

# St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 9th December 2018  
Second Sunday of Advent

Fr Phil Gaffney PP  
Fr Fergal Cummins CC  
St Mary's Presbytery  
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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	Teach Mhuire
Tues 11th Dec.	8.30pm	Baptism Preparation Meeting Team A	Parish Centre
Wed 12th Dec.	8.00pm	Holy Hour of Adoration	Church
Tues 18th Dec.	8.30pm	Baptism Preparation Meeting Team B	Parish Centre

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



### Parish Outreach

**Holy Family Youth Group:** (following on from our performance of 'A Little Bit of Francis' during the World Meeting of Families event in the RDS) we 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 today Sunday 9th December at 6.00pm. **Free admission. Come and Enjoy.**

### 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.

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

### Prayer and Pilgrimage

**Padre Pio Mass & Devotions on Thursday December 20th** will now start at 8.30pm. There will be a Christmas Carol Service by the 5th classes from St Mary's Parish Primary School starting at 7.00pm.

**Adoration:** Adorers are needed - if you are interested and available for an hour please leave your name and phone number in the Parish Office and we will contact you.

**Drogheda Floral Art:** The next meeting of Drogheda & District Floral Art Group will take place on Tuesday the 11th of December at 8pm in the Holy Family Community Centre, Ballgrove. Join us for some festive demonstrations by our own members.

**Holy Hour:** The Knights of St. Columbanus are hosting a Holy Hour (Advent theme) in the Sienna Convent Chapel, The Twenties, Drogheda on Friday 14th December 2018 from 7.30 to 8.30pm. All welcome.



The second candle is lit on our Advent Wreath this Sunday morning. Many of our school children received their Advent Calendars during the week. Be sure to read the message relating to each day! Unlike the commercial Advent Calendars now available, there may not be a treat behind every window, but there is a gem of good faith and practice.

### Advent 2018: Sacrament of Reconciliation and online Advent Calendar

The Irish Bishops said, "The call to renewal of our Christian life is a central part of our preparation for the season of Christmas. Our celebration of Advent should be an integral part of our preparation for the Feast of the birth of Our Saviour.

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Penance), we receive the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We encourage all Catholics to make time during the season of Advent to celebrate and receive the gift of God's love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation."

As a unique Advent prayerful resource, the Bishops' Conference has provided its interactive online Advent calendar which can be enjoyed by people of all ages. In its fifth year of publication, the Advent calendar is available on the home page of [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie).

The calendar focuses on the theme of family as we reflect together on this year's World Meeting of Families and visit of Pope Francis. Each day during Advent the faithful are invited to click open a virtual door where faith content for family, school and parish can be found.

During Advent, families are invited to take special time together to pray, to talk, and to be together. Family members are encouraged to undertake an act of kindness or charity - as suggested by the daily calendar - and in doing so to reach out to help those around us.

### Abortion cannot be supported

Reflecting on the current Dáil debate on the abortion bill the Irish bishops said, "We are dismayed that, for the most part, the voices of those who voted against abortion in May's referendum have been ignored.

"As we stated after our Autumn Meeting, Irish society must have respect for the right of conscientious objection for all healthcare professionals and pharmacists. They cannot be forced either to participate in abortion or to refer patients to others for abortion.

"**Every one of us has a right to life.** It is not given to us by the *Constitution of Ireland* or by any law. We have it 'as of right', whether we are wealthy or poor, healthy or sick. All human beings have it. The direct and intentional taking of human life at any stage is gravely wrong and can never be justified.

"Women's lives, and the lives of their unborn children, are precious, valued and always deserving of protection. Any law which suggests otherwise would have no moral force. In good conscience it cannot be supported and would have to be resisted.

### History of the Peace Light:

In December each year a candle lit in the Grotto of Christ's birth in the church of the Nativity in Bethlehem is collected by Scouting Ireland in Holyhead and brought to Dublin.

The 14th Louth St Martins will distribute the peace light from Bethlehem at all the Masses on Sunday 23rd December here in St Mary's Church and anyone wishing to take a light from it are asked to bring a lantern with them. This chain of light is a symbol of peace, warmth, love and family.

This year the light will shine in places where the significance of what it symbolises, in other words peace in many countries where Christians are being persecuted for their faith. A youth member will speak at the Masses

### Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 9th December, 2018

<b>Sunday 9th</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Mary Rourke; John Fleming		
	<b>10:30am</b>	Theresa Healy <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Christopher, Anne & Alfie Aspell, Frank Quinn & James Rice		
	<b>12:00noon</b>	Deceased members of the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Mercy Presidium; James Mullen; John & Susan Kelly & deceased family members, Michael & Mary Callaghan & Michael Junior & deceased family members, Frank Benson		
		Paddy Clarke <i>Month's Memory</i>		
	<b>7:00pm</b>			
<b>Monday</b>	<b>8:00am</b>		<b>6:30pm</b>	Polish Prayers
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>8:00am</b>		<b>8:00am</b>	Eta & George Robinson
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Pety (Peter) Browne		
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8:00am</b>			
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	John & Bridget Cooney; Jim Tiernan; Patricia Floyd; Jim Beirth; Deceased members of the Gorman & Campbell family; Willie Connor & Marie Connor, John Kelly & Bridget Kelly, Terry Kelly; Nuala Kavanagh; Geraldine Carroll		
<b>Sunday 16th</b>	<b>9:00am</b>			
	<b>10:30am</b>	Pety Browne <i>First Anniversary</i> and his parents Joe & Molly Browne; John McGinn; Karen O'Brien & Denise Byrne; Noel Kierans; Jimmy Caffrey; James, Christina & Joan Mohan & Joe Kelly		
	<b>12:00noon</b>	Jane Murray; Frank & Mary Smith & deceased members of the Smith & Hand family		
	<b>2:00pm</b>			
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Polish Mass</b>		

### A prayer for those who have died...



Sr. Helen O'Brien MMM., Drogheda  
Rose Kierans (née Geraghty), St. Finians Park & Bailieboro, Co. Cavan  
Joseph (Joe) Connolly, Rathmullen Park  
Joe Fay, Grangerath, Drogheda



### Supporting Our Parish:

2nd December 2018  
Offertory: €1,419.00  
Parish Dev. Fund: €1,105.00

Many thanks for your support.

### Dates for your Diary

Sunday	9th December	"Hosanna Rock" by Holy Family Youth Group in Holy Family Church at 6.00pm.
Wednesday	12th December	Holy Hour of Adoration at 8.00pm
Thursday	20th December	Christmas Carol Service at 7.00pm.
Thursday	20th December	Padre Pio Mass and Devotions 8.30pm. <b>Please note change of time.</b>