

## RATHOWEN

St Mary's Church, Rathowen

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

Sun Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11am Morning Mass

[nigelcharles2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigelcharles2003@yahoo.co.uk)

<b>RATHOWEN/STREETE</b>
<b>Weekday Masses</b>
<b>Friday, Dec 28<sup>th</sup></b>
Boherquill 8pm

Extra-Ordinary Minister for Dec – Peter MaGuire

Reader for Dec                      John Cox

Mass in Dec            Boherquill – Saturday 8pm  
Rathowen – Sunday 11am

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Sun Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11am

Eileen Clancy (months mind)

Sun Dec 30<sup>th</sup> at 11am

McGlynn DFM

<b>CHRISTMAS 2018</b>
<b>Monday Dec 24<sup>th</sup></b> , Christmas Eve Mass in Boherquill at <b>9pm</b> – <b>Tuesday Dec 25<sup>th</sup></b> , Christmas morning Mass in Rathowen at <b>11am</b>

**Offertory Collection for Dec 8<sup>th</sup> and last weekend was €504. Thank you for your support.**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

He takes away the first to establish the second. (Hebrews 10:9)

Here we are, just two days before Christmas, and the Scripture readings at Mass are still telling us about all the new things that Jesus' birth has brought about. Take today's second reading. The author of Hebrews tells us that Jesus came to take away one thing—"the first"—and establish something new—"the second" (Hebrews 10:9). What are these two? The "first" is the entire system of "sacrifices and offerings" that took place in the Jewish Temple (Hebrews 10:8). The time had come to end the practice of offering up bulls and goats in atonement for sin. In place of these sacrifices, Jesus established the "second" thing: "Behold, I come to do your will" (Hebrews 10:9). He replaced countless sacrifices with his own heart of trust and obedience. God doesn't need our sacrifices. We don't have to convince him to love us. We don't have to prove ourselves to him by giving things up or by working ourselves to death. Of course, he delights in seeing his children making sacrifices for the sake of his Church, but his love doesn't depend on it. It's not something we earn. It's something we receive as a generous gift—just as we receive any gift sitting under our Christmas tree. Of course, our sacrifices do please the Lord—especially the sacrifices we make for our families and for the poor.

[www.rathowenparish.ie](http://www.rathowenparish.ie)

## STREETE

St Mary's Church, Boherquill

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

Sat Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8pm Vigil Mass

[www.streeteparish.ie](http://www.streeteparish.ie)

**Readers** – Alice Nerney (Dec 24<sup>th</sup>) Orla O'Hara (Dec 29<sup>th</sup>)  
**Extra-Ordinary Ministers** – Mary Mulligan (Dec 24<sup>th</sup>)  
Enda Murphy (Dec 29<sup>th</sup>)

Mass in Dec            Boherquill – Saturday 8pm  
Rathowen – Sunday 11am

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Sat Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8pm

Michael Noonan, McCormack & Noonan DFM

Sat Dec 29<sup>th</sup> at 8pm

Fr James Masterson

<b>CHRISTMAS 2018</b>
<b>Monday Dec 24<sup>th</sup></b> , Christmas Eve Mass in Boherquill at <b>9pm</b> – <b>Tuesday Dec 25<sup>th</sup></b> , Christmas morning Mass in Rathowen at <b>11am</b>

**Offertory Collection Dec 8<sup>th</sup> and for last weekend was €565. Thank you for your support.**

<b>STREETE/RATHOWEN</b>
<b>Weekday Masses</b>
<b>Friday, Dec 28<sup>th</sup></b>
Boherquill 8pm

**4th Sunday of Advent (continued)**

But Christmas is about Jesus' love, not our efforts. It's about his generosity, not our hard work. Instead of demanding sacrifices from us, Jesus did the exact opposite: he sacrificed himself for us by becoming a man. Instead of abandoning us because of our sin, he came closer to us so that he could redeem us. Not by our sacrifices. Not by our suffering. But by his love. There are just two days left. Jesus is about to do a new thing all over again. Fix your eyes on him. Let him reveal this new thing to you—the love that saves and the obedience that sanctifies. (The Word Among Us)

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

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.

**Fr Nigel Charles 087 7009433/043 6685847**