

MASS INTENTIONS

The Newsletter team wishes all its readers a most blessed and happy Christmas.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting will take place on Monday Dec. 22nd at 2.30pm in the side chapel. All welcome.

MUSINGS

Today's Gospel recounts the story of the Annunciation, in which Mary is told that she will conceive and bear the Christ-Child. Many traditions have grown up around this scene and have influenced both eastern and western Christian art. One of these depicts Mary spinning a veil for the temple when the angel appears. This will be the same temple veil that will be torn in two at Christ's death. In his Great Canon, the eighth-century bishop, Andrew of Crete, speaks of this scene in the following way: 'As from purple silk, O undefiled Virgin, the spiritual robe of Emmanuel, his flesh, was woven in thy womb.'

Salvador Ryan
St Patrick's College, Maynooth



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

Phone: (01) 831 3232
e-mail: oldgraheny@eircom.net

THE DEEP END • Yes, mother

We sometimes distance ourselves from the real encounter here. As Margaret Silf notes, we sometimes 'put Mary into a glass case, surround her with flowers, and avoid the personal consequences of this moment'. And there could have been very severe consequences for Mary, even death by stoning. Mary's yes is an example of completely surrendering to God's will. She surrenders her motherhood, her entire life to God.

We can think today of those who mother against the odds in our world. In places where there is no food; no clean water; the threat of disease, of torture; those who watch their children suffer from addiction or violence. And we remember those who are the angel Gabriel's of the world, bringing good news and hope that 'nothing is impossible to God' 'Hail Mary, woman of Nazareth, home maker, cleaner, preparer of food, fetcher of water, God is with you in your everyday excursions in this ordinary town. Blessed are you among women and blessed indeed are women in their everyday lives, in the confines of family life, in the ambivalence of decision making, in the silences, and blessed are the fruits of all our labours'. (Janet Lees)

Jane Mellett .Email janemellett@yahoo.com

READINGS - Next

Sunday

Gen. 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Ps. 104
Heb. 11: 8,11-12,17-19
Lk. 2: 22-40



Vigil	6.00 pm	Martin & John Heneghan and Nellie Curran (Anniv.)
Sun.	8.30 am	Pro Populo
	10.00 am	Jack & Michael Matthews (Anniv.)
	11.30 am	Evelyn O'Sullivan (Anniv.)
Mon.	10.00am	Dec'd. members of Dodd & Clarke families
Tues.	10.00am	Health Intention
Wed.	10.00am	Deceased members of the O'Leary family

CHRISTMAS EVE

	6.00pm	Family Mass with Children's Choir
	9.00pm	Concelebrated Mass

Thurs.

CHRISTMAS DAY

	8.30am	Mass for all parishioners
	10.00am	Mass for all parishioners
	11.30am	Intentions (with Folk Group)
Fri.		St. Stephen's Day
	10.00am	Mary Browne (Anniv.)
Sat.	10.00am	Emer & Eugene Curtis (Anniv.)

GETTING MARRIED SOON?

"Week-End Away" preparing for marriage. Get away from it all. Have a Pre-Marriage course with a difference, focussing on your relationship. Contact: Esker, Athenry, (091) 844549, OR www.redemptoristsesker.ie OR search for "Esker Couples" on Facebook.

