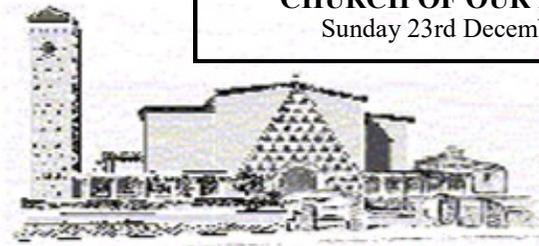


CHURCH OF OUR LADY MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE, Raheny

Sunday 23rd December 2018 Fourth Sunday of Advent Cycle B Week 4



Parish : 01 831 3232 / Email : info@rahenyparish.ie
www. rahenyparish.ie / Issue No. 1068

THE DEEP END: Reaching Out

Have you ever wondered why Mary travelled to visit Elizabeth? At first it is the excitement that comes through. Caught up in her wonderment at being pregnant and the news that her cousin is also expecting, Mary hurries off as quickly as she can. Perhaps the journey gives her time to reflect on everything that is happening. The precious moment when Elizabeth greets her is a lovely glimpse of the close friendship between the two women.

We know that Elizabeth is advanced in years, and that she and her husband Zechariah had not expected to ever have a child. After this encounter, we are told that Mary stays on with Elizabeth for three months; as a younger woman, it is fair to assume that she is there to help and support her cousin.

Pope Francis has described the visit as a lesson in service and joy, as well as demonstrating great courage. 'Being of service and reaching out to others both require going out from themselves: going out to serve and meet others, to embrace another person. Through Mary's service towards others, through that encounter, our Lord's promise is renewed and makes it happen now, just as it did then.'

With just two days to go until Christmas it is a busy time. But it is also a time that offers many opportunities to reach out, whether it is to build bridges with family members, offer our time to someone who is lonely, or support a friend or neighbour who finds this time of year difficult.

*Triona Doherty
Athlone, Co Roscommon*

Thank you for your generosity during our Toy Appeal. The toys were delivered to the Dochas Unit and helped make a very happy Christmas for the children attending the Christmas Party there.

We wish to thank Raheny Folk Group and Dolce for their wonderful performance last Tuesday night. €1,300 was collected for Women's Refuge. Thank you for your generosity.

A parish meeting reflecting on the challenge of renewing our faith, as requested by Archbishop Martin, will take place next January in the church. Your input would be greatly appreciated.

Please pray for the happy repose of **Thomas Stenson** and **Richard Roche** who died this week. May they rest in peace. We also remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time. AMEN.

Next Sunday's readings 30th December :
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
1 Sm 1@20-22, 24-28. Ps 83:203, 5-6, 9-10, R/ v
5. 1 Jn 3@1-2, 21-24. Lk 2:41-52 OR Eccles
(Sir) 3:2-6, 12-14. Ps 127:1-5, R/ cr. V 1. Col
3:12-21. Lk 2:41-52

*The Parish Newsletter Team
wishes all our readers a very
blessed and peaceful Christmas.*



MASS INTENTIONS

Vigil	6.00pm	Peter Daly (1st Anniv.) Rose Dardis (Anniv.) Jerry O'Riordan (Anniv.) Gwen Andreucetti (Anniv.) Gerard Hanafin (Anniv.)
Sun	8.30am	Maeve O'Connor (Rec. Dec'd) Bill O'Keefe (Remembrance) Joseph and Philomena Whelehan (Anniv.)
	10.00am	Joe Lowe (Remembrance) Martin, John and Heather Heneghan (Anniv.) Nellie Curran (Anniv.) Sinead Montague (Remembrance)
	11.30am	Rose and Frank Farrell (Anniv.) Eddie Fagan (Anniv.) Catherine and Jack Mathews and their sons Michael and Paul (Anniv.) Evelyn O'Sullivan (Anniv.) Marian Fenton (Anniv.)
Mon.	10.00am	Parishioners Intentions Mary Browne (Anniv.)
	6.00pm	Children's Mass for Christmas
	9.00pm	Concelebrated Mass with Choir
Tues.	8.30am	The Nativity of Our Lord
	10.00am	Jesus Christ
	11.30am	Masses for Intentions of Parishioners
Wed.	11.00am	St Stephen's Day
Thurs.	10.00am	Health Intentions Gemma Robinson and deceased members of the Robinson and Crosbie Families (Anniv.)
Fri.	10.00am	Eugene, Emer and Annette Curtis (Anniv.)