

Parish of Newry

Sunday 27 December 2020
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

"The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him." This shows that they had no hindsight; they thought of themselves in every way as normal people. This is their connection with us. Had they thought themselves special from birth, they would be as distant from us as a royal family. But we see them following the ordinary custom of presenting the child in the Temple, and their offering is the offering of the poor.

When something is actually happening we have no hindsight on it. Of course we see things more clearly with hindsight; hindsight is always 20/20, someone said. But in a way it can be a false and garish light. It judges people in the light of events that they could not have known about; it allows them no future, no development, because we see their future already present in everything they do and say. It flattens out their life like a sheet of paper on which everything is visible simultaneously.

It was the hindsight of the Resurrection, of course, that enabled the disciples to see the life of Jesus in a new light. But this new light of faith did not and was never meant to nullify his earthly life. The early heresies of Docetism and Monophysitism fell into this very trap. Trace elements of these early heresies lived on in mainline theology, and many theologians of the past would have held that Jesus knew all human languages and every event in future history. If that were the case he could hardly be said to be like us in all things but sin: "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). This tendency can be seen in some popular devotions, and we have to be careful lest while stressing the divinity of Christ we diminish his humanity and turn the events of his life into a melodrama. The teaching of the Church is that he is fully divine and fully human.

It is our family that makes and keeps us human. We were welded into it before we were born; it is our anchor in human history. Scholars believe that the gospel accounts (in Matthew and Luke) of Jesus' childhood were not in the original form of the gospels but were added on at an early stage because they were needed to keep the story of Jesus anchored in this life.

In the West we tend to think of the family as the 'nuclear family': father, mother and child. Then we project this onto the family of Jesus. But an Eastern family, even to this day, comprises a hundred people or more (this is how Jesus managed to get lost in the Temple). In today's first reading, Abram complained to God of having no children. Then "God brought him outside and said, 'Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.... So shall your descendants be.'" Nothing about a nuclear family.

Jesus too was part of an extended family. But that physical family was nothing compared to the spiritual family of disciples through the ages and through the whole world. We all have our part in extending it. Every time we extend a hand to a neighbour or a stranger we are extending that great family. With legitimate hindsight we can see his spiritual family continuing to extend till it includes the whole world.

Fr Donagh O'Shea, O.P.,
www.goodnews.ie

Mass Times

The Cathedral of SS. Patrick & Colman, Hill Street

Weekend Mass Times
Saturday (vigil Mass)
6.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am, 12noon
& 5.30pm
Weekday Mass Times
Monday – Saturday
10.30am

St. Brigid's Church, Rooney's Meadow Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Evening (vigil
Mass) 7.30pm
Friday: 7.30pm

St. Mary's Church, Chapel Street

Tuesday: 7.30pm
Sunday: 9.00am
(Latin Mass)
Sunday: 10.30am

St. Catherine's Church, Dominican Priory, Dominic Street ALL AVAILABLE ONLINE

Mon-Sat: 7.30am & 11.00am & 7.30pm
Sunday Masses – VIGIL [SAT] 7.30pm
8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am & 12.30
newrydominican.com/live

Masses Open to the Public
7.30am – Monday & Thursday
11.00am – Monday to Saturday
7.30pm Monday, Wednesday & Saturday [Vigil]

SUNDAY MASSES
VIGIL 7.30pm, 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am & 12.30

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INTRODUCTORY RITES

Congregation stands

**Entrance Hymn or
Entrance Antiphon**

Lk 2:16

All: The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

GREETING

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

All: **Amen**

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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.

Priest: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: **For we have sinned against you.**

Priest: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

All: **And grant us your salvation.**

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

Priest: O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family,

graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, 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

A reading from the book of Genesis

15:1-6; 21:1-3

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants' some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants; he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R v.7-8

**(R) He, the Lord, is our God.
He remembers his covenant for ever.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! **(R)**
2. Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. **(R)**
3. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke. O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose. **(R)**
4. He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

11:8. 11-12. 17-19

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could

be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

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

Congregation stands

ACCLAMATION

Heb 1:1-2

**All: Alleluia, alleluia!
 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.
 Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

2: 22-40

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

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

Priest: We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Congregation stands

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

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 III)

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 through him the holy exchange that restores our life has shone forth today in splendour: when our frailty is assumed by your Word not only does human mortality receive unending honour but by this wondrous union we, too, are made eternal.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels, we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:

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: You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise,

for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and + Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed he himself took bread, and, 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 the chalice and, 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: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Priest: Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her spouse, with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs with Saint Patrick and with all the Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant Francis our Pope and N. our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children

scattered throughout the world.
To our departed brothers and sisters
and to all who were pleasing to you
at their passing from this life,
give kind admittance to your kingdom.
There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your
glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you
bestow on the world all that is good.

