

Sunday 31st December 2017

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Cycle B Week 1 Newsletter Issue No. 1017

The **Parish Office** will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2018 at 10a.m.

World Day of Peace ~ 1st January 2018

The theme for World Day of Peace 2018, chosen by Pope Francis, is *'Migrants & Refugees – men and women in search of hope.'*

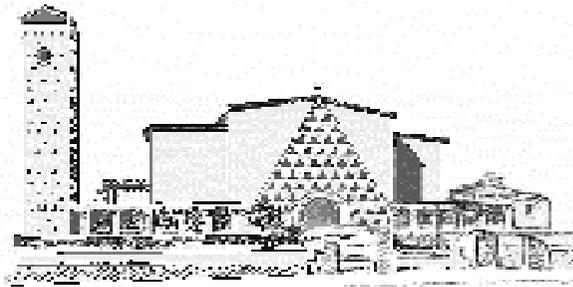
Saturday next, **6th January 2018** is the **Feast of the Epiphany** and is a holy day of obligation. Masses for this feast will be celebrated in our Parish at 6p.m. Vigil (Friday), 10a.m. and 1p.m. on Saturday.

Refurbishment of the Sanctuary

Plans outlining ideas for the refurbishment of the Sanctuary area of our Church are on display in the Old Baptistry. Please feel free to have a look at them and to pass on any observations to Linda in the Parish Office.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time,
Many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.
Amen.



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Mother of Divine Grace, Raheny**

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THE DEEP END: The Presentation in the Temple

Simeon and Anna welcome Mary, Joseph and Jesus to the Temple. They have been waiting for this moment. What kind of Messiah were they expecting? Simeon welcomes this family who must have seemed 'ordinary' and poor. He can see that this child will be 'a light ... for the glory of your people'. Already there is a note of reversal; of boundaries being stretched. Mary is told that this child 'is destined for the fall and the rising of many'. There will be trouble ahead; there will be challenges for many. Simeon knows that many thoughts will be exposed, what people really think will be revealed, who they welcome and who they exclude will be challenged; for God's invitation and welcome have no boundaries. This will be uncomfortable for some. Anna rejoices for all those who were looking for a change, for hope; she knows that this child will overturn systems of oppression and exclusion. Luke is interested in how humanity responds to the gospel. If Jesus' message is really good news, then this requires a shakeup; a shakeup which challenges comfortable assumptions about the way God works.

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Mass Intentions for this week

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| Sat: | 6.00p.m. | Maureen Walsh (Anniv.) Robert Brazil (Anniv.) |
| Sun: | 8.30a.m. | Sr. Anne O'Neill John & Eva Flood (Anniv.) |
| | 10.00a.m. | Marian Fenton (Anniv.) |
| | 11.30a.m. | Thomas & Susan Comerford, their son Tom and deceased family members |
| Mon: | 10.00a.m. | WORLD DAY OF PEACE |
| Tues: | 10.00a.m. | Dermot Fitzsimons (Rec. Dec'd) |
| Wed: | 10.00a.m. | Catherine Keogh (Rec. Dec'd) |
| Thurs: | 10.00a.m. | Marita Grace (Rec. Dec'd) |
| Fri: | 10.00a.m. | Pat Fitzpatrick (Rec. Dec'd) |
| | 6.00p.m. | Vigil for Feast of the Epiphany |
| Sat: | 10.00a.m. | FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY |
| | 1.00p.m. | FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY |

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of parishioners **Peter Daly** and **Michael Nolan** whose funerals took place in our parish church this week. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Next Sunday's Readings (The Baptism of the Lord):
Is 55:1-11. Is 12:2-6. R. v.3. 1 Jn 5:1-9. Mk 1:7-11

All services from our Parish Church are streamed live on our website www.rahenyparish.ie...just click on the *Watch Us Live* tab. The Parish Newsletter is also published weekly on the parish website.....click on the *Parish Bulletin* tab.

The Priests of the Parish and the Newsletter Team wish all our parishioners and readers a very Happy and Peaceful New Year. We hope that 2018 will bring new beginnings, new hope, new joy and many blessings to all. Athbhliain fé mhaise daoibh go léir.