

Parish of Newry

Tuesday 25 December 2018
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

"The angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord'."

Luke 2: 10-11

Mass Times

The Cathedral of SS. Patrick & Colman, Hill Street

Sunday Mass Times:
Saturday Vigil : 6.00pm
Sunday : 8.30am, 10.00am,
12noon and 5.30pm.
Weekday Mass Times :
Monday to Friday : 8.30am
& 10.30am.
Saturday : 10.30am

St. Brigid's Church, Rooney's Meadow

Saturday Evening
(Vigil Mass) : 7.30pm
Sunday : 9.30am
(Po Polsku)
Monday : 7.30pm

St. Mary's Church, Chapel Street

Sunday : 9.00am
(Latin Mass) & 11.00am
Friday : 7.30pm

St. Catherine's Church, Dominican Priory, Dominic Street

Saturday Vigil : 7.30pm
Sunday : 8.00am, 9.30am,
11.00am & 12.15pm
Weekday Mass Times :
Monday to Saturday 7.30am,
11.00am & 7.30pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Cathedral: Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
9.00am – 11.00am.
Thursday 9.00am – 9.00pm
Sunday 1.00pm – 4.00pm.
St. Catherine's: Blessed
Sacrament Chapel each day
8.00am to 8.00pm.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE PARISH OFFICE

All Baptisms, Marriages and appointments may be arranged by calling the Parish Office. A Priest is available in the Parish Office from Monday to Friday 1.00pm – 2.00pm and in the evening by appointment.

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT NUMBER FOR PARISH OFFICE

Opening Hours: 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday

Tel No: 028 302 62586

Email: office@newrycathedralparish.org

Website: www.newrycathedralparish.org



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INTRODUCTORY RITES

Congregation stands

Entrance Hymn or
Entrance Antiphon (Dawn Mass)

Is 9:1, 5; Lk 1:33

All: Today a light will shine upon us,
for the Lord is born for us;
and he will be called Wondrous God,
Prince of peace, Father of future ages:
and his reign will be without end.

GREETING

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Priest: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Priest: Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

All: I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have
failed to do,

Striking your breast as you say:

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

THE GLORIA

All: Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of
God the Father.
Amen.

THE COLLECT

Priest: Let us pray

Pause for silent prayer

(Night Mass)

Priest: O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendour of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

(Day Mass)

Priest: O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Congregation sits

FIRST READING

(Night Mass)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

All: The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

(Day Mass)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

62:11-12

This the Lord proclaims to the ends of the earth:
Say to the daughter of Zion,
"Look, your saviour comes,
the prize of his victory with him,

his trophies before him."
They shall be called "The Holy People,"
"The Lord's Redeemed."
And you shall be called "The-sought-after",
"City-not-forsaken."

All: The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 95:1-3, 11-13, R.Lk 2:11

(R) Today a saviour has been born to us;
he is Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R)**
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R)**
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. **(R)**
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. **(R)**

SECOND READING

(Night Mass)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus **2:11-14**

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

All: The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

(Day Mass)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews: **1:1-6**

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God**

Congregations stands

ACCLAMATION

Lk 2:10-11

All: **Alleluia, alleluia!**
I bring you news of great joy:
today a saviour has been born to us,
Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

(Night Mass)

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy
Gospel according to Luke

2:1-14

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour".

The Gospel of the Lord.
All: **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

(Day Mass)

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy
Gospel according to Luke

2:15-20

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.
All: **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Congregation sits

HOMILY

Congregation stands

THE CREED

All: I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the
Father; through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(bow your head up to the words 'and became man')

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver
of life, who proceeds from the Father and the
Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified, who has spoken through
the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic
Church. I confess one Baptism for the
forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead and the life of the
world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Congregation sits

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Procession

*The gifts of bread and wine which will become the Lord's body
and blood are brought to the altar.*

The celebrant raises the host on the paten saying:

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the bread we offer you:
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
it will become for us the bread of life.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

*The celebrant pours wine and a little water into the
chalice, saying quietly:*

Priest: By the mystery of this water and wine
may we come to share in the divinity of Christ
who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

*The celebrant then raises the chalice above the
altar and says:*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the wine we offer you:
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become our spiritual drink.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Bowing, the celebrant says quietly:

Priest: With humble spirit and contrite heart
may we be accepted by you, O Lord,
and may our sacrifice in your sight this day
be pleasing to you, Lord God.

Then the celebrant washes his hands, saying quietly:

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and
yours may be acceptable to God,
almighty Father.

