

# St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 6th December, 2020

Fr Phil Gaffney PP  
Fr Ciprian Solomon CC  
St Mary's Presbytery  
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**Hospital Visitation:** is not possible at the moment, however please continue to inform Fr Phil or Fr Ciprian if a relative is ill or in hospital.



## The Deep End - The Beginning of the good news

The second Sunday of Advent turns our attention to John the Baptist. John was an interesting individual. We are told he dressed a bit strangely and spent a lot of time in the desert, 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness'. Yet it seems he was very popular with 'all the people of Jerusalem' went out to hear him. John must have been a dynamic speaker and one in whom people found hope and inspiration. In John the Baptist's time, the people

lived under the oppression of the Roman Empire and were waiting for someone who would liberate them. John points to one that is greater than he, he points the people to Jesus.

When Pope Francis released the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* in October this year he noted that dark clouds hang over our world and he urged everyone to embrace a spirit of friendship, kindness, compassion and solidarity as we move forward, to help ensure the dignity of every person and a more sustainable world for all. We have certainly experienced a type of wilderness this year as we continue to battle the effects of COVID19 and find a way forward. Our communities need messengers, like John, who bring good news, hope and a vision for the future, who point us towards a new way forward.

As we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives once more, let's make the most of this advent time, the most of this waiting time. May we use this space to reflect on what type of world can be born out of this wilderness we find ourselves in. May we reach out to those who are crying out for hope during these difficult months, like John the Baptist, offering a positive vision for the future.

*Jane Mellett*

**Eucharistic Adoration each Friday in St. Mary's Church from 8:30am - 4.00pm**

**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will hold its Church Gate Collection this Sunday 6th December after all the Masses.**

**Tuesday 8th December is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Masses at 8:00am and 7:30pm**

## Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 6th December, 2020

<b>Sunday 6th Dec.</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Peter Kierans <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Val Vaughey & his parents Joe & Anna; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke
	<b>10:30pm</b>	Special Intention; Karanakaran Yesudian; Special Intention; Margaret Tiernan; Eugene Gallagher & deceased members of the Gallagher & Murray family
	<b>12noon</b>	Seamus Keenan <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Gary Martin <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Maurice Neary <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Mary Brigid Mullen; Joe Murphy Noreen & Michael Power; Pat Geraghty
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Special Intention; Thomas & Alice Nulty; Gerry Kiernan, Andy Boylan
<b>Monday</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Special Intention; Michael & Margaret Tuite
<b>Tuesday 8th Dec.</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Special Intention
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Special Intention
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Deceased relatives of the Campbell family
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Deceased relatives of the Moore family
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Ita & George Robinson; Patrick Mc Donnell; Patricia Floyd
<b>Sunday 13th Dec.</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Helena (Lena) Durney <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke; James Caffrey
	<b>10:30pm</b>	Anne Tiernan <i>First Anniversary</i> ; James, Christina & Joan Mohan, Joe & May Kelly; Noel Kierans; John Cooney; Pety Browne & his parents Joe & Molly
	<b>12noon</b>	Paddy O' Sullivan <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Margaret Crinion <i>First Anniversary</i> & Edward Crinion; James & Bridget Mullen & Stephen Mc Kenna
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Special Intention

A voice of one crying out in the desert,  
Prepare the way of the Lord  
Matthew 3:3

# Faith



Our weekend and daily Masses until Christmas Eve will be our normal schedule and we can accommodate 50 people in each of our pods as we had until the last restrictions were imposed. **This year our Christmas schedule of Masses will be different and you will have to have a ticket to be guaranteed a place in our churches. The tickets will be coloured coded for each Mass with the assigned time of the Mass printed on each ticket. You can sign up for these tickets by contacting our Parish Offices or by signing the sheets at the end of our weekend Masses.**

We will have extra Masses to accommodate everyone. Our Masses in St Mary's will be streamed live on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning.

You can avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas, the times will be listed on our Parish Bulletin.

<b>St Mary's Church Drogheda.</b>	<b>Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm (Polish Mass) 12:00 midnight</b>	

<b>St Mary's Church Drogheda</b>	<b>Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am &amp; 12:00noon</b>	

<b>Holy Family Church Ballsgrove</b>	<b>Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December,</b>
<b>4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm &amp; 10:00pm</b>	

<b>Holy Family Church Ballsgrove</b>	<b>Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December.</b>
<b>8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am &amp; 12:30pm.</b>	

## Notice of Junior Infant Enrolment for September 2021

Applications for Junior Infant places for **September 2021** are now being accepted. The allocation of places will begin on Friday 8th January 2021 at 12 noon. Forms and enrolment policy are available on our website [www.smpps.ie](http://www.smpps.ie) or from the school office (041) 9845374

**Sacred Heart Messenger :** If you would like to receive the Messenger for 2021 please contact Austin on 087 930 7541 or the Parish Office (€24 for years subscription will aid foreign missions).

**Pro-Life Prayer Vigil** - Sat, 12<sup>th</sup> December, the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal will be leading a time of prayer, with Eucharistic Adoration, for the protection of life. We will gather from 9:00am-10:45am in Holy Family Church followed by 11:00am Holy Mass. All are welcome to join us in prayer for a renewal of the culture of life in our society. If you have any questions please contact Sr. Veronica, CFR at 041 9830441



## A prayer for those who died

**Joan Meighan (née Kirwan)**, Barrack St. & formerly Congress Ave;nue;  
**Frank Dunne**, Brookville  
**Emily O Reilly** Beamore; **Deirdre Sharkey (née Williams)**, Westcourt & formerly Highfield  
**May they rest in peace**

## Supporting Our Parish:

Parishioners can leave their envelopes or a donation to the parish in the boxes at the back of the church or you can now use the **donate button** facility on our website. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.  
**Many thanks. Keep safe and well.**