

Parish of St. Mary's

Mostrim



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Fourth Sunday of Advent - 22nd / 23rd Dec 2018

This Weekend: December 22nd/23rd

- 7.00p.m. William Rooney, Barne.
10.00a.m. John Noonan.
12noon Pat & Kathleen McLoughlin, Cranleymore and Deceased Family Members.

The Manor – Sunday 23rd Dec – John Bracken.

Weekday Masses: The Manor at 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 26th Dec – Peter & Ellen McNally, Aughafin.

Thursday 27th Dec – Peter & Nellie Keane, Ringowney.

Next Weekend: December 29th/30th

- 7.00p.m No Intention.
10.00a.m David Nolan, St Patrick's Terrace.
12noon The Dolan Family, Shantum.

Offertory Collection: - €1,315.00 - sincere thanks.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Mon Dec 24th -
The Nativity of the Lord - Mass
at 9.00 p.m.

Christmas Day Masses - 10.00
a.m. and 12.00 p.m.

Our Lady's Manor - 11.00 a.m.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Please pray for Tommy Nolan,
Main Street who died recently;
Aggie Ward (nee Reynolds),
Longford and late of Barne; and John Joe Nolan, late of Lackan
who died recently in Manchester. May they rest in peace and rise
in glory. *Requiescat in Pace.*



CHANGE A LIFE – BECOME A FOSTER CARER - Our
fostering teams in Longford and Westmeath are undertaking a
campaign to recruit foster carers for children of all ages. If you
are interested you can contact your local team on 043 3350783
or go to www.fostering.ie for more information.

ENVELOPE BOXES FOR 2019: Thank you to all who kindly
distribute the boxes of envelopes each year. Sincere thanks to
you for your generous contributions towards the Offertory
Collections and also towards the Dues envelopes for the support
of the Priests. Your support is very much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS – A LIVING REALITY

St John Paul II, in his Angelus message of December 19, 1999,
explained that Christmas is not simply the remembrance of the
Event that took place 2000 years ago when, according to the
Gospel, the power of God took on the frailty of a baby. It is
really about a living reality that is repeated every year in the
heart of believers.

As I look back on 2018 the high point of the year for me was the
visit of Pope Francis to the World Meeting of Families. During
his visit Pope Francis said "the World Meeting of Families has
given us great hope and encouragement that families are
growing more and more conscious of their own irreplaceable
role in passing on the faith". For him family is a key aspect of
life.

Christmas is a family time, a time for all generations, just as the
first Christmas was such a family moment, not just the Holy
Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph but for the entire family of
God, all people of all generations. At Croke Park Pope Francis
reminded us that a society that does not value grandparents will
end up lacking that quality that really matters - love. This is a
love and dream that so many, including our parents and
grandparents, lived out in the dream and reality of marriage.
Pope Francis encouraged each married person to keep repeating
in their heart: "I will never fail you or forsake you!" They are
the same sentiments God has for his people (Heb 13: 5).

The Christmas story is so familiar and yet it always seems fresh.
There is the good news of a baby, the good news of a birth and
good news of a bright future for all humanity. The Christmas
story has expectation, joy and great hope for the future. But side
by side with these positive elements are darker ones, uncertainty,
vulnerability and danger. The circumstances of the birth of the
Saviour were not at all easy for baby or parents. That is the way
life often is. Side by side with great joy there can be sorrow,
alongside hopes there can be fears, accompanying successes is
sometimes failure. So the darker side, the vulnerable side of
Christmas, is nothing new. It is very human and realistic that
these contrasting emotions and circumstances coexist. Mary
decided to invite the 'source of peace' to enter our world. Let us
do the same.

I wish you and your family members a happy Christmas, a
peaceful and hopeful experience, as we remember the birth of
our Saviour.

Francis Duffy, **Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois**

*"The only real blind person at Christmas-time is he who has
not Christmas in his heart." - Helen Keller*

THANK YOU - As the year draws to a close, I would like to
say a sincere thank you to all who contribute so generously to
the life of the parish. I express our gratitude to all who play
active roles in the parish community:

*Sacristans, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the
Eucharist, Choir members and their leaders, Servers, Ushers,
those who assist with collecting, counting and banking the
Sunday collection, those who distribute boxes of envelopes,
those who erected Advent Wreath and Crib, those who care
for the Church by cleaning it and beautifying it with flowers,
and to all who assist in any way - my sincere thanks to all -
may God reward you for your generous contribution to the
faith life of our parish - Fr. Tom Healy*

READERS OF THE WORD OF GOD - JANUARY

Saturday 7.00p.m.: Mikie Doyle, Monica Coyle.

Sunday 10.00 a.m.: Betty Mulhaire, Ruth McKeon.

Sunday 12 noon: Cora Murphy, Sarah Jane Murphy.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST - JANUARY

Saturday 7.00p.m.: Pat Appleford, Sr Dymphna Kelly,
Mairead Fulham.

Sunday 10.00 a.m.: Kathleen Dowler, Ita Farrell, John Cahill,

Sunday 12 noon: Kate O'Donoghue, Emma O'Reilly,
Siobhan Campbell.