Priest: 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

THE 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 be 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 your 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

Bar 3:38

All: **Our God has appeared on the earth,
and lived among us.**

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.
Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament,
most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example
of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world,
we may share their company for ever.
Through Christ our Lord.

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 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.
and give you peace.

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.**

NEWRY & SAVAL PARISHES DATES TO REMEMBER 2021

1st January	Feast of Mary, Mother of God, is celebrated at all Masses today. This day is also the World Day of Peace and we pray for peace throughout the world and for God's blessings on our parish community.
6th January	Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord
28th January	First Confession for St. Ronan's P.S. at 5.30pm & 7.30pm
29th January	First Confession for St. Patrick's P.S. at 2.00pm
2nd February	First Confession for Ballyholland P.S. at 7.30pm
3rd February	First Confession for St. Joseph's Convent P.S. at 7.30pm
9th February	First Confession for Bunscoil an lúir at 7.30pm
10th February	First Confession for St. Joseph's Convent at 7.30pm
11th February	Service of Light for St. Ronan's P.S. (time to be decided)
11th February	First Confession for St. Clare's Abbey P.S. at 2.00pm
12th February	First Confession for St. Clare's Abbey P.S. at 2.00pm
17th February	Ash Wednesday
22nd February	First Confession for St. Colman's P.S.Saval at 7.30pm
17th March	Feast of St. Patrick (Patron of the Diocese and National Apostle)
1st April – 3rd April	Holy Week Ceremonies – Easter Triduum
4th April	Easter Sunday
11th April	Divine Mercy Sunday
16th April	Confirmation for St. Colman's P.S. Saval at 6.00pm in St. Colman's Church, Shinn
17th April	Confirmation for St. Joseph's Convent P.S. at 11.30am in St. Brigid's Church
23rd April	Confirmation for St. Clare's Abbey P.S. at 6.00pm in the Cathedral
23rd April	Confirmation for St. Ronan's P.S. at 6.00pm in St. Brigid's Church
30th April	Confirmation for Ballyholland P.S. at 6.00pm in the Cathedral
1st May	Confirmation for St. Patrick's P.S. at 11.30am in St. Brigid's Church
2nd May	Annual Blessing of the graves at 3.00pm in St. Mary's Cemetery
8th May	First Holy Communion for Bunscoil an lúir at 11.30am in St. Mary's Church
8th May	First Holy Communion for St. Patrick's P.S. at 11.30am in St. Brigid's Church
9th May	Annual Blessing of the graves at 3.00pm in Monkshill Cemetery
15th May	First Holy Communion for St. Joseph's Convent P.S. at 11.30am in St. Brigid's Church
15th May	First Holy Communion for St. Colman's P.S. Saval at 11.30am in St. Colman's Church, Shinn
21st May	Confirmation for Bunscoil an lúir at 6.00pm in St. Mary's Church
22nd May	First Holy Communion for St. Clare's Abbey P.S. at 11.30am in St. Mary's/Cathedral
22nd May	First Holy Communion for St. Ronan's P.S. at 11.30am in St. Brigid's Church
23rd May	Pentecost Sunday
26th May	Annual Blessing of the graves at 7.30pm in St. Colman's, Shinn
29th May	First Holy Communion for Ballyholland P.S. at 11.30am in St. Mary's /Cathedral
30th May	Trinity Sunday
2nd June	Annual Blessing of the graves at 7.30pm in St. Joseph's, Sheeptown
6th June	Corpus Christi
7th June	Feast of St. Colman (Patron of the Diocese)
8th June	The Annual Mass for living and deceased members of Fr. John Rooney Branch and St. Ita Branch of the Foresters at 8.00pm in Ballyholland I.N.F. Hall
27th June	The Annual Mass at 3.00pm, Mass Rock, Ballyholland
1st August	The Annual Mass at 10.30am, Mass Rock, Saval
15th August	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
1st November	Feast of All Saints
2nd November	All Souls Day
18th November	Mass for all deceased relatives and friends of Newry Parish at 7.30pm in the Cathedral
19th November	Mass for all deceased relatives and friends of Saval parish at 8.00pm In Saval G.A.C.
21st November	Feast of Christ the King
8th December	Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
21st December	Mass for Ballyholland P.S. at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Church
25th December	Feast of Christmas

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Simeon and Anna welcome Mary, Joseph and Jesus to the temple. They have been waiting for this moment. What kind of Messiah were they expecting? Simeon welcomes this family who seemed “ordinary” and poor. He can see that this child will be ‘a light...for the glory of your people’. Already there is a note of reversal; of boundaries being stretched. Mary is told that this child ‘is destined for the fall and the rising of many’. There will be challenging times ahead for this family. Simeon knows that many thoughts will be exposed for God’s invitation and welcome has no boundaries and this radical hospitality will not sit well with everyone. Anna rejoices for all those who were looking for a change, for hope, she knows that this child will overturn systems of oppression and exclusion.

