Fourth Sunday of Advent 20th December 2015

Issue No. 912

NEXT BAPTISM **PREPARATION MEETING** - will be at 8pm, on Tuesday, 12th January 2016, for the celebration of Baptism on Sunday, 17th January.

THE DEEP END - TAKE A BREATHER

Grant peace; For a space let there be no roar of wheels and voices,

No din of steel and stone and fire.

Let us cleanse ourselves from the sweat and dirt,

St. Francis Hospice is deeply grateful to the people of Raheny for ongoing support, and especially

to all the parishioners who contributed to the

Camino to raise these funds. With a cost of

which it expects to have early in 2016.

all your intentions.

raising of the enormous sum of €11,000+, and to

Fr Michael and his companions who walked the

€1,500 per bed, the funds will purchase 7 beds -

The existing hospice beds, in full use for over 20

years, have seen better days. The new beds, elec-

I tronically controlled, will provide more comfort

Let us be hushed...

(from 'Retreat' by Richard Aldington)

Let us be hushed. In all the madness of the festive season, we need some peace and quiet and time to reflect. Mary was caught up in the excitement of being pregnant, and wonderment at what the angel had told her. She went as quickly as she could to visit Elizabeth. Perhaps she needed a bit of 'head space' to reflect on everything that was happening. And then we have this precious moment when Elizabeth greets her, and describes how the child in her womb leapt for joy. Like Elizabeth, we await the arrival of Jesus with joy. Like Mary, we are filled with wonder.

As we count down to Christmas, we may need a little time out. Make a little space to pray and reflect today. Wrap up warm and head out for a walk, visit your local church in the quiet of the afternoon, or take a few moments to yourself at home to get away from the noise.

(Tríona Doherty, Athlone, Co Roscommon. Email trionad@gmail.com

BENEMERENTI MEDAL

Congratulations to John Lowth who will be awarded the Benemerenti Medal at the 11.30am Mass this Sunday, in recognition of 40 years dedicated and loyal service to Rahenv Parish.

History: The medal was first awarded by Pope Pius VI (1775 – 1799) to recognise military merit. In 1831, under Pope Gregory XVI (1831 – 1846) a special Benemerenti Medal was struck to reward those who fought courageously in the papal army at Ferrara, Bologna and Vienna. In 1925, the concept of awarding this medal as a mark of recognition to people in service of the Church, civil and military, lay and clergy, became acceptable. Members of the Swiss Guard may receive it for three years of faithful service. Appearance: The current version of the medal was designed by Pope Paul VI. It is a gold Greek Cross depicting Christ with His hand raised in blessing. On the left arm of the cross is the tiara with the crossed keys symbol of the papacy. On the right arm is the papal coat of arms. The medal is suspended from a yellow and white ribbon, the papal colours.

CHURCH OF OUR LADY MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE

Please pray for

the souls of: Peter

Haves and Patrick

Healy- who died re-

cently. May they rest

in peace. **P**

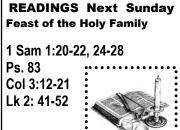
the happy repose of

Enda Flynn, Martin

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MASS INTENTIONS

| Vigil | 6.00 pm | Seamus Ó Seachnasai (Anniv.) Paddy & Patrick Meade (Anniv.) |
|--------|------------------------------|---|
| Sun. | 8.30 am | Pro Populo |
| | 10.00 am | Lily Gallagher (Anniv.) Kevin Stratford (Anniv.) |
| | 11.30 am | Eddie Fagan (Anniv.) Evelyn O'Sullivan (Anniv.) Jack & Michael Matthews (Anniv.) |
| Mon. | 10.00am | Mary Kennedy (Anniv) |
| Tues. | 10.00am | Patrick Kennedy (Anniv.) |
| Weds. | 10.00am | John Power (Anniv.) Patrick & Julie Egan (Anniv) |
| Thurs. | 10.00am 6.00pm 9.00pm | Kate Byrne (Anniv.) Mary Browne (Anniv.) Children's Mass for Christmas Concelebrated Vigil Mass (with choir) |
| Fri. | 8.30am 10.00am 11.30am | THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JE- SUS CHRIST Masses for intentions of all parishioners |
| Sat. | 11.00am | Pacifico Borza (Anniv.) |
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and greater ease of use for patients and staff. I The manager and staff at St. Francis Hospice wish all a very peaceful Christmas. Mass will be offered in the Hospice Oratory for