



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

As we celebrate Little Christmas, we think of the old Irish tradition of *Nollaig ná mBan* and show our appreciation for all that our mummies and grannies do for our families and for our Church, especially over the Season of Christmas. We thank them for all the love and care they provide at home and indeed for others too. It is tradition in many European countries for Epiphany to chalk over the door 20+C+M+B+20 with a cross etched upon this equation, giving witness to the worship the household holds for Jesus, the Son of God throughout the year ahead.



Children may wish to dress for the 7pm Mass tomorrow (*Monday*) in Raharney as the Three Kings (*The Magi or Wise Men*) and come to worship the infant in the crib, as we honour the visit of the Three Kings. We also welcome parishioners originally from other countries to prepare a Prayer of the Faithful in their own native language and to meet Fr. Mark before Mass in the Sacristy. It would be great to celebrate the revealing of the Child of Bethlehem to All Nations with various languages representing all the nations that today make up our parish faith community.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 53RD WORLD DAY OF PEACE, 1 JANUARY 2020

Peace is a great and precious value, the object of our hope and the aspiration of the entire human family. As a human attitude, our hope for peace is marked by an existential tension that makes it possible for the present, with all its difficulties, to be “lived and accepted if it leads towards a goal, if we can be sure of this goal, and if this goal is great enough to justify the effort of the journey”. Hope is thus the virtue that inspires us and keeps us moving forward, even when obstacles seem insurmountable. Our human community bears, in its memory and its flesh, the scars of ever more devastating wars and conflicts that affect especially the poor and the vulnerable. Entire nations find it difficult to break free of the chains of exploitation and corruption that fuel hatred and violence. Even today, dignity, physical integrity, freedom, including religious freedom, communal solidarity and hope in the future are denied to great numbers of men and women, young and old. Many are the innocent victims of painful humiliation and exclusion, sorrow and injustice, to say nothing of the trauma born of systematic attacks on their people and their loved ones. The terrible trials of internal and international conflicts, often aggravated by ruthless acts of violence, have an enduring effect on the body and soul of humanity. Every war is a form of fratricide that destroys the human family’s innate vocation to brotherhood. War, as we know, often begins with the inability to accept the diversity of others, which then fosters attitudes of aggrandizement and domination born of selfishness and pride, hatred and the desire to caricature, exclude and even destroy the other. War is fueled by a perversion of relationships, by hegemonic ambitions, by abuses of power, by fear of others and by seeing diversity as an obstacle. And these, in turn, are aggravated by the experience of war.

As I observed during my recent Apostolic Journey to Japan, our world is paradoxically marked by “a perverse dichotomy that tries to defend and ensure stability and peace through a false sense of security sustained by a mentality of fear and mistrust, one that ends up poisoning relationships between peoples and obstructing any form of dialogue. Peace and international stability are incompatible with attempts to build upon the fear of mutual destruction or the threat of total annihilation. They can be achieved only on the basis of a global ethic of solidarity and cooperation in the service of a future shaped by interdependence and shared responsibility in the whole human family of today and tomorrow”. Every threatening situation feeds mistrust and leads people to withdraw into their own safety zone. Mistrust and fear weaken relationships and increase the risk of violence, creating a vicious circle that can never lead to a relationship of peace. Even nuclear deterrence can only produce the illusion of security.

We cannot claim to maintain stability in the world through the fear of annihilation, in a volatile situation, suspended on the brink of a nuclear abyss and enclosed behind walls of indifference. As a result, social and economic decisions are being made that lead to tragic situations where human beings and creation itself are discarded rather than protected and preserved. How, then, do we undertake a journey of peace and mutual respect? How do we break the unhealthy mentality of threats and fear? How do we break the current dynamic of distrust? We need to pursue a genuine fraternity based on our common origin from God and exercised in dialogue and mutual trust. The desire for peace lies deep within the human heart, and we should not resign ourselves to seeking anything less than this.

For full text see www.vatican.va

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2020 From 1-9th June 2020 follow in the Footsteps of Jesus and experience the sacred sites of the Gospel. The pilgrimage will begin in Tiberius/Galilee and the surrounding region where Jesus called His disciples and first proclaimed the Good News. Pilgrims will then continue to Jerusalem and take excursions to the wider district, including Bethlehem. Fr. Mark English will be Spiritual Director for this pilgrimage which is provided by Navan Travel. For more details on full itinerary, costs and booking contact 046-9068600; email: info@travalue.ie or check out www.travalue.ie.

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MASS INTENTIONS:

ST. JOSEPH’S, RATHWIRE.

Saturday 6pm Frank Mulvaney
Sunday 11:30am James & Nan Byrne
Wednesday 9am
Friday 9am

Saturday 10am *Anniversaries Occurring*
Saturday 6pm *Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord* Annie, Christy & dec. Heffernan Family
Sunday 11:30am *Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord* Missa pro populo

ST. BRIGID’S, RAHARNEY.

Sunday 10am Missa pro populo
Monday 7pm *Feast of the Epiphany* Missa pro populo
Tuesday 9am
Thursday 9am
Sunday 10am *Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord* Joe Mooney MM

Confessions: Fridays after Mass and Saturdays after the Vigil Mass

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: ST. JOSEPH’S € 215.00 ST. BRIGID’S €285.00
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND (weekly envelopes): €399.00

RIP Wille Lynch, Brutonstown
Margaret Lynam, Raharney
Michael Lynam, England

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

All kindly check in at the sacristy before Mass

ST. BRIGID’S *Ministers of Holy Communion* 10am Peter Fagan, Edward Fox & Martina Mockler. *Minister of the Word:* 10am. Vincent Smyth.

ST. JOSEPH’S *Ministers of Holy Communion* 6pm Anne Maher & Mary Leech. 11:30am Jimmy Garty, Barbara Gough & Johanna Farrell. *Ministers of the Word:* 6pm Paul Dunne. 11:30am Claire Corroon.

**THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF EASTER AND THE MOVEABLE FEASTS:
ON THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY THE HOLY CHURCH ANNOUNCES.**

Know dear brothers and sisters that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God’s mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour.

On the 26th day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the 12th day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 24th day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 31st day of May, the feast of Pentecost.

On the 14th day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the 29th day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen

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ACCORD
For Marriage Preparation Courses or for marriage and relationship counselling www.accord.ie

VOCATIONS CORNER
Ever think about becoming a priest for the Diocese of Meath?
www.dioceseofmeath.ie/vocations