



IRISH Christmas TRADITIONS

As Christmas is quickly approaching and we are caught up in the rush of buying presents and putting up Christmas decorations, take a few moments to consider how generations past celebrated Christmas in Ireland.

The Christmas Card

John Horsley and Henry Cole produced the first Christmas card in England in 1843. Christmas cards became useful substitutes for the Christmas letter or personal visit. Their popularity increased with developments in colour printing, the introduction of the penny post in 1840 and the development of the Christmas card in America in 1875.



Christmas Tree and Decorations

Christmas trees were introduced to the wealthy of Britain and Ireland in the 1840s by Prince Albert. Most other homes were decorated with evergreens such as holly, ivy and laurel. Children in Ireland were told that an angel stood on each spike of the holly leaves and that on Christmas Eve no prayer was left unanswered. Christmas trees became popular throughout Ireland from the mid 20th century onwards.

The Nativity

Many believe that the first crib was created by St Francis of Assisi, to depict the birth of Christ. Most families in Ireland had a crib, and the children would collect moss to decorate it. The Baby Jesus would not be placed in the crib until Christmas Morning.



Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve many people in Ireland attended confession and midnight Mass. Following Mass many ate a supper of saltling (white fish), potatoes and onion sauce. After the Rosary was said, children were given treats, and the Christmas log (a symbol of light) was lit.

In some homes, a dish of water was left on the windowsill. It was believed that the Holy Family would bless it as they passed by, giving it curative properties. Three places were also set at the table for the Holy Family.

Many families would light candles for relatives who had died that year and doors were left open to welcome the spirit of the deceased family members into the home.



Christmas Day

Preparations for Christmas Day included a thorough cleaning of the house and farmyard, and stocking up on special purchases of seasonal foods and other treats. After attending religious services on Christmas Day, the men played sports while the women cooked a special meal and the children enjoyed the toys they had received as Christmas gifts.

St. Stephen's Day — Wren Boys

On December 26, St. Stephen's Day, the 'Wren Boys' paraded the body of a small bird from house to house. Dressed in disguise, they carried the wren in a small, decorated box. At each home they asked for money to 'bury the Wren'. In return they entertained the household with their songs and jokes. The money collected was usually spent a few days later on a 'Wren Party'.



Women's Christmas 6th January

The Feast of the Epiphany is a Christian festival celebrating the visit of the Three Wise Men to Baby Jesus. It is a holy day of obligation in Ireland. It is also popularly known as Twelfth Night and it is considered unlucky to remove Christmas decorations before this date. In Ireland it is also known as 'Nollaig na mBan', 'Women's Christmas', as it is traditional for the men to cook and the women to rest.

FOCUS KILTEGAN



17TH DECEMBER 2023



CAROL SERVICE

Community Carol Service
in St Peter's Church, Kiltegan
on Sunday 17th December
at 7.00pm.

Music by the
Four Him's (Spencer Hawkins, Dermot Finlay
& friends.)
Followed by refreshments.
All are welcome to attend.



WHIST DRIVE

Kiltegan Christmas Whist Drive
Friday 15th December
at 8.00 p.m.
In St Peter's Parish Centre
(note Friday)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT.



Tynock National School
will hold their
Christmas Concert

on Wednesday 20th December in the
"Church of Assumption" Tynock at 7.00pm.
Tynock National School Christmas Raffle.
All support is greatly appreciated. Details
available on Facebook and the links below.



<https://www.idonate.ieraffle.com/TynockNS2023Christmas>

The Focus Kiltegan will be printing the
Christmas edition next Thursday 21st, there after
the first edition of 2024 will be published week
ending 14th January 2024.
All items for these editions must be received by
3pm on the Wednesday prior to going to print.

Thank you.

TYNOCK & TALBOTSTOWN

Fr. John McEvoy
059 9161114

Saturday 16th December Tynock @ 6.00 pm
**Anniversaries: Patrick & Ann Donegan,
Paddy Molloy, Hugh & Nancy Rafferty,
Kathleen & John Keogh, Graigue,
Kathleen Boland (note change from 24th)
Pat Byrne, Tynock**
Reader: Nigel Byrne.

Saturday 23rd December Talbotstown 6.00pm
Note change of date and time
Reader: Breedh Murphy.

Sunday 24th December-Christmas Vigil
Talbotstown @ 8.00 pm.
**Anniversaries: John and Katherine Grant
and all deceased members of the Grant
Family.**
Reader: Nigel Byrne.

Monday 25th December Tynock @ 10.00am
Christmas Day
**Anniversaries: Richard Donegan,
Charlie Brophy.**
Reader: Mary Byrne.

Sunday 31st December Tynock @ 9.30am
Reader Muireann Gartland.

Talbotstown & Tynock Church Collection
Offertory € 452.29 Envelopes €520.80

To book anniversaries for:
Tynock: Mary—086 2261264
Talbotstown: Josie—059 64 73971

With Sympathy

Sincere sympathy to Ann Grant Byrne,
on the death of her sister Mrs Peg Ryan
who passed away on
Monday 11th December in Galway.
Her funeral will take place in
Co. Galway during the week.
Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

KILTEGAN GAA & CAMOGIE LIP SYNC FUNDRAISER

THE LOTTO BOYZ Christmas Car Wash
 "Dirt Removal With Your Approval!"

