

Parish of St. Mary's

Mostrim

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The Baptism of the Lord - 7th

January 2018

This Weekend: January 6th/7th

7.00p.m John Sweeney and Tom McCormack, Liscahill.

10.00a.m No Intention

12noon Ned, Marie and Olive O'Reilly, Cranley.

The Manor - Sunday 7th Jan - No Intention).

Weekday Masses: The Manor at 11.00 a.m.

Sat 13th Jan - Sean Doyle (Months Mind)

Next Weekend: January 13th/14th

7.00p.m Seamus Smith

10.00a.m Robbie Mulleady, Bracklin Road

12noon 1. Patrick and Helen Gilmartin and deceased family members, Tininaire.
2. Frank Whitney, his parents Frank and Mary, Joe and Kathleen and deceased members of Whitney and Kiernan families.

The Manor - Sunday 14th Jan - Sr. Regina Beglan

Offertory Collection: Sun Dec 31st - €1,335 - sincere thanks. Thank you for your support of the Offertory Collection throughout the year which meets the expenses of the parish. Thank you too for your contributions to the six Dues Collections which provide an income for your priest.

PARISH ENVELOPES - are being distributed around this time. Some extra boxes are available - if you would like to use one please contact us at the Sacristy or Parochial House. It is greatly beneficial if people use the envelopes for their contributions as it enables us to use the Tax Relief Scheme for Donation to Charities.

ST PAUL'S SUNDAY MISSAL 2018: Readers may collect their copy in the Sacristy. There are some additional copies of the Missal for sale for €6.

MASS BOOKINGS: It's a lovely tradition that people arrange to have Masses celebrated for their deceased relatives and friends. Sometimes requests for Masses outnumber the Masses available. As I look back through the Mass Diary I notice that a practice of having shared Masses has been established in order to facilitate all requests. This is common practice in many parishes - I trust this is acceptable to all.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - Although sinless, Our Lord began his public ministry by joining a line of sinners waiting for baptism. Now, as then, Jesus is on the side of sinners, reaching out to us, inviting us to repentance.

"A voice came from the heavens,

"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

SEEING YOUR LIFE

THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS: Mark 1:7-11

1. John gives an example of humility as a person confident in his own role but not seeking to claim to be more than he is. He is able to acknowledge that Jesus is greater. There is a freedom in being able to acknowledge the gifts of others without losing a sense of one's own giftedness. Recall times when you were able to do this.

2. The baptism of Jesus was an extraordinary religious experience for him. Something happened that was a major step forward for Jesus in coming to know that he was the beloved Son of God. We all have events in our lives that are milestones along the road of discovering who we are. What have been these milestones for you?

3. 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' Bring to mind memories of experiences in which you knew you were the beloved (of God or of another person) and that the one who loved you was well pleased. Bring these experiences to mind with gratitude, knowing that the only proper response to love received is thankfulness. Perhaps you have also given that experience to another.

4. It is easy to lament the growing secularisation in the world today, but the Spirit of God who spoke loudly to the world in the Christ-event is active today. How can we be open to the new things the Spirit is saying to the Church today?

John Byrne osa

THE DEEP END: A searching God

He came in search of John.

He came in search of baptism.

He came in search of blessing.

He came in search of the Spirit.

He came in search of God's favour.

He came in search of God's love.

The first active step that Jesus takes as he begins his ministry is to search. He journeys from Nazareth to the River Jordan to find John, in order to be baptised. While John feels he is 'not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals', Jesus still seeks him out. He needs this moment of baptism and blessing to begin his ministry. This is his moment of divine calling and endorsement from the Father: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

We know what it is like to search. We yearn for meaning, for love, and our hearts are always searching for God. Today's first reading from Isaiah speaks of this great thirst: 'Oh come to the water all you who are thirsty'; 'Seek the Lord while he is still to be found'. We must seek constantly to bring ourselves into the presence of God, who will give us his blessing and strength for the road ahead.

'You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you.' St Augustine -

READERS OF THE WORD OF GOD - JANUARY

Saturday 7.00p.m.: Marie Cassidy, Matt Farrell.

Sunday 10.00 a.m.: Siobhan Campbell, Sean Noonan.

Sunday 12 noon: Kate O'Donohoe, Gerard Greene.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST - JANUARY

Saturday 7.00p.m: Pat Appleford, Maura Coyle, Sr. Dympna.

Sunday 10.00 a.m: Kathleen Dowler, Ita O'Farrell.