

# St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 23rd December 2018  
Fourth 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.



## Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 23rd December, 2018

<b>Sunday 23rd</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Rose Teelan, James Teelan, Mary Daly & the Donegan family; Mary Ann Prendergast & dec. relatives; Deceased members of the Kierans & Maxwell families
	<b>10:30am</b>	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, Betty & Cathal Carson, Maisie & Mick Owens & Brendan Hand
	<b>12noon</b>	Dr. Alex Moore; Kathleen, James & Denis McQuillan & deceased members of the Shields family; Bernard Bowden & deceased family members; Sheila & Kevin Monaghan, Fintan Keegan, James & Julie Monaghan & James & Julia O'Hagan; Patrick Tracey Rose & James Moran
	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Penitential Service After Mass</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>See List at Back of Church 6.00p.m. &amp; 12 midnight Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday 25th</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Christmas Day Broadcast Live LM/FM. 10.30am &amp; 12noon. No. 7.00pm Mass</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Hugh & Jim Byrne; Joan Cassidy
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Bridget, Christopher & Sheila Hughes & deceased family members; Nuala Kavanagh; Michael Everitt; Alice Creagh, Bernie Lynch; Patrick Joseph Conroy, Mary Conroy & Mary Patricia Conroy
<b>Friday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Mary & Adam Hoey & deceased members of the Hoey family; Maureen & James Murray & the Brodigan family; Deceased members of the Morrissey & Mc Avinia families
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	James & Peggy Leech, Jim & Ann & Gerard Leech, Margaret O'Brien, Patrick & Josephine Brogan, Phil & Pat Brogan, Helen Brogan, Fintan Heslin, Yvonne O'Connor, George Kirwan, Bob Hyland Frank Byrne; Michael Campbell; Pat Campbell, dec members of the Campbell & Collier families Annie & Arty Collier
<b>Sunday 30th</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	
	<b>10.30am</b>	Sheila Matthews <i>Month's Memory</i> ; May Flanagan <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Ollie Rice & Michael Byrne, Oscar Amuariddin; Joe Flynn; Betty Johnston & Doreen Penders
	<b>12noon</b>	Tom Branagan <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Dan Owens <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Maurice O'Connor <i>First Anniversary</i>
	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Polish Mass 7.00pm</b>

### Parish Outreach

#### 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.

**Happy Christmas** from Fr Phil, Fr Fergal & Parish Team: Wishing all our parishioners a joyful & holy Christmas and a word of thanks for your kindness, support and generosity.

"The grace which was revealed in our world is Jesus... He has entered our history; he has shared our journey. He came to free us from darkness and to grant us light. In Him was revealed the grace, the mercy, and the tender love of the Father." ~ Pope Francis

### Prayer and Pilgrimage

**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.

**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.

## Our Parish Community

December 2018:

**Confessions:** available on Sunday 23rd Dec after 7pm Mass. Visiting clergy will be present.

**Parish Office:** will reopen on Wednesday January 2nd.

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



## Christmas Message from Bishop Tom Deenihan

### Bishop of Meath ~ Christmas 2018

As Christmas approaches, I pray God's blessing on the people of the Diocese of Meath for the forthcoming joyful season and the New Year ahead. The Coming of Christ, over two thousand years ago, changed the course of human history and, of course, the word 'Christmas' itself means the 'Feast of Christ'.

Let us celebrate Christmas this year!! Christmas is, above all, a religious feast when we commemorate the love of God for us, manifested by the sending of his only Son to a stable at Bethlehem. While there are worthwhile and beneficial social as well as economic consequences, a Christmas celebration without reference to Christ is both meaningless and empty. Christmas cannot be reduced to a 'Happy Holiday' or a celebration devoid of Christ. It is unfortunate that the essentials of Christmas, the infant Jesus, the Crib and Christmas worship are often set aside. The feast of Christmas is the most inclusive of all feasts, God made Man to lead us to God! This year, let us try to keep Christ at the centre of our Christmas and let us try to imitate, as best we can, the generosity of the God who became man for us.

Christmas is also a family time. In a few days, the radios stations, TV channels and newspapers will tell of busy roads, hectic airports and crowded ferry ports. Everyone tries to get home for Christmas. The recent recession has meant that many of our young and not so young people have left their native land in search of employment and have yet to return. Christmas can heighten the sense of loneliness for those who are away and for those who remain. I think particularly of parents and grandparents.

Those who are recently bereaved also find Christmas a difficult time as do those who are ill. May Christ be present to all who are suffering or alone this Christmas and to those who are bereaved and who are ill. They are and must be very much in our prayers at this time.

The message of Christmas is one of love, hope, joy and peace. Christ came as a child for each one of us, to lead us to God.

Christmas is the great family feast and, as such, it offers a time to resolve family differences. The Christmas Carol, *Silent Night*, which is two hundred years old this Christmas, was famously sung in the trenches during World War One and signalled a truce in hostilities, regardless of how short. Perhaps that spirit of Peace & Goodwill may prompt us to settle differences this year?

### Supporting Our Parish:



16th December 2018

Offertory: €1,272.00

Parish Dev.Fund: €2,070.00

Many thanks for your support.

### Christmas Ceremonies at St Mary's Parish · Drogheda

#### Monday 24th December [Christmas Eve]

- Mass: 8:00am
- Confessions: 12 noon-1pm
- 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

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



**Colum Callaghan**, Ballsgrove  
**Joan Coogan (née Stevens)**,  
Blackbush Avenue  
**Sr. Genevieve (Pat) McCrea MMM**,  
Drogheda  
**Agnes Mc Menamin (née Matthews)**  
USA & late of Halpin's Terrace  
**Mary O'Sullivan**, Five Oaks

May they rest in peace.