



Fr. Mark English P.P.  
Parochial House Tel: 044-9374127  
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Parish Office: Tel: 044-9374127 Tuesday and Friday

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**MASS INTENTIONS:**

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

**Sunday 11.30am** William & Celena Kane; Baby Noah Gilroy-Gorman

**Wednesday 9am**

**Friday 9am**

**Sunday 11:30am** Missa pro populo

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

**Saturday 6pm** Anna Marie Murphy; Edward McKeogh; Arthur Swords

**Sunday 10am** Mary & Peter Mulkearns & dec. family; Theresa & Matt Mullen; Anne, Frank and Francis McHugh

**Tuesday 9am**

**Thursday 9am**

**Saturday 6pm** Edward & Rose Glennon

**Sunday 10am** Paddy, Rose & John Larkin

**COMMUNION CALLS FOR CHRISTMAS:**  
This Friday Fr. Mark will call to parishioners who are sick and housebound.

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



**MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: ST. JOSEPH'S €180.00 ST. BRIGID'S €395.00**  
**PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND (weekly envelopes): €682.80**



**INTO YOUR HANDS O LORD, WE COMMEND:** Jim Lynch, Scarden



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** in St. Joseph's Tue. 1pm-9pm. & St. Brigid's Wed. 6pm-10pm:  
*Special Diocesan intention of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.*

**TO ASSIST NEXT WEEK**

**ST. BRIGID'S Ministers of Holy Communion:** 6pm Michael Carey, Phil Tiff & Mary Leech 10am. Declan Weir, Noel & Marie Greville. **Ministers of the Word:** 6pm Rebecca Smyth 10am. Roisin Mockler.

**ST. JOSEPH'S Ministers of Holy Communion:** 11:30am. Rose Mullen, Anne Maher & Marie Leavy  
*Minister of the Word:* 11.30. Annette Farrell

*All kindly check in at the sacristy before Mass*

*The new rotas are available in the sacristies*

**GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS** Donations towards the cost of flowers would be most appreciated or indeed if you wish to leave in holly or any kind of fresh red flowers for arrangements please leave them at the church sacristies by Christmas Eve morning. Thanks!



<p><b>KILLUCAN S.V.P.</b> Tel: 086-0706571 Check out St. Vincent's Shop</p>	<p><b>CHILD SAFEGUARDING</b> See the church notice boards and diocesan website.</p>	<p><b>ACCORD</b> For Marriage Preparation Courses or for marriage and relationship counselling <a href="http://www.accord.ie">www.accord.ie</a></p>	<p><b>VOCATIONS CORNER</b> Ever think about becoming a priest for the Diocese of Meath? <a href="http://www.dioceseofmeath.ie/vocations">www.dioceseofmeath.ie/vocations</a></p>
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**COMMUNITY NOTES**

The Apostolic Works Society wish to thank everyone who supported the recent Bingo Night and those who generously donated prizes.

**ADVENT 2018**

**HOLY HOUR WITH RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

*this Sunday evening 16<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm in St. Joseph's, Rathwire*

*Let's stop what we are doing for an hour and come, be reconciled with God and one another! Please encourage family and friends to come back to God with all their hearts as we prepare for Christmas*



**BABY JESUS IN THE CRIB**

As we bring the figure of the Baby Jesus from our family cribs for a blessing at our Masses this *Gaudete Sunday – Joyful Sunday* let us focus on the reality of how Jesus was born in a stable. As we do so let us count our blessings for the comforts we have in the place we call home! Let us also remember in our thoughts and prayers those who have no such comforts in so many parts of our world this Christmas 2018.

*“The Nativity Scene is the suggestive place where we contemplate Jesus, who having assumed our wretchedness, invites us to do likewise through our acts of mercy.” Pope Francis*

**CHRISTMAS CRIBS** As the count-down begins to Christmas we will later this week prepare the cribs in the churches. New cribs are being created and new figures will be on display. We express a big thank you to those parishioners who kindly donated funds towards the purchase of these crib figures. If anyone or any family would like to donate a contribution towards the Christmas Crib fund it would be greatly appreciated.

**JESSE TREE**

Thanks to the children who took the time to make brilliant symbols for the Jesse Tress which has helped us all to understand better the family tree of Jesus. It is interesting to realise the background to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and to comprehend that his ancestors weren't so perfect but lived lives marked with sin and wrong doing no different to any of us or our families. Yet as God worked His divine plan through them, He continues to do so through us with his abundant grace and mercy. *“Prepare you a way for the Lord”*.

“Rejoice always” (1 Thess 5:16), Saint Paul says. This means always being joyful, even when things do not go according to our wishes; but there is that profound joy, which is peace: that too is joy; it is within. And peace is a joy “at the ground level”, but it is a joy. Distress, difficulties and suffering pass through each person's life, we are all familiar with them; and so often the reality that surrounds us seems to be inhospitable and barren, similar to the desert in which the voice of John the Baptist resonated (cf. Jn 1:23). But the very words of the Baptist reveal that our joy rests on a certainty, that this desert is inhabited: “among you” — he says — “stands one whom you do not know” (v. 26). It refers to Jesus, the Father's envoy who comes, as Isaiah stresses, “to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour” (61:1-2). These words, which Jesus will speak in his discourse at the synagogue of Nazareth (cf. Lk 4:16-19), clarify that his mission in the world consists in the liberation from sin and from the personal and social slavery that it produces. He has come to the earth to restore to mankind the dignity and freedom of the Children of God — which only he can communicate — and thereby to give joy.

*Pope Francis, Angelus, St. Peter's Square Third Sunday Advent 2017*