

Parish of St. Mary's

Mostrim

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Christmas Day - 25th December 2022

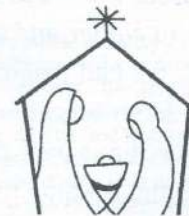
"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone".

Isaiah 9:1

A holy day has dawned. A glorious light shines in our world. It is Christmas! What we have prepared for and longed for has finally arrived. The packages have been wrapped and unwrapped, the delicacies baked and enjoyed. The world comes to a wonderful pause as we stop to savor this height of the holiday season. The manger no longer sits empty.

The baby Jesus lies on the straw and in our hearts, replacing our longings with hope. We feel a gentleness about the world and in ourselves.

As quickly as Christmas comes, for many it is over. Wrappings go in the trash, crumbs are swept away and the decorations come down. It is back to work, back to bills to be paid and life as normal. It is no wonder that January heralds the blues of winter.



But Christmas is not over, it has just begun! The incarnation of Jesus is a grace we get to experience over and over. Here is the hope that we need to be able to overcome the many challenges life throws at us. That hope is ours through Christ.

Jesus comes into our world with every prayer we breathe. The celebrations do end, and the decorations get put away, but the life of the party remains.

May the light of Jesus shine within us and illumine the lives of those around us.

May we experience the goodness of God's grace reborn in every kind word and every helping hand, not just today, but every day.

May the light, the hope, the joy of Christmas remain with us always.

Lord,

As we celebrate another Christmas
Help us to live each moment gratefully

May we have the faith to trust in the gifts you have given us
May we have the hope that overcomes the dark thoughts that
sometimes cloud our vision

May we have the love that makes our world a better place.
We make this prayer through Jesus our brother, born for us again
in Bethlehem. Amen
Fri of this week.

Pope Francis:

"Christmas is a ray of light for all, because it reveals to us God's love and makes us feel the presence of Jesus with everyone, especially with those who are suffering. Just for this reason Jesus willed to be born in poverty and in the abandonment of a cave and to be laid in a manger."

SUNDAY MISSALS - St. Paul's Sunday Missals for 2023 are now available. All Parish Readers are welcome to collect a copy from the Sacristy. Missals are available at rear of church costing €5.00.

READERS OF THE WORD OF GOD - JANUARY

Saturday 7.00p.m.: Matt Farrell.

Sunday 11.00 a.m.: Ashling O'Reilly, Ann Mulligan.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST - JANUARY

Saturday 7.00p.m

Sunday 11.00 a.m.:

Please arrange a substitute if you cannot be present.

This Weekend	December 24th / 25th
7.00 p.m.	Private Intention.
9.00 a.m.	Private Intention. / 11.00 a.m. Private Intention
Weekday Masses: St Mary's Church at 11.00 a.m.	
Wed Dec 28th	1. Aleyama Scaria (8 th Anniv.) 2. Nellie & Peter Keane, McCormack family and John Hynes.
Next Weekend:	December 31st / January 1st
7.00 p.m.	Paul Keenan, his father Frank, his sisters Margo and Patricia and deceased member of the Clyne family.
11.00 a.m.	No Intention.

Offertory Collection: Sun Dec 18th - € 1,145 - sincere thanks.

RECENTLY DECEASED - Please pray for Annie Harte, Granard Road who died recently. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. *Requiescat in Pace.*

THANK YOU - *As the year draws to a close, I would like to say a sincere thank you to all who contribute so generously to the life of the parish. I express our gratitude 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, 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 - Fr. Tom Healy



• Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel •

1. This prologue to John's Gospel is a piece of poetry. Like all poetry one of the ways to enter into it is to read it a few times slowly and let the words and images speak to you.
2. The prologue proclaims Jesus as the true light come into the world. How has Jesus, and the message of Jesus, been a light for you in your life?
3. The prologue also affirms the transforming power of faith: 'to all who received him ... he gave power to become children of God'. How would you describe the difference it makes to you to have faith as part of your life?
4. In Jesus we get a glimpse of God and of the love of God. But as 'Jesus people' in the world today we also are called to be witnesses to the light. Who has been a witness to you? To whom have you been a witness? - John Byrne OSA (INTERCOM)

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