

A year ago, in preparation for our Diocesan Assembly, I referred to "the joys, anxieties and hopes that come with family life". Little did we know then the extraordinary challenges that 2020 would entail. We have missed what we value most - people. We miss being with and among people, all the ordinary everyday encounters, free from restriction and anxiety. Christmas brings thoughts of people who are no longer with us, especially those who died during this year. We miss those we cannot visit as freely as usual, especially our family and friends who are in hospital or in nursing homes. We cannot gather as a community to worship the Lord as we normally do; we long to be back. Priests and parishioners carry out Trojan work to keep our churches welcoming and safe and we are grateful to them for their work and care. Although we have experienced lockdown and restrictions the Lord is present with us in so many ways. At Christmas we celebrate the arrival of God's son among us. The story of the first Christmas in Bethlehem was full of hope and joy. What was expected for so long had come to pass. The Christmas story always refreshes our joy and our hope. The joy that each human life is of vital importance to God because of the baby in Bethlehem. The hope that this baby has changed the way we see ourselves, one another and our destiny. We hope that life will become safer and less restricted because, decisions taken by individuals will, collectively, reduce the threat to health, lives and livelihoods. There is the hope that vaccines will assist in our great efforts to be safe. During 2020, there were times of sacrifice, when some of our normal freedoms were curtailed for the common good. There are many examples of great care and generosity throughout our parishes. We are grateful to all in leadership, essential services and in our communities whose work and sacrifice contribute to our safety. The candles on the Advent Wreath are lit one Sunday after Christmas. We look forward with great hope to celebrating the birth of the Saviour. Our hope is in him. I wish you and your family and friends at home and abroad a happy Christmas. Francis Duffy, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois



"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If love of Himself" - Peter Abelard.
 "I think that the purpose and cause of the Incarnation was that God might illuminate the world by his wisdom and excite it to the love of Himself" - Peter Abelard.
 "The giving of gifts is not something man invented. God started the giving spree when He gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son" - Robert Flatt
CHRISTMAS DUES - are for the support of the priest of the parish. Your generosity is much appreciated. Extra envelopes are available at the Church doors for those who do not use the box of envelopes.

READERS OF THE WORD OF GOD - DECEMBER

Saturday 7.00p.m.: Kayanna Greene, Selina Greene
Sunday 9.00 a.m.: Niamh Gogan
Sunday 11.00 a.m.: Kate Crossan, Kate O'Donoghue

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST - DECEMBER

Saturday 7.00p.m.: Sandra Durkin, Mairead Fulham
Sunday 11.00 a.m.: Kathleen Dowler, Emma O'Reilly
 Please arrange a substitute if you cannot be present

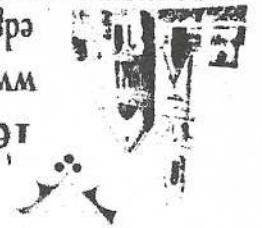
Parish of St. Mary's

Mostrim

Telephone: (043) 6671046

www.edgeworthstownparish.ie
 edgeworthstownparish@gmail.com

Fourth Sunday of Advent - 19th/20th Dec 2020



This Weekend Dec 19th/20th
 7.00p.m. William (Willie) Rooney, Barne.
 9.00 a.m. No intention.
 11.00 a.m. 1. Pat and Kathleen McLoughlin, Cranlymore and deceased members of the McLoughlin family.
 2. Tommy Nolan (Second Anny).
Weekday Masses: St Mary's Church at 11.00 a.m.
 Wed 23rd Dec People of the Parish.
Next Weekend: Dec 26th/27th
 7.00 p.m. No intention
 9.00 a.m. Mickey Smith (Months Mind)
 11.00 a.m. Mary Keenan (10th Anny) and deceased members of the Nicholls Family.

Offertory Collection: Sun Dec 13th - €1,070 - sincere thanks.

RECENTLY DECEASED - Please pray for Annie Dempsey, Salisbury, England and formerly Bracklin Road who died recently. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. *Requiescant in*

Peace.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve - Masses @ 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 pm.
Christmas Day - Masses @ 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m.

• The Sunday obligation to attend Mass remains suspended during the current health crisis.

• The restrictions allow a maximum of 50 people to attend ceremonies. Please understand if there is not room for all who wish to attend.

• FACE MASKS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND STRONGLY ENCOURAGED FOR USE BY ALL IN CHURCHES. PLEASE OBSERVE THIS RECOMMENDATION - THANK YOU.

THANK YOU - As this extraordinary year draws to a close we say thank you to the many people who make an enormous contribution to the life of our parish. In particular we say a great big thank you to all who ensure that our parish church is a safe place to gather for our ceremonies - those who steward and sanitise with great faithfulness each day.

Thanks 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, Pastoral Council and Finance Committee members, 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. *Wishing a Happy Christmas and Blessed New Year to all parishioners - Fr. Tom Healy*