All: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his
holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

(Night Mass)

Priest: May the oblation of this day's feast
be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray,
that through this most holy exchange
we may be found in the likeness of Christ,
in whom our nature is united to you.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: **Amen**

(Day Mass)

Priest: Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this
solemn day, when you manifested the
reconciliation that makes us wholly pleasing in
your sight and inaugurated for us the fullness of
divine worship. Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Congregation stands

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER I

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right and just.**

PREFACE (Nativity II)

Priest: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For on the feast of this awe-filled mystery,
though invisible in his own divine nature,

he has appeared visibly in ours;
and begotten before all ages,
he has begun to exist in time;
so that, raising up in himself all that was cast
down, he might restore unity to all creation
and call straying humanity back to the heavenly
Kingdom.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you,
as in joyful celebration we acclaim:

ACCLAMATION

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Congregation kneels

Priest: To you, therefore, most merciful Father,
we make humble prayer and petition
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord:
that you accept and bless + these gifts, these
offerings, these holy and unblemished sacrifices,
which we offer you firstly
for your holy catholic Church.
Be pleased to grant her peace, to guard, unite and
govern her throughout the whole world,
together with your servant Francis our Pope
and N our Bishop, and all those who, holding to
the truth, hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

Remember, Lord, your servants **N.** and **N.**
and all gathered here,
whose faith and devotion are known to you.
For them, we offer you this sacrifice of praise
or they offer it for themselves and all who are dear
to them: for the redemption of their souls,
in hope of health and well-being, and paying their
homage to you, the eternal God, living and true.

Celebrating the most sacred night (day)
on which blessed Mary the immaculate Virgin
brought forth the Saviour for this world,
and in communion with those whose memory we
venerate, especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary,
Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ,
and blessed Joseph, her Spouse, your blessed
Apostles and Martyrs, Peter and Paul, Andrew, and
all your Saints; we ask that through their merits
and prayers, in all things we may be defended by
your protecting help.

Therefore, Lord, we pray: graciously accept this
oblation of our service, that of your whole family;
order our days in your peace, and command that we
be delivered from eternal damnation and counted
among the flock of those you have chosen.

Be pleased, O God, we pray, to bless, acknowledge,
and approve this offering in every respect;
make it spiritual and acceptable,
so that it may become for us the Body and Blood
of your most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the day before he was to suffer,
he took bread in his holy and venerable hands,
and with eyes raised to heaven to you, O God,
his almighty Father, giving you thanks,
he said the blessing, broke the bread
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took this precious chalice in his holy and
venerable hands, and once more giving you
thanks, he said the blessing and gave the chalice
to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE
BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR
MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

Priest: The mystery of faith.

All: My Lord and my God.

Priest: Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of
the blessed Passion, the Resurrection from the dead,
and the glorious Ascension into heaven
of Christ, your Son, our Lord, we, your servants and
your holy people, offer to your glorious majesty
from the gifts that you have given us, this pure
victim, this holy victim, this spotless victim,
the holy Bread of eternal life
and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.

Be pleased to look upon these offerings
with a serene and kindly countenance,
and to accept them, as once you were pleased to
accept the gifts of your servant Abel the just,
the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith,
and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek,
a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim.

In humble prayer we ask you, almighty God:
command that these gifts be borne
by the hands of your holy Angel to your altar on high
in the sight of your divine majesty, so that all of us,
who through this participation at the altar receive the
most holy Body and Blood of your Son,
may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing.

Remember also, Lord, your servants **N.** and **N.**,
who have gone before us with the sign of faith
and rest in the sleep of peace.
Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in
Christ, a place of refreshment, light and peace.

To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners,
hope in your abundant mercies, graciously grant
some share and fellowship with your holy Apostles
and Martyrs: with John the Baptist, Stephen,
Matthias, Barnabas, and all your Saints;
admit us, we beseech you, into their company,
not weighing our merits, but granting us your
pardon, through Christ our Lord.

Through whom you continue to make all these
good things, O Lord;
you sanctify them, fill them with life,
bless them, and bestow them upon us.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Congregation stands

COMMUNION RITE

Priest: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to you Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: **And with your spirit.**

The celebrant may add these or similar words.

Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All make a sign of peace, according to local custom.

