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**MASS INTENTIONS:**

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

**Saturday 6pm** Ethna & William Macken; Marcella Kelly

**Sunday 11:30am** Jimmy Rooney MM; Una Kiernan

**Wednesday 9am**

**Friday 9am**

**Saturday 6pm** Missa pro populo

**Sunday 11:30am** Jim Loran, MM; Angela Cooney

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

**Sunday 10am** Missa pro populo

**Tuesday 9am**

**Thursday 9am**

**Sunday 10am** Rose & Seamus Holdwright

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



**MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: ST. JOSEPH'S € 380.00 ST. BRIGID'S €205.00**  
**PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND (weekly envelopes): €646.50**



**RIP** Paddy Loran, Porterstown  
Michelle Greene Carey, Monilea  
Canice Hayes, Dublin



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 Criostoir O'Brien.

**ST. JOSEPH'S Ministers of Holy Communion** 6pm Anne Maher & Mary Leech. 11:30am Maura McAulliffe, Mary Briody & Sharon Fitzpatrick. Ministers of the Word: 6pm Maureen O'Neill. 11:30am Des Smyth.

**PARISH CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2020**

March 3<sup>rd</sup> First Confession, St. Mary's N.S.  
March 4<sup>th</sup> First Confession, St. Joseph's N.S.  
March 5<sup>th</sup> First Confession St. Patrick's N.S.  
March 19<sup>th</sup> Sacrament of Confirmation  
May 9<sup>th</sup> First Holy Communion, St. Mary's N.S.  
May 17<sup>th</sup> First Holy Communion, St. Patrick's N.S.  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> First Holy Communion, St. Joseph's N.S.  
June 28<sup>th</sup> Cemetery Sunday  
July 14<sup>th</sup> Feast of St Camillus de Lellis

19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020

The Community of St. Camillus  
Tel: 044-9374115

**THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18<sup>TH</sup>-25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020**

*They showed us unusual kindness.* (Acts 28:2) is the theme for this annual ecumenical week. The Christian churches in Malta have prepared the texts and reflections for this year's commemorations. The following is the Introduction taken from the Order of Service for the Ecumenical Prayer for Christian Unity gatherings which will take place around the world during the week. You are invited to our local gathering this Sunday evening at 7pm in All Saints, Church of Ireland, Mullingar.

*"Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, we have assembled here to pray for unity among Christians and reconciliation in the world. Divisions among Christians have existed for many centuries. This causes great pain and is contrary to God's will. We believe in the power of prayer. Together with Christians all over the world, we offer our prayers as we seek to overcome separation. The resources for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by different Christian Churches in Malta. The history of Christianity in this small island nation dates back to the time of the apostles. According to tradition, St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, reached the shores of Malta in the year 60. The narrative describing this eventful and providential episode is conveyed to us in the final two chapters of the Acts of the Apostles. This text signals the beginning of Christianity in Malta – a small country made up of two main inhabited islands, Malta and Gozo, as well as other islets – at the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, halfway between the southern tip of Sicily and Northern Africa. This biblical land lies at the crossroads of civilizations, cultures and religions. Our prayers and reflections, today, and during this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, are centred on the hospitality shown by the islanders towards those who had just been shipwrecked: "They showed us unusual kindness" (cf. Acts 28:2). May the love and respect we show each other today as we pray for Christian unity be with us throughout the whole year."*

**SUNDAY OF THE WORLD OF GOD** Last year on the 30<sup>th</sup> September, the Feast of St. Jerome, (who translated the Bible into Latin), Pope Francis issued this instruction for all the Faithful:

**APOSTOLIC LETTER ISSUED "MOTU PROPRIO" BY THE SUPREME PONTIFF FRANCIS  
"APERUIT ILLIS" INSTITUTING THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

*"He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (Lk 24:45). This was one of the final acts of the risen Lord before his Ascension. Jesus appeared to the assembled disciples, broke bread with them and opened their minds to the understanding of the sacred Scriptures. To them, amid their fear and bewilderment, he unveiled the meaning of the paschal mystery: that in accordance with the Father's eternal plan he had to suffer and rise from the dead, in order to bring repentance and the forgiveness of sins (cf. Lk 24:26.46-47). He then promised to send the Holy Spirit, who would give them strength to be witnesses of this saving mystery (cf. Lk 24:49). The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim: "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ" (Commentary on the Book of Isaiah, Prologue: PL 24,17B). [ ] Consequently, I hereby declare that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God. This Sunday of the Word of God will thus be a fitting part of that time of the year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity. This is more than a temporal coincidence: the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God has ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity. The various communities will find their own ways to mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity. It is important, however, that in the Eucharistic celebration the sacred text be enthroned, in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God's word. Full text www.vatican.va*

**To celebrate this Sunday of the Word of God, the children preparing for their Confirmation and First Holy Communion have been asked to bring their family bible to Mass next weekend for a special blessing.** Everyone is welcome to bring their bible too as together we grow in appreciation for the treasured sacred text of God. If you haven't already got a bible at home, please do purchase one during the week and bring it next weekend.

**WEEKDAY MASS** As we begin this New Year 2020 many people take on to do new things or get into a new routine. How about putting daily Mass into your week! You are invited to join with us for the 9am Mass every Tuesday & Thursday in Raharney and every Wednesday & Friday in Rathwire. If you are a parent dropping your children to school, perhaps bringing your family to Mass before school might become part of your daily routine. If you are retired or on your day-off work, then maybe you could factor morning Mass into your day! We have so much to be thankful for and there is always a need to offer prayers for all in our community; attending daily Mass enables us to thank God and seek intercession for our needs and that of the whole world! It is a most special way to become more familiar with the Scriptures through the Readings at Mass and also to get to know other parishioners who come together every morning for Mass.

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2020** From 1-9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 follow in the Footsteps of Jesus and experience the sacred sites of the Gospel. Fr. Mark 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.

**LEGION OF MARY** Interested in joining us! We meet every Tuesday at 7pm in the sacristy of St. Joseph's Church, Rathwire. We are a prayer group who also engage with pastoral outreach as we continue the mission of the Legion of Mary, a catholic movement founded by lay people here in Ireland which has spread around the world. Come and see if you'd like to be a part of this service to God's people under the patronage of Our Lady.



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