

St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 22nd December, 2019 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fr Phil Gaffney PP
Fr Ciprian Solomon CC
St Mary's Presbytery
Dublin Road ☎ 9834958

The Lord's Day **9:00am, 10:30am, 12noon & 7:00pm**
Monday ~ Friday **8:00am**
Saturday **10:00am**
Holydays **8:00am and 7:30pm**

Baptisms are celebrated on the first Saturday and on the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 1:00pm. Please contact the parish office or the sacristy for a booking form.

Four weeks notice required.

Confessions are available on Saturdays after 10:00am Mass, and every Sunday after 7:00pm Mass.

Marriages are facilitated by the Parish Centre: 9834587.

St Mary's Parish Centre
24 James Street
☎ 9834587 ☎ 9838347

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Saint Francis of Assisi created the first crib scene in the mountain village of **Greccio** in 1223 to commemorate the birth of Jesus and Pope Francis returned there to deliver his Apostolic Letter entitled, "Admirabile signum".

The Latin title of the Letter refers to the "enchanted image" of the Christmas crèche, one that "never ceases to arouse amazement and wonder", writes the Pope. "The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God", he says.

"The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture", continues Pope Francis. Contemplating the Christmas story is like setting out on a spiritual journey, "drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman." So great is His love for us, writes the Pope, "that He became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with Him."

Pope Francis says that the caves in Greccio reminded him of the countryside of Bethlehem. On 25 December, friars and local people came together, bringing flowers writes the Pope. "When Francis arrived, he found a manger full of hay, an ox and a donkey." A priest celebrated the Eucharist over the manger, "showing the bond between the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Eucharist."

Pope Francis reflects on the meaning behind the elements that make up the nativity scene. He begins with the background of "a starry sky wrapped in the darkness and silence of night."

We think of when we have experienced the darkness of night, he says, yet even then, God does not abandon us. "His closeness brings light where there is darkness and shows the way to those dwelling in the shadow of suffering."

Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 22nd December 2019

Sunday 22nd Dec	9:00am	Frances McNeill, Carmel Clinton
	10:30am	Maria Callaghan <i>Month's Memory</i> ; George Durnin; Raymond Cooney; Maureen & Oliver Halpin & deceased members of the Leech & Williams families; Deceased members of the Darcy, Lynch & McDonnell families; Catherine Reynolds; Paul (Minty) Smith & Benny Smith Larry McEntee; Noel McQuillan
	12:00noon	Kathleen Mc Quillan, James & Denis McQuillan, Minnie & Beth, Joe & Maureen Byrne, Benny Bowden & dec. members of the Bowden & Doyle families; Michael & Pauline Heeney & dec. members of the Heeney & Marley families, Johnny Callaghan; Daniel Owens; Myra O'Brien; Deceased members of the Cassidy & Lowth families
	7:00pm	Special Intention
Monday	8:00am	Mary Ann Prendergast & deceased relatives and friends; Holohan & Cuningham families
Tuesday 24th	8:00am	See List at Back of Church 6.00p.m., 10pm Polish Mass & 12 midnight Mass
Wednesday 25th	9:00am	Christmas Day Broadcast Live LM/FM; 10.30am & 12noon, 2pm Polish Mass
Thursday	10:00am	Christopher, Bridget, Sheila & Kit Hughes; Hugh & Jim Byrne; Joan Cassidy; Dec. members of the Murtagh family
Friday	10:00am	Michael Everitt; Nuala Kavanagh; Alice & Con Creagh, Bernie & John Lynch
Saturday	10:00am	Patrick Bellew <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Mary, Larry, Pat, Niamh & Adam Hoey; James & Peggy Leech Gerard Leech, Jim & Anna Leech, Margaret O'Brien, Patrick & Josephine Brogan, Phil, Pat & Declan Brogan, Helen Brogan, George Kiernan, Yvonne O'Connor, Fintan Heslin; Jim & Rita Gargan; Michael Campbell; Dec members of the Bohill family, Peader & Josephine Mooney
Sunday 29th Dec	9:00am	Tom Begley, Jane, Joseph & Annie Gibney, Paul McKenna, Sally & Paddy McEvoy; Jacinta McEvoy & Connie McEvoy; Pattty & Dessie Martin; Assumpta Owens
	10:30am	Maurice Neary <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Phyllis Byrne <i>Month's Memory</i> & Frank Byrne; Gary Martin <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Annie & Artie Collier; May Flanagan; Margaret Tiernan & John Tiernan; Ollie Rice & Michael Byrne; Thanksgiving Mass, Phyllis Byrne
	12:00noon	Mary Alice & Thomas Cooney & deceased family members, Alyosius, Mona & Aly Farrell & deceased family members; Anne & Thomas Keane
	2:00pm	Polish Mass 7:00pm

