

## A MESSAGE FROM THE IRISH BISHOPS:

### “KEEP CHRIST AT THE CENTRE OF CHRISTMAS”

We strongly encourage the faithful to keep Christ at the centre of Christmas this year. Clearly it will be impossible for our usual large congregations to assemble for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We wish to remind Catholics that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended during the pandemic. But Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. Christmas Masses will also be widely available over webcam and we strongly encourage families to “tune in” from the “domestic churches” of their living rooms and join with those who are gathering in their local churches in welcoming the birth of the Christ-child.

It is possible to experience the spiritual richness of this special season in many ways. Our homes can become “little churches” where we invite the Christ-child in. The age old tradition of having a Christmas crib in the home and gathering there as a family to pray or to sing a carol will be especially meaningful this year. We also invite families or “household bubbles” to pay a visit to their local church at some time during the twelve days to offer a Christmas prayer at the crib and pray together for their families and for those particularly impacted by the pandemic.

The hope of Advent and the joy of Christmas by bringing the hope and joy of his birth to people who are sick, isolated, lonely or poor. A simple act of kindness can make such a difference. Charities such as the Society of Saint Vincent DePaul, Crosscare, Trócaire's and World Missions Ireland will welcome much needed contributions as they have been unable to raise funds in the normal way during the pandemic.

As we continue our journey through the season of Advent, waiting in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, we are acutely aware of the yearning in our country and in our world for hope and consolation. In some ways the Covid-19 restrictions open up greater opportunities for prayer and for reflection, for family time and space to enter into the true meaning of Christmas.

## SATURDAY 5th SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER

### 2nd Sunday in Advent

PRIEST ON DUTY: FR. SEAMUS O ROURKE C.C. 071-9620054

### MASSSES FOR SATURDAY 5th & SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER

#### ST.MARY'S Sat Vigil 8pm:

**Sunday 9am:**Gerry Guckian & Deceased members of the Guckian family

**10.30am:** Cecil Harman (Anniv)

**12Noon:**Patrick & Bridget Butler & their grandson Pdraig

### MASSSES MONDAY 7th DECEMBER to SATURDAY 12th DECEMBER

**Monday Vigil 8pm:** Michael, Mae & John Gilroy & Francie,  
Mary Kate, & Mary Ann Bohan.

### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**Tuesday 12noon** Mary Ann & Patrick Gunning their sons Sean, Paddy,  
Ted & Jimmy (Anniv)  
Shane Flynn (Anniv)

**LEITRIM Tuesday8pm:** Frank Corcoran (Anniv)

**Wed 10 am:** Susan & Mary Hehir & Helena Fitzgerald (Anniv)

**Thursday 10am:** John & Mary Stokes their son John & Pat their two daughters & deceased members of the Stokes, Reilly & Mongan family

**Friday 8pm:**

**Sat 10am:** Jack & Patsy Casey & deceased members of  
the Casey & Simons families

**Gowel: Friday 7pm:** Charlie & Aidan McNabola (Anniv)

### MASSSES FOR SATURDAY 11th & SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER 2020

#### ST.MARY'S

**Saturday 8pm:** Josephine McWeeney McLoughlin (Months Mind)

**Sunday 9am:**

**10.30am:** Brendan McLoughlin (Anniv)

**12noon:**Phonsie Keane (Anniv)

### CHURCH NOTICES:

**DEATHS:** We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Willie Keane (Ballinwing) whose funeral took place during the week.