

**‘Amor Laetitia Family Year’:** On the 19th March’21, the Church celebrated five years since the publication of Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation Amor Laetitia (The Joy of Love) on the beauty and joy of love in the family. On that day, Pope Francis launched a year dedicated to the family which will conclude on 26th June 2022 on the occasion of the Tenth World Meeting of Families in Rome. As the Family Year has been launched on the Feast of St. Joseph, we reflect on him as a man of faith. We pray for all families in our parish: that they will be nurtured in the coming year, especially when it comes to passing on the faith from one generation to the next.

All the work of our hands is precious and to be valued. So much of the work that takes place in family life is under the radar: we think of our parents and grandparents working so hard to better the lives of their children; the work of family carers is 24/7. We pray also that families will know and come to appreciate the comfort and support their faith can give them in times of difficulty. We pray also for the many couples who have had to postpone their marriage as a result of Covid-19.

We pray especially for protection for all families from Covid-19 and that the current vaccine programme will give hope and confidence to all of us. During the pandemic, we have observed the dedication and generosity of health care professionals, and many other frontline workers as they treated, comforted and served many sick, elderly and vulnerable people in our communities. Many families have shared their appreciation for the gift of human life in all its stages and the lengths to which we go to protect and save life. As we begin the Family Year may we always be called and inspired to guard and protect all human life as sacred and sacrosanct.

**We pray Pope Francis’ Prayer for the Year of St. Joseph:**

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen

**5th SUNDAY OF LENT 21st MARCH 2021**  
**PRIEST ON DUTY: FR. SEAMUS O’ROURKE C.C. 071-9620054**

**ST.MARY’S Sunday 10am:** Thomas Patrick Gilmartin (Months Mind)  
Michael Flynn (1st Anniv)  
Billy Beirne (Anniv)  
Margaret Regan (Anniv)

**MASSES FROM MONDAY 22nd SATURDAY 27 MARCH**

**Monday 8pm:** Martha & Jim Regan & deceased members  
of the Regan family

**Tuesday 10am:** Bridget & Bernard Murray (Anniv) St.Patrick’s Park

**Wednesday 10am:** Private Intention

**Thursday 10am:**

**Friday 8pm:** Davey Reilly (Months Mind)

**Sat 10am:** Mary & Bart Breen (Anniv)

**MASS FOR PALM SUNDAY MARCH 28th**

**ST.MARY’S Sunday 10am:** John Talbot (Anniv)

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**DEATHS:** We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Margaret Duffley, (Summerhill) whose funeral took place during the week. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:** “Unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest”.

What Jesus teaches us with the image of the ‘wheat grain’ is what we see lived out daily in the lives of those with loving and generous hearts who give of them unselfishly for others. There is a somewhat strange paradox or seeming contradiction right at the heart of our lives. It is this: If I try to keep my life intact, focusing on my own needs and seeking to fulfil my own desires, that’s the seed that does not fall to the earth and die. But if I put the interests of others before my own and give generously of myself, then I preserve the life I have and it blossoms and expands in delightful ways. Like ‘grains of wheat’ planted by God, we are called on to blossom wherever we are planted. It is by giving of ourselves generously that we open ourselves to receive in abundance. By learning to focus away from our own needs, we come to discover beauty and goodness in the most unlikely places. By learning to let go, we are freed within ourselves to be, what God wishes us to be, happy and at peace.