Our Parish Community

Dec 2019

Hospital Visitation: Please inform Fr Phil, Fr Ciprian or the Parish Centre if a relative is ill or in hospital.



St Mary's Parish Primary School Notice of Junior Infant Enrolment for September 2020

Applications for junior infant places for September 2020 are now being accepted. The allocation of places will begin on Friday 17th January 2020 at 12 noon. Forms and enrolment policy are available on our website www.smpps.ie or from the school office (041-9845374).

The Story of the Peace Light

If anyone would like to take a light from the peace light from Bethlehem in St Mary's Church at the 12:00 noon Mass on Sunday 22nd, December please bring an oil lantern or lantern and candle to the 12:00 noon Mass.

Adoration Chapel: We require Adorers for the following days Tuesday and Saturday at 4pm, and Thursday at 5pm. Please leave your contact details in the Parish Office or phone Liz on 086. 365 8358.

Eucharistic Ministers & Readers: Rotas have been e-mailed. Some copies are also available from the sacristy.

Happy Christmas from Fr Phil, Fr Ciprian & Parish Team: Wishing all our parishioners a joyful & holy Christmas and a word of thanks for your kindness, support and generosity.

"The grace which was revealed in our world is Jesus... He has entered our history; he has shared our journey. He came to free us from darkness and to grant us light. In Him was revealed the grace, the mercy, and the tender love of the Father." ~ Pope Francis

A prayer for those who died...



Anne Tiernan, Meadowview
Marie Crocock (née Birch), Anneville Crescent
Oliver Synnott, Platin

May they rest in peace

St Mary's Schedule for Christmas

Thursday 19th December

St.Mary's Parish Primary School Carol Service 7:30pm

Friday 20th December

Polish Confessions: 7:00pm-8:00pm

Saturday 21st December

Mass: 10.00am followed by Confessions

Sunday 22nd December

Masses: 9.00am; 10.30am; 12.00noon; 7:00pm

Penitential Service after 7:00pm Mass

Visiting Priests attending

Monday 23rd December

Mass: 8:00am

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

8:00am Mass

Confessions: 12 noon – 1:00pm

Children's Mass 6.00pm

Polish Mass 10:00pm

Midnight Mass at 12.00 Midnight

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

Masses: 9.00am (broadcast live on LMFM); 10.30am & 12.00noon

Thursday 26th December – Saturday 28th December 10:00am Mass

Sunday 29th December

Mass 9:00am; 10:30am; 12 noon & 7:00pm

Polish Mass 2:00pm

Monday 30th December & Tuesday 31st December 10:00am Mass

Wednesday 1st January – Mary, The Holy Mother of God & World Day of Peace

12:00 noon Mass

Thursday 2nd January Morning Mass resumes at 8:00am

Monday 6th of January – The Epiphany of The Lord.
Masses 8:00am & 7:30pm.

Supporting Our Parish:

15th December 2019

Offertory: €1,270.00
Parish Dev. Fund: €1,222.00



Many thanks for your support