilica (RTE Broadcast Mass)  
3.00pm: Basilica

#### **MONDAY 29 AND TUESDAY 30 DECEMBER:**

9.00am, 12noon, 3.00pm and 7.30pm in the Parish Church

#### **WEDNESDAY 31 DECEMBER:**

9.00am, 12noon, 3.00pm and 7.30pm in the Parish Church

#### **THURSDAY 1 JANUARY:**

##### **New Year's Day/Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

9.00am: Parish Church  
12noon: Basilica (St. Joseph Cluster Mass)  
3.00pm Basilica.

**Please note: There will no 7.30pm Mass this evening.**

#### **CONFESSIONS:**

Christmas Eve: 10.30am to 3pm

The Chapel of Reconciliation will close from Christmas Eve at **3.00pm until December 30th inclusive** and will re-open on **Wednesday 31 December from 10.30am to 4.00pm**

### **6 JANUARY - FEAST OF THE EPHIPANY**

Masses: Monday: 5 January: 9.00am, 12noon, 3.00pm and 7.30pm Parish Church.

Masses: Tuesday 6 January: 9.00am and 10.30am Parish Church, 12noon and 3.00pm Basilica. 7.30pm Parish Church.

## A very happy Christmas!

Today the town of Greccio in central Italy is a sleepy kind of hilltop top town. But in 1223 it started a tradition that we still love to this day at Christmas time, thanks to St Francis of Assisi. St Francis put on the world's first nativity scene here. He was very keen to explain to the people of Greccio that there was more to Christmas than lots of food and drink and gifts. He felt then as indeed today that the true meaning of Christmas was being lost in the other "stuff". St Bonaventure, a member of the Franciscan order living in 1200s, wrote that Francis "prepared a manger and brought hay and an ox and an ass to the place appointed." Then at midnight on Christmas Eve, "the brethren (other Franciscans) were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices and that venerable night was made glorious..." The first crib and nativity scene was a huge hit with everyone and so we have it today.

We can draw meaning from anything really to suit ourselves and even to suit our own view of the world. Christmas itself can mean so many things to many people – it can mean a time for family gatherings, a time of year when we're nicer to each other, it can mean a time of anxiety for people as well. Echoing St Francis however, it's only true and significant meaning is the celebration of God becoming one of us to show us how much we are loved and wanted by Him. So this Christmas why not spend a little time with your family before the crib, take in it's history and meaning and finish by saying a prayer for you all for the year ahead.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and may the New Year bring many blessings.

Fr Richard

### NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS - ST JOSEPH CLUSTER

The basilica of Our Lady, Queen of Ireland, at Knock Shrine was officially opened on 18 July, 1976. To mark the 50th anniversary of the basilica, the annual New Year's Day Mass for the parishes in the St Joseph Cluster will be celebrated in the **Basilica on January 1st 2026 at 12noon**. All are welcome.

### TRANQUILLA

Morning Mass at **8.00am**. Masses are open to the Public. Chapel open from **2.00pm - 5.00pm daily**. **Vespers 4.30pm**.

#### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

**Christmas Day:** Mass at 9.00am  
**St. Stephen's Day:** Mass at 9.00am  
**Saturday 27 December:** Mass at 9.00am.

### KNOCK ANNUAL ST. STEPHEN'S DAY WALK

Please join us after **12noon Mass on St. Stephen's Day** at the gates of the Old Church for a walk around the Shrine grounds with family, friends and neighbours. All proceeds in aid of St. Vincent De Paul and UNICEF. Fr. Richard will lead the walk again this year. Everyone is invited back to Community Centre afterwards for tea / coffee and a bun! We hope to see you there and a very Happy Christmas to all.

**SUM OF MONEY** found on the Main St. Contact 087 9666845.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

thank all who contributed to their recent churchgate collection. Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated. SVP helpline 087 7907382.

### PARISH CHURCH

will be closed from 12 to 26 January. For Mass locations please check with office our visit our website on [www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie)

### AGHAMORE CHRISTMAS BINGO

takes place on **Tuesday 23 December at 8.00pm** in Aghamore Community Centre. Lots of prizes to be won on the night. All are welcome.

### CHILDREN'S ROSARY

**Friday 2 January at 5.30 pm to 6.15 pm** in the Apparition Chapel. For children and teens of all ages, including those new to praying the Rosary. Everyone is welcome to join the children in prayer. All under 18's must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. For any questions, please call or text: 087 2299 623.

More information on: [www.ChildrensRosary.org](http://www.ChildrensRosary.org)