

## RATHOWEN

St Mary's Church, Rathowen

Second Sun of Advent

Sun Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, 10am Morning Mass

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

### RATHOWEN/STREETE WEEKDAY MASS

**Mon Dec 7<sup>th</sup>**

Rathowen 8pm, (Vigil of Immaculate Conception)

**Tues Dec 8<sup>th</sup>**

Boherquill 10am

**Wed Dec 9<sup>th</sup>**

Rathowen 9.30am, Adoration 10 – 10.30am

**Thurs Dec 10<sup>th</sup>**

Rathowen 9.30am, Adoration 10 – 10.30am

**Fri Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**

Boherquill 8pm, Adoration 7 – 8pm

Extra ordinary minister for Dec – Peter Maguire

Reader for Dec – John Cox

Counters for Dec – Teresa Cox & Maeve Tighe

#### MASS INTENTIONS

**Sun Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10am**

Una & Teresa Maguire

#### Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>

Vigil, Mon 7<sup>th</sup> of Dec in Rathowen at 8pm and morning Mass in Boherquill Tues 8<sup>th</sup> of Dec at 10am

#### VISITING the SICK

I plan to visit the sick and housebound in the week, Mon Dec 14 to Fri Dec 18. Please contact me at [087 7009433](tel:0877009433) if you would like me to visit.

#### “Keep Christ at the centre of Christmas” – A message from the Irish bishops

We strongly encourage the faithful to *keep Christ at the centre* of Christmas this year. Clearly it will be impossible for our usual large congregations to assemble for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We wish to remind Catholics that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended during the pandemic. But Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. Christmas Masses will also be widely available over webcam and we strongly encourage families to “tune in” from the “domestic churches” of their living rooms and join with those who are gathering in their local churches in welcoming the birth of the Christ-child. It is possible to experience the spiritual richness of this special season in many ways. Our homes can become “little churches” where we invite the Christ-child in. The age-old tradition of having a Christmas crib in the home and gathering there as a family to pray or to sing a carol will be especially meaningful this year.

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

## STREETE

St Mary's Church, Boherquill

Second Sun of Advent

Sat Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, 8pm Vigil Mass

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

Extra ordinary minister for Dec 12<sup>th</sup> –

Reader for Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – Geraldine Gilligan

#### MASS INTENTIONS

**Sat Dec 5<sup>th</sup>**

Matt Fahy

**Fri Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**

Pat Keary (months mind)

### STREETE/RATHOWEN WEEKDAY MASS

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#### Pope Francis

Let us think about what Jesus did with Zacchaeus (see *Lk 19:1-10*), for example. Everyone saw evil in him; instead, Jesus spots a glimmer of good, and from that – from his curiosity to see Jesus – He allows the mercy that saves to pass through. Thus, first Zaccæus's heart was changed, and then his life. Jesus sees the indelible blessing of the Father in the people who are rejected and repudiated. He was a public sinner, he had done so many awful things, but Jesus saw that indelible sign of the Father's blessing and because of that, He had compassion. That phrase that is repeated often in the Gospel, “He was moved with compassion”, and that compassion leads Him to help him and to change his heart. What's more, Jesus came to identify Himself with every person in need (see *Mt 25:31-46*). In the passage about the final protocol on which all of us will be judged, Matthew 25, Jesus says: “I was there, I was hungry, I was naked, I was in prison, I was in hospital, I was there”. To the God who blesses we, too, respond by *blessing* – God has taught us how to bless and we must bless – through the prayer of *praise*, of *adoration*, of *thanksgiving*. The *Catechism* writes: “The prayer of blessing is man's response to God's gifts: because God blesses, the human heart can in return bless the One who is the source of every blessing” (n. 2626).

**KEEP SAFE & LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER**

Fr Nigel Charles [087 7009433/043 6685847](tel:0877009433)

#### The Catechism of the Catholic Church

113 2. Read the Scripture within “the living Tradition of the whole Church”. According to a saying of the Fathers, Sacred Scripture is written principally in the Church's heart rather than in documents and records, for the Church carries in her Tradition the living memorial of God's Word, and it is the Holy Spirit who gives her the spiritual interpretation of the Scripture (“... according to the spiritual meaning which the Spirit grants to the Church”<sup>81</sup>).