

# Parish of St. Mary's

## Mostrim



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Third Sunday of Advent - 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023

### This Weekend Dec 16<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup>

7.00 p.m. Maureen Devine (Months Mind)

- 11.00 a.m. 1. Deceased members of the Dolan Family, Shantum.  
2. Pat and Kathleen McLoughlin, Cranleymore.  
3. Maureen Donegan (Second Anniv).

### Weekday Masses:

Wed Dec 20<sup>th</sup> @ 11.00 a.m. - *Our Lady's Manor*  
People of the Parish.

### Next Weekend: Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup>

- 7.00 p.m. 1. Lilly Dempsey (Months Mind).  
2. Mary Dempsey (Months Mind).  
11.00 a.m. No Intention.

**Offertory Collection:** Feast of the Immaculate Conception & Sun Dec 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> - €1,615 - sincere thanks.

### Christmas Masses

**Mass of Christmas Night** - Sun Dec 24<sup>th</sup> @ 9.00 p.m.

**Christmas Day** - 11.00 a.m.

**Confessions** - Tues Dec 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7.00 p.m.

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

1. 'There is one among you whom you do not know'. We can know about Jesus but do we know him? What helps you to know Jesus in a way that enables you to follow in his footsteps, trusting God as he did, and seeing other people as he did?
2. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news of the gospel that God loves you - a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have you borne that witness?
3. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?
4. John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' - announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness? Do these questions have any special relevance to you in the midst of the current situation in our world?

- John Byrne OSA (INTERCOM)

**St Paul's Sunday Missals** - Missals for 2024 are available in the Parish Church. Parish Readers - please call to Sacristy for your copy.

### The Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene

The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, 'gentle and humble in heart' (Mt 11:29), was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognise what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness. From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalised. - Pope Francis.

### Prayer for those grieving at Christmas

Lord, not everyone feels joyful at this season. So many have lost loved ones during the year, and in many places, the winter cold blows its bitter winds into lonely hearts. This Christmas we pray for those who are grieving losses. Memories of happy times with loved ones in the past can send a rush of tears to those whose arms ache with emptiness. Lord, dry those tears with Your sweet words of comfort and cheer. Turn their sorrow into joy as only You can do. May the joy of Your birth and the good news of Your coming to earth as the Savior of the world cushion their grief this Christmas and bring peace to those who need it most. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**First Reading** - The writer declares that he has been anointed by God and sent to bring the good news to the poor. Jesus used this passage to announce the programme of his own ministry.

**Second Reading** - St Paul tells the Thessalonians how they ought to live as they wait for the second coming of Christ.

**Gospel** - John the Baptist makes it clear that he is not the Saviour. His task is a humbler one - to prepare the way for the Saviour who is already among the people, though they do not recognize him.

*"God gives God. That is the gift God always ultimately gives. Because nothing is greater and we have no greater need, God gives God. God gives God, and we only need to slow long enough to unwrap the greatest Gift with our time: time in His Word, time in His presence, time at His feet."* - Ann Voskamp, The Greatest Gift.

*"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern."* - Mother Teresa

**Co. Longford Social Services** - annual Church Gate Collection is being held on Sat 16<sup>th</sup> / Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Dec next. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Church Gate Collection** - Epilepsy Ireland annual church gate collection to be held on the weekend of Dec. 23rd/24th.

### Edgeworth's Artisan and Craft Indoor Market

*Come and discover a variety of local crafters and artists, and get loads of gift ideas and inspiration for the winter holiday season, in the lovely backdrop of the Edgeworthstown.*

*Make it a day out and discover the magic of the midlands!*

*Sat 25<sup>th</sup> November and Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Dec in the Community Center, Granard Road, 11.00 am to 4.00 p.m. Free admission.*

### READERS OF THE WORD OF GOD - DECEMBER

**Saturday 7.00p.m.:** Pat Appleford.

**Sunday 11.00 a.m.:** Kate Crossan, Ashling O'Reilly.

### MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST - DECEMBER

**Saturday 7.00p.m.:** Niamh Cassidy, Sandra Durkan.

**Sunday 11.00 a.m.:** John Cahill, Anne Smith.

*Please arrange a substitute if you cannot be present.*

### WEBCAM

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