



Fr. Mark English P.P.  
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**MASS INTENTIONS:**

**ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.**

**Saturday 6pm** Mary Fox; Paddy, Babs Bray & Angela; Patrick & Kathleen Leavy

**Sunday 11:30am** Joseph & Elizabeth Clyne

**Wednesday 9am**

**Friday 9am**

**Saturday 6pm** Billy Leavy; John Joe Kiernan; Ber Murtagh

**Sunday 11:30am** Vera Longe

**ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.**

**Sunday 10am** Missa pro populo

**Tuesday 9am**

**Wednesday 9am**

**Sunday 10am** Michael Dowdall MM

*Confessions: Fridays after Mass and Saturdays after the Vigil Mass*



**MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: ST. JOSEPH'S € 295.00 ST. BRIGID'S €180.00**  
**PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND (weekly envelopes): €532.50**

Adoration  
of the  
Blessed Sacrament



In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.  
& St. Brigid's Wed. 6pm-10pm:  
*Special Diocesan intention of prayer  
for vocations and the family.*

**TO ASSIST NEXT WEEK**

**ST. BRIGID'S Ministers of Holy Communion:** 10am. Declan Weir, Noel & Marie Greville.

Minister of the Word: 10am. Caroline Holdwright.

**ST. JOSEPH'S Ministers of Holy Communion:** 6pm. Jennifer Flood & Mary Gilsean. 11:30am. Maura McAulliffe, Mary Briody & Sharon Fitzpatrick. *Ministers of the Word:* 6pm. Paul Dunne. 11:30am Des Smyth.

**All kindly check in at the sacristy before Mass**



**ALTAR SERVERS** All current altar servers and those who wish to become an altar server can pick up new Registration Forms 2019/20 after Mass in the sacristy. Being a server is a very special role to assist Fr. Mark and to lead the people in celebrating Holy Mass. A huge thanks to the senior altar servers who have completed their role and we also thank their parents/guardians for their valued support.

**KILLUCAN S.V.P.**  
Tel: 086-0706571  
Check out St. Vincent's Shop

**CHILD SAFEGUARDING**  
See the church notice boards  
[www.meathsafeguarding.ie](http://www.meathsafeguarding.ie)

**ACCORD**  
For Marriage Preparation Courses  
or for marriage and relationship  
counselling [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie)

**VOCATIONS CORNER**  
Ever think about becoming a priest  
for the Diocese of Meath?  
[www.dioceseofmeath.ie/vocations](http://www.dioceseofmeath.ie/vocations)

**ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS**

wonderful congratulations to the Westmeath Team including our parishioners Aoife O'Malley, Fiona Leavy, Aoife Doherty, Laura Doherty, Pamela Greville & Anna Weir, along with their manager Johnny Greville, selector Jimmy Greville and County Chairperson John Weir. Also, on the team is Aisling Egerton our teacher in St. Patrick's, Edmonton. It was a mighty effort so well done to all the team, their families and supporters.



**CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES 2020**

Confirmation will be celebrated on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March in St. Joseph's at 11am.

First Holy Communion for children in St. Mary's will be celebrated on the 9<sup>th</sup> May in St. Brigid's Raharney at 11am.

First Holy Communion for children in St. Patrick's will be celebrated on the 17<sup>th</sup> May in St. Joseph's Rathwire at 11:30am.

First Holy Communion for children in St. Joseph's will be celebrated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May in St. Joseph's Rathwire at 11am.

**CHURCH MUSIC**

A workshop for choirs, singers, musicians and all who are interested in Church music will take place in Saint Paul's Church, Mullingar on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 2.15pm. Dr. John O'Keeffe, Director of Sacred Music at Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth will be directing the Workshop which will last until about 5pm. The cost of participation will include a copy of Dr. O'Keeffe's book Feasts and Seasons 2 with CD which includes a repertoire that would be useful for any parish choir. At the culmination of the workshop, those participating are invited to the Cathedral of Christ the King in Mullingar to sing at the 6pm Mass using the pieces learnt that afternoon. All are welcome. This workshop is being organised by the diocese. If interested, please contact Fr. Mark through the parish office via phone message or email. All choir members in Rathwire are asked to attend and it would be great if any parishioners were willing to assist with singing and music in Raharney to also attend. The cost will be looked after by the parish, but it is necessary to provide numbers to the diocesan office before the workshop so please let Fr. Mark know in advance.

**MUSIC IN ST. BRIGID'S**

Parishioners interested in assisting with signing and music at Mass in St. Brigid's church are welcome to a meeting in the church this Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm. It would be really great to have any young people who sing or play music to assist with their skills and talents! Thanks.

The Gospel tells us that "great multitudes accompanied Jesus" (Lk 14:25). Today, Luke's Gospel reminds us of how demanding that commitment can be. We should realize that Luke sets out those demands within his account of Jesus' ascent to Jerusalem. He starts with the parable of the banquet to which everyone is invited, especially the outcasts living on the streets, in the squares and at the crossroads. And he concludes with the three "parables of mercy", where a party is celebrated when what was lost was found, where someone who seemed dead is welcomed with joy and restored to life with the possibility of making a new start. For us as Christians, our sacrifices only make sense in the light of the joyful celebration of our encounter with Jesus Christ. Jesus' first demand has to do with family relationships. The new life the Lord holds out to us seems troubling and scandalously unjust to those who think that entry into the kingdom of heaven can be limited or reduced only to bonds of blood or membership in a particular group, clan or particular culture. When "family" becomes the decisive criterion for what we consider right and good, we end up justifying and even "consecrating" practices that lead to the culture of privilege and exclusion: favouritism, patronage and, as a consequence, corruption. The Master demands that we see beyond this. He says this clearly: anyone incapable of seeing others as brothers or sisters, of showing sensitivity to their lives and situations regardless of their family, cultural or social background "cannot be my disciple" (Lk 14:26). How difficult it can be to share the new life that the Lord offers us when we are continually driven to self-justification, because we think that everything depends exclusively on our efforts and resources! Or, as we heard in the first reading, when the race to amass possessions becomes stifling and overwhelming, which only increases our selfishness and our willingness to use immoral means. Jesus' demand is that we rediscover how to be grateful and to realize that, much more than a personal triumph, our life and our talents are the fruit of a gift, a gift created by God through the silent interplay of so many people whose names we will only know in the kingdom of heaven. With these three demands, the Lord wants to prepare his disciples for the celebration of the coming of the kingdom of God, and to free them from the grave obstacle that, in the end, is one of the worst forms of enslavement: living only for oneself. It is the temptation to fall back into our little universe, and it ends up leaving little room for other people. The Word of God that we have just heard bids us set out once more, daring to take this qualitative leap and to adopt this wisdom of personal detachment as the basis for social justice and for our personal lives. Together we can resist all those forms of idolatry that make us think only of the deceptive securities of power, career, money and of the search for human glory. The demands that Jesus sets before us cease to be burdensome as soon as we begin to taste the joy of the new life that he himself sets before us. It is the joy born of knowing that he is the first to seek us at the crossroads, even when we are lost like the sheep or the prodigal son. May this humble realism – it is a realism, a Christian realism – inspire us to take on great challenges. Let us commit ourselves and let us make the Lord's plans our own.

*Pope Francis, Homily at Holy Mass,  
Antananarivo, Madagascar  
Sunday, 8 September 2019*