

CHURCH OF OUR LADY MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE, Raheny

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle B Week 1



We welcome **Darragh Sean Ratchford, Jack Finn Woods, Tomás James Sheeran and Luke Patrick Traynor**, all of whom were baptised in our church last weekend. Congratulations to all the families.

Family Mass Team Meeting

A meeting of the Family Mass team will be held this Monday, Feb. 6th at 8pm in the church (entrance via side door, Station Road)

Anyone who would like to be involved in preparing the Family Mass liturgies over the next few months is welcome to attend.

Mass of Healing and Anointing of the Sick

There will be a Mass of Healing and Anointing of the Sick in our Parish Church on Sunday 12th February at 11.30am.

The **Annual Collection of ACCORD**, The Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be made at all masses on next weekend 11th/12th February. The collection for ACCORD will replace the usual SHARE collection. ACCORD Dublin needs your support. Please give generously next weekend. Thank you.

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MASS INTENTIONS

Vigil	6.00pm	Maureen Stott (Month's Mind) John Mooney (Month's Mind) Marcella Baldwin (Month's Mind)
Sun	8.30am	Pro Populo
	10.00am	Dinny & Nancy O'Connell (Anniv.)
	11.30am	Agnes Traynor
Mon.	10.00am	Vincent & Carmel Carney (Rec. Dec'd)
Tues.	10.00am	Joseph & Bridget Carney (Anniv.)
Wed.	10.00am	Deceased members of the Cole and Foran families
Thurs.	10.00am	Dick & Mildred Burke (Anniv.)
Fri.	10.00am	Kevin Nally (Rec. Dec'd)
Sat.	9.40am	Morning Prayer of the Church
	10.00am	Aubrey O'Brien (Anniv.)

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Teresa McEvoy**, Grange Park Crescent. May she rest in peace. Amen.

Feastdays This Week

Monday 6th February - *Ss Paul Miki and Companions*

Friday 10th February - *St. Scholastica*

Sincere thanks to all parishioners who contributed to last weekend's **SHARE** collection.

Next Sunday's Readings : Lev 13:1-2, 44-46. Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11, R/ v 7. Cor 10:31-11:1. Mk 1:40.45

The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the temple is also known as Candlemas Day. The Christian origin of the blessing of candles is found in the gospel of the feast, where Simeon taking the infant Jesus in his arms said of him **"You are a light to the revelation of the gentiles and the glory of the people of Israel"**.

The feast commenced in Jerusalem in the 4th century, spread to the Church of Rome in the 6th century and to the Western Church in the 8th century. Some historians point to the origin of Candlemas Day and the procession of lighted candles that should accompany it, to the common practice of absorbing into church ritual and Christianising pagan practices, in this case the festival of 'Lupercalia' the pagan festival which took place in the beginning of spring, and in which the carrying of lighted candles was a feature. On this day many people bring candles to the church for either church or home use. It is a common practice to keep '*blessed candles*' in one's home for use on a table altar that is used when the blessed Sacrament is brought to the housebound. There is also an old Irish custom of placing a *blessed lighted candle* in the hand of one who is dying (make sure if you do this that there is no oxygen in the room!).

The meaning and symbolism of the *blessed lighted candle* as **the light of Christ, throwing light into the darkness of evil and sin** should remind each one of us of our own responsibility of being 'a light to others' to bring them by the example of our own lives to the knowledge of God's love for each and every one of us.

Mons. Colm Gallagher