

Parish of St. Mary's

Mostrim



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Feast of the Holy Family - 26th / 27th Dec 2020

Offertory Collection: Sun Dec 20th - €960 - sincere thanks.

BAPTISMS - We welcomed

Thomas Jonathan Wykes, Lisnanagh and
Lyra Noelle Mitchell, Tinenaire and
Tarmonbarry into our Christian community
recently.



WORSHIP FROM DECEMBER 26th

ONWARDS

As you are aware on Tuesday last the Government introduced new restrictions due to the current health crisis. Accordingly religious services have to cease.

- Churches will remain open for private prayer.
- Funerals - up to 10 mourners.
- Weddings - up to 6 people (from Jan 3rd)
- First Friday calls are suspended.
- Anointing of the sick may take place when the priest is invited by a family.

It is unfortunate that we find ourselves in this position once more. Until we are in a position to reopen I hope and pray that you will stay safe and that you will be strong in spirit in a time of great challenge. May God bless you and your families to strengthen and support you in these difficult days.

• **Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel** •

1. What started out as an ordinary day for Joseph and Mary turned out to be a day with an encounter they would remember for a long time. Perhaps you too have had significant encounters on what you expected to be just an ordinary day?
2. Simeon gave thanks because his eyes saw the salvation God had prepared. In what ways have you experienced God's salvation in your life: an experience of being loved, or discovering a sense of purpose in life, or being touched by the wonders of creation? Give thanks for those memories.
3. We are at the end of a year in which many family occasions, both sad and joyful, were disrupted by restrictions. A sword of sorrow has pierced the hearts of many. Remember what has helped your family to recover from disappointment or loss and find hope and life again.
4. The final sentence speaks of Jesus as one who grew and became strong and was filled with wisdom. What has helped you to grow in wisdom? Have you seen others grow in wisdom through the experience of life? Recall times when you had a sense of growing up in some way. What brought that about? Think also of how you have seen growth in another person.

- John Byrne osa (INTERCOM)

'Whatever you do for your family, your children, your husband, your wife, you do for God. All we do, our prayers, our work, our suffering, is for Jesus.' - Mother Teresa

- Fr Tom Healy -

• **The Deep End** •

Simeon and Anna welcome Mary, Joseph and Jesus to the Temple. They have been waiting for this moment. What kind of Messiah were they expecting? Simeon welcomes this family who must have seemed 'ordinary' and poor. He can see that this child will be 'a light...for the glory of your people'. Already there is a note of reversal; of boundaries being stretched. Mary is told that this child 'is destined for the fall and the rising of many'. There will be challenging times ahead for this family. Simeon knows that many thoughts will be exposed for God's invitation and welcome has no boundaries and this radical hospitality might not sit well with everyone. Anna rejoices for all those who were looking for a change, for hope, she knows that

this child will overturn systems of oppression and exclusion.

Luke is interested in how humanity responds to the Gospel. If Jesus' message is really good news, then this requires a shakeup; a shakeup which challenges comfortable assumptions about the way God works. God's abundant invitation to all may not sit comfortably with many. While Anna prays and fasts for a change of heart in the way Jerusalem operates, Simeon warns Mary that this will not be an easy road. Many situations in our own world today need a shake-up, especially in our church. This can be uncomfortable as we have to let go of certain things and invite freshness. What situations in our own society and in our church require a shake-up; an uncomfortable but necessary change so that God's love and welcome can shine through? Jesus came to show us how to live. We must constantly look back at his example.

'We often make do with looking at the ground...I wonder if we still know how to look up at the sky? Do we know how to dream, to long for God, to expect the newness he brings, or do we let ourselves be swept along by life, like dry branches before the wind?' Pope Francis
- Jane Mellett - (INTERCOM)

'If we could say Please, Sorry and Thank You more in our families, how happier places our homes would be.' - Pope Francis

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Parents are the principal and first educators of their children.

The home is the first school of Christian life and "a school for human enrichment." Here one learns endurance and the joy of work, fraternal love, generous — even repeated — forgiveness, and above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life

The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called "the domestic church," a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity

New Year Blessing

Remember us, O God;

from age to age be our comforter.

You have given us the wonder of time, blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.

Bless your children at the turning of the year and fill the months ahead with the bright hope that is ours in the coming of Christ.

You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever.

Amen.

"In addition to being present in the sacraments, Christ is present in a special manner in every crisis and important event of our lives." - Thomas Merton

"Where you find no love put on love and you will draw out love" - St John of the Cross

"We must make no important decisions without opening our hearts to love" - Anon