

# Parish of St. Mary's

## Mostrim



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*Feast of the Holy Family - 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023*

• Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel •

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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. As you look back on the year ending today, 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. Perhaps the past year may also have been one in which you have experienced great sorrow. What sword has pierced your soul and what has helped you to cope with it?

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)

### Pope Francis on the Family:

1. *"God sent his Son into the world in a family which had its hearts open to love."*

"When the man and his wife made the mistake and distanced themselves from God, God did not leave them alone. There was so much love, so much love that He began to walk with humanity. He began to walk with His people, until the fullness of time arrived, and He gave the greatest sign of His love, His Son.

And His Son, where did He send Him? To a palace? To a city, to start a business? He sent Him to a family! God came into the world in a family. And he was able to do this because this family was a family that had its heart open to love, that had the doors open to love."

2. *"God wants families where members love each other and educate their children in goodness."*

"God always knocks at the door of hearts. He likes to do this. It comes from His heart. But, do you know what He likes best? To knock on the doors of families and find families that are united, to find families that love each other, to find the families that bring up their children and educate them and help them to keep going forward and that create a society of goodness, of truth, and of beauty."

3. *Difficulties in the family exist but they are overcome with love."*

"In families, there are difficulties. In families, we argue; in families, sometimes the plates fly; in families, the children give us headaches. And I'm not even going to mention the mother-in-law. But in families, there is always, always, the cross. Always. Because the love of God, of the Son of God, also opened for us this path. But, in families as well, after the cross, there is the resurrection. Because the Son of God opened for us this path. Because of this, the family is — forgive the term I'll use — it is a factory of hope, of hope of life and of resurrection. God was the one who opened this path... In families, there are difficulties, but these difficulties are overcome with love. Love is a festival. Love is joy. Love is to keep moving forward."

**This Weekend** Dec 30<sup>th</sup> / 31<sup>st</sup>

7.00 p.m. Frank Eivers (First Anniv).

11.00 a.m. Joe Reilly (Anniv).

**Weekday Masses:**

**Wed Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 11.00 a.m. - Our Lady's Manor**

People of the Parish.

**Next Weekend: Jan 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup>**

7.00 p.m. No Intention. 11.00 a.m. No Intention.

**Offertory Collection:** Sun Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> & Christmas Day - €3,685 - sincere thanks.

**RECENTLY DECEASED** - Please pray for

Mary Rooney, Barne,

Patricia Duffy, St Patrick's Terrace and

Grainne Hussey, Devine Crescent

who died recently. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Requiesce in pace.

**Jan 6<sup>th</sup> - FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY** - Masses on Fri Jan 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7.00 p.m. - Parish Church and Sat Jan 6<sup>th</sup> @ 11.00 a.m. - Our Lady's Manor.

**FIRST FRIDAY:** Fri Jan 5<sup>th</sup> - The usual communion calls to the sick and housebound of the parish will take place on Friday next.

### New Year's Prayer

*As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.*

*Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed.*

*Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.*

*Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.*

*May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.* - Rev. Marcy Sheremetta

**First Reading** - This reading could be seen as a brief commentary on the commandment to honour one's father and mother. This entails not only obeying them when we are young, but caring for them when they get old.

**Second Reading** - This stresses the atmosphere of love that should reign in a Christian family. It places special emphasis on mutual forgiveness.

**Gospel** - This relates the presentation of the child Jesus in the temple, and also provides us with a brief glimpse of his life at Nazareth.



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### READERS OF THE WORD OF GOD - JANUARY

**Saturday 7.00p.m.:** Gerry Greene.

**Sunday 11.00 a.m.:** Eze Ejikeme, Ikedike Eze-Ejikeme.

### MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST - JANUARY

**Saturday 7.00p.m.:** Margaret Kelly, Angela Kelly.

**Sunday 11.00 a.m.:** Kate O'Donoghue, Orla Noonan.

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