

## RATHOWEN

St Mary's Church, Rathowen

Holy Family

Sun Dec 27<sup>th</sup>, 10am Morning Mass

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

RATHOWEN/STREETE  
WEEKDAY ADORATION  
No Adoration this week

Extra ordinary minister for Jan –

Reader for Jan –

Counters for Jan –

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun Dec 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10am

McGlynn DFM

Parish Envelope Box 2021

I appreciate this has been a difficult year and for many financially it has been very challenging. Thanks for your financial support to the parish and to me in 2020. You will be able to collect your box of parish envelopes for 2021 after Mass or by calling me at **087 7009433** and arranging a time to meet. Can I ask you to consider volunteering to bring boxes to other parishioners?

**MEDITATION: COLOSSIANS 3:12-21**

*Put on love. (Colossians 3:14)*

Everyone knows that family life is a combination of happiness and sadness, with a lot of the ordinary in between. But what about the Holy Family? Surely there was nothing but peace and happiness? Not really. Life wasn't always a bed of roses for them. Remember Joseph's initial plan to divorce Mary to protect her from shame when her pregnancy was discovered (Matthew 1:19)? Or Mary having to give birth in a stable (Luke 2:1-7)? Or what about Mary and Joseph losing track of their son on the way home from Jerusalem (2:44)? They also had to deal with Herod's murderous rage, a secret flight to Egypt, resettlement in Nazareth, and Joseph's early death. All of these occasions, and more besides, could have filled them with anxious, fearful thoughts. In similar circumstances, we certainly would have felt tempted to wish for an easier life. But whatever Mary and Joseph and Jesus thought about their struggles, one thing is clear. They never gave up. In their faithfulness and trust—and even more so, in their commitment to love one another—they show us how to weather the storms of life. Love. That's what makes a holy family. Not the sentimental love of songs and movies but the strong, relentless, stubborn love of God. The divine love that the Spirit pours into our hearts (Romans 5:5). The selfless love that bears all things, hopes all things, and forgives all things. The pure love of a God who became one of us and died to save us. No family has a perfect life. Every family faces hardships of one sort or another. But every family also has a heavenly Father who loves them and delights in teaching them how to love each other. So on this feast of the Holy Family, let's pray for our families, and for every family on earth. May we all learn to "put on love" (Colossians 3:14)! (The Word Among Us)

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

## STREETE

St Mary's Church, Boherquill

Holy Family

Sat Dec 26<sup>th</sup>, 8pm Vigil Mass

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

Extra ordinary minister for Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> –

Reader for Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> –

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat Dec 26<sup>th</sup>, at 8pm

Fr Michael & Bridgy O'Hara

STREETE/RATHOWEN  
WEEKDAY ADORATION  
No Adoration this week

### A Joint Christmas Message from the Archbishops of Armagh – Archbishop Eamon Martin & Archbishop John McDowell

They say that Saint Francis created the first Christmas crib back in 1223 because he wanted to capture the humility of the incarnation. When the time was right God humbled himself. He became part of his own creation in a particular way and in a particular place. His Mother was one of the "poor ones" who prayed daily in the Temple for the redemption of Israel. Palestine was an out of the way place and the "Holy Family" of Jesus, Mary and Joseph attracted little attention at the time. That was to be the pattern of his life. He ate his bread in quietness for thirty years, working at his father's trade as the means whereby he was prepared by his Father for the public vocation had been laid out for him. Apart from the occasion of his finding in the temple, we have no words of his as he grew up in that workman's family – perhaps he came to speak with such power because he had learned to love silence. He was not the citizen of a great Empire like Saint Paul, and throughout his life he held no office or position of religious dignity or civic standing. What has survived of his teaching is usually expressed in simple pictorial speech. Like most people of his time, he seems to have had little or no formal education, yet he was never at the mercy of the subtle question, and he was able to cut straight through the pedantry of the scribes. We are now celebrating the beginning of this life, quietly and perhaps still with some trepidation. We have had to concede that we do not really understand the world and acknowledge that we cannot "manage it". But Christmas is the time when we call to mind the coming into the world of God himself. And he came, not to manage it, but to redeem it. He came not to dominate it and to exploit it, but to serve it and to bring it to its intended fruition. He came and he lived (and died) in great humility as the servant of all.

+Eamon

Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh

+John

Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh

**KEEP SAFE & LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER**  
Fr Nigel Charles **087 7009433/043 6685847**

### The Catechism of the Catholic Church

142 By his Revelation, "the invisible God, from the fullness of his love, addresses men as his friends, and moves among them, in order to invite and receive them into his own company."<sup>1</sup> The adequate response to this invitation is faith.

143 By faith, man completely submits his intellect and his will to God.<sup>2</sup> With his whole being man gives his assent to God the revealed. Sacred Scripture calls this human response to God, the author of revelation, "the obedience of faith".<sup>3</sup>