Priest: May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

All: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

Congregation kneels

The celebrant says quietly:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, through your Death gave life to the world, free me by this, your most holy Body and Blood, from all my sins and from every evil; keep me always faithful to your commandments, and never let me be parted from you.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Priest: May the Body of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

Priest: May the Blood of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Zec 9:9

All: **Rejoice, O Daughter Zion; lift up praise, Daughter Jerusalem: Behold, your King will come, the Holy One and Saviour of the world.**

Purifying the chalice the celebrant says quietly:

What has passed our lips as food, O Lord, may we possess in purity of heart, that what has been given to us in time may be our healing for eternity.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Congregation kneels

Priest: Let us pray.
Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, that we, who are gladdened by participation in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity, may through an honourable way of life become worthy of union with him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: May the God of infinite goodness, who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night (day), drive far from you the darkness of vice and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: May God, who willed that the great joy of his Son's saving Birth be announced to shepherds by the Angel, fill your minds with the gladness he gives and make you heralds of his Gospel.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: And may God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Then the celebrant, with hands joined and facing the people, says:

Priest: Go forth, the Mass is ended.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation stands

NEWRY PARISH ANNIVERSARIES FOR OUR DECEASED RELATIVES

Cathedral Anniversaries

Tuesday 25 December	9.00am	Oliver & Elizabeth Casey, Mourneview Park John Mallon John & Susan Murchan, Mullaghbawn
Wednesday 26 December	10.30am	Vincent McEvoy, Mountainview Drive Canon Cathal Jordan Alexander & Cecilia McKinley, Water Street
Thursday 27 December	10.30am	Kathleen Dennison, Slievegullion Road Matilda, Albina, Roberto & Vitalija Thomas & Sarah Jones & deceased family members & Mary & John Rooney, Killeel
Friday 28 December	10.30am	Jimmy & Lily McManus, Billy's Road, Ballyholland
Saturday 29 December	10.30am	The O'Hagan Family, Lisummon
	6.00pm	Terry Hegarty, Chestnut Grove Frederick, Mary & Joe McDermott, O'Neill Avenue & Kathleen McDermott, Cedar Grove
Sunday 30 December	10.00am	Bernadette, Hughie & William Carson, Belfast Kevin & Bridie Winters, Drangan, Co Tipperary Patrick O'Sullivan, Knockeens, Co. Kerry
	12 noon	Kathleen Buchanan, Crieve Jimmy McLoughlin, Bridge Street Gerry Donnelly, Upper Damolly Road Frank Watson, Failawns Avenue Patsy Crimmins, Ballinlare Gardens

St. Mary's Anniversaries

Tuesday 25 December	11.30am	Deceased members of St. Mary's Choir James McGovern, Greenwood Drive Margaret & Matthew McAteer, Maura & Austin Slevin, Ann Rice & Sarah & John Payne. Dan & May McCann, O'Neill Avenue George & Bridget McGivern, High Street May O'Hanlon, Chapel Street Lynda Hughes, Ashgrove Road Jackie Sturgeon, Belfast
Sunday 30 December	11.00am	Sadie Carr, Killeavy Road Paddy McElroy, Old Warrenpoint Road

St. Brigid's Anniversaries

Tuesday 25 December	11.00am	Rita Downey, Violet Hill Avenue
Saturday 29 December	7.30pm	Anna Rose Synnott, Parkhead Crescent & deceased members of the Hansen Family, Demark

St. Catherine's Anniversaries

Wednesday 26 December	11.00am	Detta Matthews Kerry Fleming Mary Mone
Thursday 27 December	11.00am	James & Ellie Coghlan & deceased family members James O'Hare Peggy O'Hare & James Fegan
	7.30pm	Lily Cunningham
Friday 28 December	7.30pm	Dessie Quinn Susdan & John Brannigan & deceased family members John & Mary Grant Kathleen Quinn
Saturday 29 December	11.00am	Sarah Mulvenna
Sunday 30 December	11.00am	Patrick Small Frederick, May & Joe McDermott Kathleen McDermott
	12.15pm	Benefactors of Church & Priory Kathleen & Philip Rafferty

Gospel Commentary

There is a kind of timelessness about Christmas: it takes us out of our routines; suddenly all the rush of preparation is over and there is nothing more to do. This could be the moment to experience something different from the perpetual motion that is our ordinary life. But what happens? We turn on the TV, which is what we may have been doing every single evening since last Christmas. No change. Then we say Christmas is boring, or sad, or too commercial.... Of course it is; it is just like all the other days. We have not allowed change to happen. We have not allowed space for anything new to appear. Paradoxically, all the flashing lights, the incessant television, the emailing and text-messaging...all have the effect of filling our lives and so leaving no space to move, no space for anything really different to appear; so we are enclosed in a cave of artificial lights that never lead us to the sun.

"The light shines in the darkness." But it does not shine in artificial light. We have to turn something off. We have to leave space and time for the new thing to appear.

The Child born today is God's new deed: the newest, the youngest, the most recent...the latest. But this is not announced in the excited voice of the advertisers; it is a silent deed. He is the Word made flesh, but he lies there as helpless to speak as any infant. Only in silence can this silent Word be heard. The new blade of grass does not make a scene or a noise; neither does the Word made flesh.

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