

**NEXT BAPTISM
PREPARATION MEETING**

- will be at 8pm, on Tuesday, 5th December, for the celebration of Baptism on Sunday, December 10th.



**CHURCH OF OUR LADY
MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE**

Phone: (01) 831 3232

e-mail: info@rahenyparish.ie

Website: www.rahenyparish.ie

MASS INTENTIONS

Vigil	6.00 pm	Tommy King (Anniv.) Sheila Gahan (Anniv.) John Curley & deceased members of the Curley Family Michael & Ester McKenna (Anniv.) Frank & Mary Spollen (Anniv.)
Sun.	8.30 am	Fr John Leahy (Rec.Dec.) Robert O'Connor (Rec.Dec.) John O'Sullivan (Anniv.)
	10.00am	Brid Rush (Rec.Dec.) Billy Power (Rec.Dec.) Paddy & Nancy Dwyer (Anniv.) Annie Kavanagh (Anniv.) John Yilmaz (Anniv.)
	11.30am	Joe Lowe (Month Mind) Marie Baker (Anniv.) Margaret & Patrick McCaffery (Anniv.) Vivienne Desmond (Anniv.)
Mon.	10.00am	Jack Faughnan (Rec.Dec.)
Tues.	10.00am	Tom Ryan (Anniv.)
Wed.	10.00am	Nuala Köetter (Anniv.)
Thur	10.00am	Claire Hartnett (Rec.Dec.)
	6.00pm	Brid Rush (Rec.Dec.)
	VIGIL	Frances O'Connor (Rec.Dec.) Gerard McCarthy (Anniv.)
Fri.		FEAST of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
	10.00am	Patrick Kennedy (Rec.Dec.) Mary Dougan (Rec.Dec.) Julie & Patrick Egan (Anniv.) Kay Byrne (Anniv.)
	1.00pm	Celine Looby (Rec.Dec.) Brid Rush (Rec.Dec.) Kevin Kavanagh (Rec.Dec.)

THE DEEP END: Keep Awake

We are surrounded these days by the commercial 'circus' of Christmas shopping and 'getting ready'. It might seem far removed from the story that we are celebrating; the story of a poor refugee family 2,000 years ago who had a very special delivery. The story of God choosing to intervene in human history in such an intimate and shocking way; God choosing to be born into a situation of poverty and danger. It is good to ask ourselves at this time of year, what are we getting ready for? Advent is a wonderful season which invites us to use our waiting to grow spiritually. We are invited to make space for ourselves and for God in the midst of the rushing. Can we stop and be still and ask ourselves: 'Where do I see God being born around me today?' In those I meet? In kind words and gestures? In my community? In my own heart?

Have a more 'aware' Advent. Be mindful in all you do. Be aware in your rushing, be aware as you stand in that queue, be aware as you eat, be aware of your feelings, be aware of your thoughts. By watching all of this we become more awake, more able to recognise our true selves and more able to see God being born continuously each day within us and around us. Our awe and wonder grows and we can be prepared for the coming of the Gift himself. How we prepare determines what will be.

Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)

The SHARE collection on next Sunday, 10th December will be replaced by the annual diocesan appeal for St Vincent De Paul. A Holy Hour, including Adoration and Rosary, takes place on Thursdays, after 10am Mass in the Lady Chapel.

READINGS Next Sunday

2nd Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Ps 84

2 pt 3:8-14

Mk 1:1-8



Advent Prayer Evenings in Manresa (7:30 - 9pm on Tuesdays)

5th, 12th and 19th December (Donation - no booking required).

Prepare for Christmas through our sessions of guided prayer on each Tuesday of Advent. These evenings create 'sacred spaces' for you to open your heart to the Word of God, helping you to prepare to celebrate God's great love for us. You can come for any one evening, or all, as you wish. There's no need to book. Just come along yourself, or bring a family member, a friend or anybody who you think may benefit from an evening of prayer and meditation on the events of Advent and Christmas. All are very welcome.

Preparation in Manresa for Christmas: Families with Children

3pm - 5 pm on Sunday 17th December (No booking required)

This afternoon is an opportunity for adults and children together to reflect and pray, to attend to what is really at the heart of the Christmas message. Parents or guardians are invited to bring children along to Manresa for an afternoon of carol singing, storytelling and reflection on the meaning of Christmas - and to end the afternoon with a little party!