Luke is interested in how humanity responds to the Gospel. If Jesus’ message is really good news, then this requires a shakeup; a shakeup which challenges comfortable assumptions about the way God works. God’s abundant invitation to all may not sit comfortably with many. While Anna prays and fasts for a change of heart in the way Jerusalem operates, Simeon warns many that this will not be an easy road.

Many situations in our own world today need a shake-up, especially in our church. This can be uncomfortable as we know as we have to let go of certain things and invite freshness. What situations in our society and in our God’s love and welcome can shine through? Jesus came to show us how to live. We must constantly look back at this example.

“We often make do with looking at the ground...I wonder if we still know how to look up at the sky? Do we know how to dream, to long for God, to expect the newness he brings, or do we let ourselves be swept along by life, like dry branches before the wind?”

Pope Francis.

NEWRY PARISH ANNIVERSARIES FOR OUR DECEASED RELATIVES

Cathedral Anniversaries

Saturday 26 December	10.30am	Canon Cathal Jordan Vincent McEvoy, Mountainview Drive
	6.00pm	Isaac, Walter & Kathleen Kay, Daisyhill Gardens
Sunday 27 December	9.00am	Deceased members of the O’Hagan Family, Lisummon Alex & Cecilia McKinley, Water Street
	12 noon	Dympna Kenny, Willow Grove Jinny McLoughlin, Bridge Street
		Thomas & Sarah Jones & deceased family members, Davis Street
		Patsy Crimmins, Ballinlare Gardens
	5.30pm	Francis Downey, Cairn Hill
Monday 28 December	10.30am	Jimmy & Lily McManus, Billy’s Road Francis Downey, Cairn Hill
		Kate Smith, Drumgullion Avenue
Tuesday 29 December	10.30am	Thomas & Josephine Murray, Kilmorey Street
Thursday 31 December	10.30am	William McKeivitt, Fourth Avenue
Saturday 2 January	6.00pm	Michael Connolly, Mountpleasant Charlie Madden, Forthill Road & Margaret Madden, Moorhill Road

St. Mary’s Anniversaries

Sunday 27 December	10.30am	Pat Keenan, Killeavy Road (M.M) Pattie McGovern, Courtney Hill (M.M) Sadie Carr, Killeavy Road May, Paddy, Catherine & James Murphy, Windmill Heights Patrick & May Murphy & deceased family members of the Murphy, Cunningham & McElroy Families
Sunday 3 January	10.30am	Mary McArdle, Shandon Park (M.M) James & Philomena Magee, Carnagh Park Jim & Nora O’Neill, Courtney Hill Kevin & Maurice McAteer, Innisfree Park

St. Brigid’s Anniversaries

Saturday 26 December	7.30pm	Peter McCann, Derrybeg Drive Marie McCann & deceased members of the McCann & Morley Families Dominic Spencer, Killeavy Road & deceased members of the Spencer Family, St. Patrick’s Avenue Anna Rose Synott, Parkhead Crescent & deceased Members of the Hanson Family, Denmark
Saturday 2 January	7.30pm	Daniel & Rita Downey, Violet Hill Avenue Stephen & Philip Craven, Barcroft Park Phil Daly, Upper Damolly Road Paddy Lundy, Slievegullion Road Seamus Sarsfield, Templehill Road Mary & Bobby McAleavey, Second Avenue Francis & Maureen McDonald, Third Avenue & James & Brigid Fearon, Davis Street & Deceased family members William & Mary McCracken, Ballinlare Gardens & deceased Members of the Grimes & McGeoghan Families, Dominic Street & Eva Walsh, College Gardens Charlie Madden, Forthill Road

St. Catherine’s Anniversaries

Saturday 26 December	11.00am	Mary Mone
Sunday 27 December	9.30am	James & Bridget Reynolds Brigid Vallely & Deceased members of the Vallely Family
	11.00am	James Coghlan & deceased members of the Coghlan Family Rita McArdle
		Terence Curran Josie McClelland
	12.30pm	Sean Douglas Margaret & Stephen Fitzpatrick Joseph Henderson
Saturday 2 January	7.30pm	Sheila Campbell (M.M) Damien Moore Patricia O’Hare Jimmy McMahon Patrick, Madge & Sean McGoldrick John & Josephine McIlvenny
Sunday 3 January	11.00am	Myles & Bridie McCourt & deceased members of the McCourt Family
	12.30pm	Benefactors of the Church & Priory Patrick & Margaret King Arthur & Susan King Damien O’Neill

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