

**NEXT BAPTISM
PREPARATION MEETING**
- will be on **Thursday, 9th January**
at 8pm, for Baptisms on Sunday,
12th January 2020.



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	Seamus Canavan (1st. Anniv.) Robert Brazil (Anniv.) Eugene, Emer & Annette Curtis (Anniv.)
Sun.	8.30 am	Brendan Kerrigan (Rec. Dec.) Charles Fitzsimons (Rem.) Fr. John Leahy (2nd. Anniv.)
	10.00am	Bridget Weston (Rec. Dec.) Patrick Kavanagh (Rec. Dec.) Health Intention
	11.30am	Tom & Ann Whelan (Anniv.) Carmel Heron (Anniv.) John & Bridget Byrne (Anniv.) Kate Byrne (Anniv.)
Mon	10.00am	Parishioners' Intentions Kevin Jones (Rec. Dec.)
Tues.	10.00am	Patrick Kavanagh (Rec. Dec.)
Wed 1st Jan. 2020	10.00am	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God & World Day for Peace Margaret Dodd (Anniv.) Colette Clarke (Anniv.)
Thur	10.00am	Special Intention
Fri.	10.00am	FIRST FRIDAY Tom Ryan

Displaced

One of the unsettling things about my journey, mentally, physically, and emotionally, was that I wasn't sure when or where it was going to end. (A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah)
We like to imagine, sometimes, what the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was like. What was the daily routine? How did they eat, work, pray together? There are very few details in the Gospels about Jesus' early years, other than the accounts of his birth and one story detailing the time He went missing in Jerusalem and was found in the Temple.

But, in today's Gospel, we get an insight into some of the early challenges faced by this little family. While Jesus was still small, Joseph was urged in a dream to escape with the family to Egypt as Jesus' life was under threat. Can you imagine what that experience was like for them – leaving their home and fleeing to another country, not knowing when, or if, it would be safe to return? Sadly, millions of people in our world do not have to imagine this type of experience – they live it every day. Like many others, the Holy Family was forced to leave home due to persecution – the very definition of "refugee" or "displaced person".

This painful human experience was at the heart of the family experience of Jesus. Later, in St. Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells us that when we welcome the stranger, we welcome Him. Compassion and welcome for strangers, particularly those who are vulnerable, was a key element of Jesus' life and ministry. It should be central to ours, too.

e-mail: trionad@gmail.com

Unwanted Christmas Gifts

Before you start looking for the receipts to exchange unwanted Christmas gifts, why not put them to really good use, supporting one of Dublin's busiest homeless charities?

Staff at St. Mary's Pro Cathedral in Dublin are urging people not to exchange unwanted Christmas gifts this week – but to donate them to Crosscare who will give them to those most in need, families, young people living on the margins of life in Dublin and the homeless. Pro Cathedral staff are available to take in unwanted gifts tomorrow, Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st, from 10am to 4pm. They also ask that people do not bring food nor any perishable items.

The Parish Newsletter Team would like to wish parishioners all the blessings of the Christmas season and every happiness for 2020.

This week's calendar:

- Tues. 31st: St. Sylvester, Pope
- Thurs. 2nd: St. Basil the Great; St. Gregory Nazianzen - bishops and doctors of the Church
- Fri. 3rd: St Elizabeth Ann Seton (first person born in the U.S. to be canonised)

**READINGS Next Sunday
(2nd Sunday of Christmas)**

Sir. 24:1-16
Psalm: 147, 12-20
Eph. 1:3-18
Jn. 1:1-18

