



St. Patrick's Parish, Doon—18th December 2016

Fr. Jimmy Donnelly P.P. (086) 2622787 / (061) 380165

Website: www.doonbleisce.com

Newsletter email: doonparishnewsletter@eircom.net

Fr. Jimmy email: doonparishpriest@eircom.net

Dear Parishioner, Thought for the week: While Luke focuses on the birth of Jesus from Mary's point of view, Matthew's Gospel tells the story from Joseph's. Joseph must have been extremely confused when he learned of Mary's pregnancy. He plans to quietly 'dismiss' her so as not to put her in danger. Mary's options were bleak without Joseph; her fate is very much in his hands. He is immediately obedient and says yes to his call. Joseph welcomes Mary and gives this child the name he is instructed: Jesus.

We hear very little about Joseph in the Gospels and he is sometimes a forgotten figure in the Jesus story, yet his decision to follow God's call is hugely important as he fulfils his promise to protect Mary from danger. Joseph's 'yes' to God sets him on a dangerous path. He must protect his family and this will mean later leaving their homeland, becoming refugees fleeing the terror of Herod. Each time God speaks to Joseph, it is through his dreams. The Word of God which comes to Joseph gives him a new meaning and a new mission in life. Today, can you reflect on how God speaks to you? In what ways do you hear God's word? And when you hear God's word, what is your response? When you have said 'yes', where has that led you? Today we can pray for those who are faced with tough decisions and who must chose the more difficult path. It requires strength and bravery.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas.

Offertory Collection: Last Sunday's collection was €1,143, many thanks.

Weekly Envelopes for the coming year: Distributors can collect their area envelopes from the sacristy after Masses from this weekend. There is a Parish Calendar and a Morning Prayer card for each household. Thank you for your help. Thanks to all who contribute to the collections during the year. Any outstanding dues would be gratefully received. If you don't have an envelope box and would like one please contact Fr Jimmy. **All cheques made payable to Doon Parochial A/C.**

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers: 24th/25th Dec.:

Readers:

6:30pm Niamh Kelly & Sarah Collins

9:30am Tom Cummins

11am Kay Ryan

Servers 24th/25th Dec.:

6:30pm Ciara & Caitlin O'Grady, Oran Ryan, Dylan Byrne

11am Sean Og Blackmore, Aoibheann Flint, Chloe Ryan, Cathal & Sean Sweeney

Eucharistic Ministers:

Joan Hogan/Mary Hayes

Eilin Ui Chuimin/Judith Ryan

Marion Murphy/Noreen O'Dwyer

Anniversaries/Months Mind:

17th/18th Dec.:

6:30pm Mary Jo Griffin, Carrigbeg & Glasha Talann.

Fr. Tom Ryan, former PP

9:30am -

11am -

24th/25th Dec.:

Mass for people of the Parish.

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Recently Deceased: Pray for Con Hayes Carrowholly, Westport Mayo and formerly of Doon whose funeral took place during the week.

Presentation to Fr. Tony Ryan: a very sincere "Thank You" to all who attended the farewell function in The Venue, Dundrum & to all Parishioners for their outstanding kindness & generosity & support.

Mulkear Outreach Group - Chernobyl Children International: Annual Wren Walk for Chernobyl takes place on St. Stephen's Day @ 1pm from the Pastoral Centre & through Kilmoylan Woods. Refreshments afterwards and all monies raised will go towards the upkeep of our Home of Hope in Belarus. Contact Mattie Collins on (087) 6341038 for further details.

Doon CBS—Carol Singing: The Boys will be carol singing before all Masses this weekend. Proceeds to Doon Lourdes Fund.

East Branch of the Irish Red Cross: are placing a remembrance tree in Doon Church. On this tree you can place a Remember Me Ribbon for loved ones that have passed away, the sick and those living abroad this Christmas. Ribbons cost €2 each & can be purchased at the local shops. On the 1st Jan. 2017 the trees will be removed with a Mass being offered up for everyone.

Old Time Gaels of East Limerick: Congratulations to Jim Allis who will receive a lifelong services to the GAA award, to Br. James Dormer who will receive the Tom O' Brien Personality Award and Br. Michael Cunningham who will receive a Special Merit Award. Presentation on Fri. 30th Dec. 2016 @ 8.30 in the Millennium Centre Caherconlish, in association with St. Ailbes Credit Union. All welcome.

Doon GAA: Lotto: Mon. 12th Dec. no's drawn 9-24-25-28, no winner. Next week's draw will be held in Moore's Bar with a jackpot of €10,000. **5K Annual Walk/Run** will take place New Years Day 2017. Full Details to be announced shortly. **National Draw Tickets:** are currently been sold by members at €10 each, all proceeds from the draw are retained by the club.

Membership: can be paid to registrar Patricia Murphy.

Dates for the Diary: Mon. 19th @ 8:30pm: Advent Penitential Service Visiting priests will be present. Tue. 20th @ 7.30pm: CBS Primary School Christmas Nativity in The Church. Christmas Eve: Vigil Mass @ 7:30pm Confessions from 6:30pm. Christmas Day: Masses 9.30 & 11.00am. There will be no Mass the week after Christmas 26th - 30th Dec.

Family Crib Prayer: On 22nd Oct., formal preparations began for the 9th World Meeting of Families 2018 and these are being led by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin as President and host, and by Father Timothy Bartlett in his role as Secretary General. Last May, Pope Francis chose "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World" as the theme for this major pastoral celebration which will take place in Dublin from 22 to 26 August 2018. At their meeting, bishops encouraged the faithful to pray the Prayer to the Holy Family which has been written by Pope Francis and which he published in this year's apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)*: Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.