St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 16th December 2018
Third Sunday of Advent

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

St Mary's Parish Centre
24 James Street
☎ 9834587☎ 9838347

www.stmarysdrogheda.ie
stmarysdrogheda@gmail.com

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.

Today Gaudete Sunday reminds us that the birth of Jesus is a cause of real joy. Gaudete a latin word meaning Rejoice comes from the Entrance Antiphons at Mass

Pope Francis tells us
"Christian joy, like hope, is founded on God's fidelity, on the certainty that he always keeps his promises. The Prophet Isaiah exhorts those who have lost their way and have lost heart to entrust themselves to the faithfulness of the Lord.

All those who have encountered Jesus experience a serenity and joy in their hearts which nothing and no one can take away. Our joy is Jesus Christ, his faithful love is inexhaustible. Therefore when a Christian becomes sad, it means that he has distanced himself from Jesus. But then we must not leave him alone. We should pray for him, and make him feel the warmth of our community"

Pope Francis encourages us to pray to Our Lady during Advent because she is the cause of our joy because she is the Mother of Jesus who comes into our lives to free us from the slavery of sin.
He says " The life of one who has discovered Jesus is filled with an inner joy so great that nothing and no one can take it away. Christ gives to his own the strength necessary to be neither sad or disheartened, when problems seem unsolvable.
I know many of you will be very busy rushing around getting ready for Christmas. We put so much effort, time, money, and energy in trying to ensure that we and more importantly, those we love and care about will have the best Christmas ever.
However let us try to keep ourselves from been so absorbed in the busyness of these weeks that we miss the opportunities for real joy and celebration with those we love. Some of the most important things in life cannot be valued in a monetary way. Advent and Christmas are the best times of the year to recognise and celebrate the most important things in our lives.

Christmas Ceremonies at St Mary's Parish · Drogheda

Friday 21st December
•Polish Confessions: 8pm Mass

Sunday 23rd December
• Masses: 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00 noon & 7:00pm
• Confessions: After 7pm Mass. Visiting priests will attend.

Monday 24th December [Christmas Eve]
• Mass: 8.00pm
• Confessions: 12 noon - 1.00pm
• Children's Mass: 6:00pm
• Polish Mass: 9:00pm
• Midnight Mass: 12:00 midnight

Tuesday 25th December [Christmas Day]
• Masses: 9:00am (Broadcast live on LMFM): 10:30am & 12:00 noon
• No 7pm Evening Mass on Christmas Day.

Wednesday 26th December ~ Monday 31st December
• Masses: 10:00am

Sunday 30th December
• Masses: 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00 noon & 7:00pm
• Polish Mass: 2:00pm

Tuesday 1st January [Solemnity of Mary: Mother of God]
• 12:00 noon Mass

Wednesday 2nd January
• Morning Mass resumes at 8:00am

Sunday 6th January [Feast of the Lord's Epiphany]
• Masses: 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00 noon & 7:00pm

Dates for your Diary

Thursday	20th December	Christmas Carol Service at 7.00pm.
Thursday	20th December	Padre Pio Mass and Devotions 8.30pm. **Please note change of time**.

Our Parish Community

December 2018:
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

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.

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 Word: were e-mailed recently 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.

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 before the end of the Masses

Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 16th December, 2018

Sunday 16th	**9:00am**	Special Intention		
	10:30am	Pety Browne *First Anniversary* & his parents Joe & Molly Browne; John McGinn *Month's Memory*; Karen O'Brien & Denise Byrne; Noel Kierans; Eamonn Donnelly; James, Christina & Joan Mohan & Joe Kelly; Irene McGuinness, Mrs. Sue Howell, deceased members of the Darcy & Lynch families, Special Intention & Jimmy Caffrey		
	12:00noon	Mass of Thanksgiving; Jane Murray; Frank & Mary Smith & deceased members of the Smith & Hand family; Louis McKee; Michael & Pauline Heeney & deceased members of the Heeney & Marley families & Johnny Callaghan		
	2:00pm	**Polish Mass**	**7:00pm**	Patricia Brennan
Monday	**8:00am**	Frank & Marie McAleer, Danny Tormey, Mary & John Tormey & family**;** Kevin & Phyllis Henry Patrick & Liam Henry	**6:30pm**	**Polish Prayers**
Tuesday	**8:00am**	Josephine Hanley; Myra O'Brien		
Wednesday	**8:00am**	Margaret, James & Cepta Connor, dec. mem. of the Sheridan family; Eta & George Robinson		
Thursday	**8:00am**	Special Intention		
	7.00pm	**Christmas Carols - 5th Class St. Mary Parish Primary School**		
	8.30pm	**St. Pio Mass & Devotions**		
Friday	**8:00am**	Michael Bathe Junior	**8.00pm**	**Polish Confessions**
Saturday	**10:00am**	**See List at Back of Church**		
Sunday 23rd	**9:00am**	Rose Teelan, James Teelan, Mary Daly & the Donegan family; Mary Ann Prendergast & dec. Relatives; Deceased members of the Kierans & Maxwell families		
	10:30am	George Durnin; Maureen & Oliver Halpin & deceased members of the Halpin, Leech & Williams family; Peter & Madge Murphy, Margaret Tiernan, John Tiernan, Dora Gaskin & Michael Coyle; Catherine Reynolds; Larry McEntee, Carmel McEntee, Beth & Cathal Carson, Maisie & Mick Owens & Brendan Hand		
	12noon	Kathleen, James & Denis McQuillan & deceased members of the Sheilds family; Bernard Bowden & deceased family members; Sheila & Kevin Monaghan, Fintan Keegan, James & Julie Monaghan & James & Julia O'Hagan		
	7.00pm	Dr. Alex Moore	**Penitential Service**	

A prayer for those who have died...

Mary Kellaway, Ballsgrove
Loretta Markey (née Dunne), Rathmullen Park
Stephen Fee, Stoney Hill, Lisnaskea

Supporting Our Parish:

9th December 2018
Offertory: €1,427.00
Parish Dev. Fund: €1,230.00
Many thanks for your support.