

St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 2nd December 2018
First Sunday of Advent

Fr Phil Gaffney PP
Fr Fergal Cummins CC
St Mary's Presbytery
Dublin Road ☎ 9834958

St Mary's Parish Centre
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The Lord's Day 9:00am, 10:30am, 12 noon & 7:00pm
Monday - Friday 8:00am
Saturday 10:00am
Holydays 8:00am and 7:30pm.

Baptisms are celebrated on the first Saturday and on the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 1:00pm. Please contact the parish office or the sacristy for a booking form.

Four weeks notice required.

Confessions are available on Saturdays after 10:00am Mass, and every Sunday after 7:00pm Mass.

Marriages are facilitated by the Parish Centre 9834587.



Our Parish Community

December 2018:

Mon 10th Dec. 8.00pm St. Joseph's Young Priests Society
Tues 11th Dec. 8.30pm Baptism Preparation Meeting Team A
Wed 12th Dec. 8.00pm Holy Hour of Adoration
Tues 18th Dec. 8.30pm Baptism Preparation Meeting Team B

Teach Mhuire
Parish Centre
Church
Parish Centre



Hospital Visitation: Please inform Fr Phil, Fr Fergal, or the Parish Centre if a relative is ill or in hospital.

Parish Outreach

St Mary's Parish Primary School - Notice of Junior Infant Enrolment for September 2019:

Applications for junior infant places for September 2019 are now being accepted. The allocation of places will begin on Friday 18th January 2019 at 12 noon.

Forms and enrolment policy are available on our website www.smpps.ie or from the school office (041-9845374).

SVP Annual Christmas Collection 2018:

Christmas is not the same for everyone please help SVP bridge the gap in your locality by donating to our Church Gate collection this Sunday. Thank you for your continued support.

St Mary's Roof Restoration Fundraiser 2019

Would you like to walk the last stage of the Camino from Sarria to Santiago. It is 120 kilometres full of history and heritage. We are looking for volunteers who will raise €1500. Flight, food, hotel accommodation and transfers will cost approximately €900 leaving €600 for the Roof Fund. Travel dates are 9th-16th September 2019. Please contact Joe Harlin 085-2566305 or Michael Murphy 087-7072955.

Prayer and Pilgrimage

FIDE - Faith in Depth: group have moved to the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, St Mary's Pastoral Centre, Dublin Road, at 8pm. This year we are looking at "Mary in the Scriptures and the Church". New participants very welcome.

The Sacred Heart Messenger: for 2019 can be ordered by leaving your name in the Parish Office or by contacting Austin on 087-9307541. The cost for the year is €21.00.

The Red Door Project: would like to invite you to our Annual Christmas Market. We will have handmade crafted Christmas Decorations for sale on the day. On Friday December 7th from 10.00am to 2.00pm in the old St. Mary's Primary School, Dublin Road, Drogheda.

Holy Family Youth Group: (following on from their performance of 'A Little Bit of Francis' during the World Meeting of Families event in the RDS) now present a Christmas musical 'Hosanna Rock' combining something of the Old and New in a creative re-telling of the Christmas Story, in Holy Family Church on Sunday 9th December at 6.00pm. **Free admission. Come and Enjoy.**

First Sunday of Advent

As Advent gets underway, Pope Francis highlights specific graces Catholics should pray for as they prepare for Christmas.

"Let us ask the Lord during this Advent time to draw us closer, closer to his mystery and do so on the path that he wants us to take: the path of humility, the path of meekness, the path of poverty, the path of recognizing we are sinners."

"Let us ask the Lord to help us be based firmly on the rock that he is; our hope is in him. We are all sinners, we are weak, but if we put our hope in Him we can move forward."

The first Sunday of Advent, this Sunday marks the beginning of a new year of Mass readings, a full calendar of seasons and feast days.

While every celebration of Mass is a commemoration of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the church's liturgical calendar is designed to help Catholics focus on specific events as they progress through the year and through time.

When people grow weary and feel the weight of sinfulness or struggle to keep moving forward with hope in the new life Christ brings, Pope Francis wants them to realize how strongly the Scripture readings for Advent Masses emphasize God's love, tenderness and forgiveness.

In fact, the pope wants people to know that the strength to recognize their sins and ask God's mercy comes from knowing that God will welcome them back with open arms.

"The Lord, the great God, is not afraid of tenderness. He is tenderness, he is born a baby, he makes himself small," the pope insisted during a Mass recently.



Traditionally, Advent wreaths are made of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent.

Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good

works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Saviour of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. R.I. Amen.

We welcome the children preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion to our 10.30 & 12.00noon Masses today along with their families.

Next Saturday 8th Dec is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holyday of Obligation. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Rotas for Ministers of the Eucharist: were e-mailed earlier this week and anyone requiring a hard copy can collect same from the Sacristy.

Dates for your Diary

2nd December First Holy Communion Preparation Masses 10.30am and 12 noon

Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 2nd December, 2018

Sun 2nd Dec	9:00am	Harold, Vera & Conor Tonge; Leo Courtney
	10:30am	Brendan Hand <i>Months Memory</i> ; Joe Young; Emma Jane Matthews; Áine Geraghty; Tom Garvey Abigail Rice; Special Intention
	12:00noon	Joe Murphy; Angela Weldon; Michael & Noreen Power; Bob O'Malley; Pat Geraghty; Thomas O'Connor; Kathleen McDonnell & Micky Gregory Special Intention
	7:00pm	
Monday	8:00am	
Tuesday	8:00am	
Wednesday	8.00am	
Thursday	8:00am	James Connor; Mary Daly; Margaret Byrne
Friday 7th	8:00am	First Friday - Mass for All Those on the New Parish List of the Dead
Saturday 8th	10:00am	Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a Holyday of Obligation Cepta Sheils; Michael Black Junior; Rita & Billy Gavin; Patrick & Margaret Murphy; Desmond Keeley; Larry Grant, Dolores MacMahon, Breda Maguire, Nicki & Dolly McKeon, Paddy & Mary Grant, McKeon, Grant & Hussey Families, Ericka - Rae Grant, James McAleer
Sunday 9th Dec	9:00am	
	10:30am	Theresa Healy <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Christopher, Anne & Alfie Aspell, Frank Quinn & James Rice
	12:00noon	Deceased members of the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Mercy Presidium; James Mullen
	7:00pm	Paddy Clarke <i>Month's Memory</i>

A prayer for those who have died...



*Dermot Brangan, Santry
Anna Garry (née Kelly), College Rise
David Clerkin, Beamore
Sheila Matthews Moran Terrace*

May they rest in peace.



Supporting Our Parish:

25th November 2018

Offertory: €1.402.00

Parish Dev. Fund: €1.095.00

Many thanks for your support.