Kiltegan Club Grounds
Friday 22nd December
Saturday 23rd December
10am - 4pm

Free RAFFLE

CARS €10
VANS €15

Refreshments will also be available

proceeds in aid of Kiltegan GAA & Camogie Lip Sync Battles Fundraiser
 Thank You Nigel, John, Michael, Pat, John, Michael

KILTEGAN DUCK DERBY

propelled by **THE PROUD HAIRY MARYS**

€10 per duck
 Or 3 quackers
€25

St. Stephen's Day @ 3pm

To buy your duck **CONTACT**

Padraig O' Toole (087) 7827617
 Derek Daly (087) 9166776
 Andy Foley (085) 2093270

Payment via Revolut to above numbers
 Cash option also available

PRIZES

1st Drinks Hamper
2nd Signed Wicklow Jersey
3rd Food Hamper

proceeds in aid of Kiltegan GAA & Camogie Lip Sync Battles Fundraiser

KILTEGAN GAA & CAMOGIE LIP SYNC FUNDRAISER

TAKE YOUR STEPS Christmas Raffle

Tickets €2 each or 3 for €5

1st : 4x4 Off Road driving experience for two (over 17's)
 2nd : Odaios Food & Drink Hamper (value €100+)
 3rd: Holistic Massage Voucher
 4th: Ballyhubbock Baked Goods Hamper
 5th: €30 D'Ilish Café Voucher
 6th: Olivia's Hair Salon - Wash & Blow Dry

Draw will be held on 22nd December in Talk of The Town

Thank You
 Suzie, Catherine, Olivia, Steph, Ollie, Eimear, Millie

Permit Granted



MICHAEL DWYERS COUNTY B CHAMPIONS

Congratulations and well done to Michael Dwyers under 19 football team who won the County Under 19 Football B Championship on Sunday, beating Annacurra in an exciting final. Score line Michael Dwyers 1-14 Annacurra 1-10. Kiltegan men playing on the Michael Dwyers team were Andy Corrigan, Jack O'Toole, Matthew Jackson, Ross Harmon, Noah Hayes, James Boland, Daniel Nolan & Daniel Byrne.

The team was managed by Gerry Boland and his selectors were Brandon Ryan and Lorcan Boland.

TURNING BACK THE YEARS

1956: Kiltegan formed the first branch of Macra Ná Tuaithe, Bobby Lennon and Andy Keogh, Baltinglass were the first leaders, Danny Byrne was secretary. The club was awarded many awards down through the years including district council and regional awards for a variety of competitions public speaking, question time, dancing, arts and crafts.

1961: Terry Byrne was elected Young Farmer of the Year for a project on pig production. He was presented with his award by Sean Lemass.

1964: Talbotstown National school beat Stratford national school in an Inter schools sports on the 11th July, winners for Talbotstown on the day were John Lennon, Seamus Dowling, Bernard Lennon. Marie Doyle, Martin Moore, Peter Keogh, Una Dowling Sean Keogh and Charlie Brophy. Talbotstown also beat Stratford in a football match on the same day. Final score Talbotstown 1-02 Stratford 1-01.

1965: Rathdangan Macra Na Ferime won the county poultry judging competition and were placed 4th in the All Ireland final later that year.

1966: At the school sports in Highpark, Kiltegan Celine Byrne, Rathcoyle won the 100 & 440 yards race and the obstacle race. Talbotstown school won the boys relay race. The girls relay was won by Rathcoyle school. There was a tie in the high jump between Jimmy Dowling & John Lawlor. Cecilia Whelan won the married woman's race with Sally O'Byrne second.



Celebrating their 21st Birthday's this week are **Mark Carroll & Sarah Byrne** enjoy your special day.



Birthday wishes for the month of December go to Olivia Cooney, Martina Mc Hugh, Orla Byrne, James O'Brien, Sharon Stephenson, Jamie Pierce & Roisin Timmins.

We hope you all had a very happy birthday.

KILTEGAN GAA LOTTO RESULTS

3-17-27-30
 No jackpot winner
 One match three wins €200
 Laura Keogh Graigue seller online next weeks draw takes place on Monday 18th of December in Talk to the Town

JACKPOT €4200

Christmas Draw Results Promoters Prizes

- Ann Grant Byrne
- Siobhan Doyle
- Juann Lennon
- Christmas draw for €50 one for all voucher**
- Catherine Carroll seller Catherine Carroll
- Peg Byrne, Killalash seller Pat Ivory
- Oliver Keogh seller Margaret Kavanagh
- Philip & Angela Hobson seller Brian Byrne
- Catherine Donovan seller Online
- Bridget Foley seller Bridget Foley
- Katelyn Doyle seller Ned Doyle
- Aine Timmins seller John Timmins
- Madeline Foley seller Madeline Foley
- T. Smith seller Brian Byrne

Congratulations and well done to all our winners.

LIVE CRIB AT RURAL REVIVAL

Join us for carol singing , complimentary tea/coffee, hot chocolate & treats for all the family

SAT 23RD & SUN 24TH DEC
2PM-5PM

Rural Revival, Church Lane, Baltinglass , W91YH72