

St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 3rd January 2021
Second Sunday After Christmas

Fr Phil Gaffney PP
Fr Ciprian Solomon CC
St Mary's Presbytery
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Hospital Visitation: is not possible at the moment, however please continue to inform Fr Phil or Fr Ciprian if a relative is ill or in hospital.



We talk about having 'roots' as a way of describing our connection to a place or people. Being rooted somewhere means we are part of that place. When we are ready to settle down, to become part of a community, maybe to buy a house or start a family, we talk about 'putting down roots'. It means we are making this place our home. It is a rich metaphor from the plant world. The roots of a tree or plant represent its relationship with the soil it is planted in and the elements around it. The deeper the roots, the more connected a plant is to its environment. It becomes part of the place where it's planted. We use this expression in everyday language too – when an idea 'takes root' in us, it is something that becomes a part of us, inseparable from our very selves.

Today's first reading speaks of the wisdom of God 'taking root in a privileged people'. It describes it another way as 'pitching a tent'. These images offer us a way into understanding the complex language of today's gospel, which talks about God's relationship with us by sending Jesus: 'The Word was made flesh, he lived among us'.

By becoming human, God put down roots not just in our physical world, but in humanity itself. God pitched a tent among us and became one of us. It is a connection that cannot be broken – the roots go too deep. We are in God, and God is in us. This is the mystery we celebrate in this season of Christmas – that in Jesus, God became part of the very world that God created, and part of us: 'He was in the world that had its being through him.' We are indeed a privileged people!

'Christ asks for a home in your soul, where he can be at rest with you, where he can talk easily to you, where you and he, alone together, can laugh and be silent and be delighted with one another.'

Caryll Houselander

Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 23rd January, 2021

Sunday 3rd Jan.	10:00am	Emily O'Reilly <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Phil Hegarty <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Frank Smithers & Lily Mc Gavisk; Margaret Gallagher & deceased family members; James (Jimmy) Kennedy; Eileen O' Friel; Maureen Kelly; Yvonne & Evelyn Scanlon; Bridget Doswell; Mary Alice & Thomas Cooney & deceased family members; Aloysius, Mona & Aly Farrell & deceased family members; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke; Eileen Murphy
Monday	10:00am	Holy Souls
Tuesday	10:00am	Special Intention
Wednesday 6th Jan	10:00am	The Epiphany of The Lord; Fr. Jim Harbison & deceased parents James & Sarah Harbison, Cathal & Helen O'Ceallaigh & Helen Harbison; Brian Foley
Thursday	10:00am	Thomas & Margaret Hand
Friday	10:00am	Sr. Monica Loughran <i>Month's Memory</i>
Saturday	10:00am	Special Intention
Sunday 10th Jan.	10:00am	Dottie O'Brien <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Cormac Rowley; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke; Jim, Jennell & Paul Byrne, Eamon McDonagh & deceased family members



Mass will be celebrated privately each day at 10:00am and will be available via webcam. You can join us by going online to our website live stream.

The Church will be open each day from 11.00am to 4.00pm so that people can call in to say a prayer or light a candle.

Adoration in the main Church Monday to Friday 11:00am to 4:00pm. Copies of the parish bulletin will be available in the Church.



St Mary's Schedule (On webcam only.)

Sunday 3rd January - Morning Mass at 10:00am

Wednesday 6th January - The Epiphany of The Lord. Masses 10:00am

We earnestly hope that in 2021 we will find ourselves vaccinated, going back to work or finding new jobs, heading back to school, and breathing a sigh of relief.

We all look forward to a resumption of our visits to our elderly in our nursing homes and those who have been confined to their homes. Our prayers are with those families who lost loved ones during the course of the pandemic.

Yet, like we do in the seasons of Advent and Lent, we must stay alert and prepare for whatever may lie ahead.

We want to say a very special thank you to so many of our parishioners who volunteered to help out in so many ways in the past few months. We have a wonderful team of parishioners who have helped to keep our church safe for everyone.

May we wish you and your families a Peaceful New Year.

A word of thanks to **Arthur Hughes** for his kind donation of the beautiful flowers for Christmas and to **Frances Fleming** for the fabulous floral displays on our altar.



A prayer for those who died...

Valerie Walker (née Branigan), Hillbrook & Legavoureen Park

Sr. Margaret (Maura) Rooney, (Little Sisters of the Poor, Waterford & formerly Beamore Rd

Vera Delaney (née Reynolds), Ballsgrove
Mary Doyle (née Wogan), Drogheda & Slane

May they rest in peace



Supporting Our Parish:

Parishioners can leave their envelopes or a donation to the parish in the boxes at the back of the church or you can now use the **donate** button facility on our website. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks. Keep safe and well.