

**NEXT BAPTISM  
PREPARATION MEETING**  
- will be at 8pm, on Tuesday, 12th  
January 2016, for the celebration of  
Baptism on Sunday, 17th January.



CHURCH OF OUR LADY  
MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE

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### MASS INTENTIONS

Vigil	6.00 pm	Seamus Ó Seachnasai (Anniv.) Paddy & Patrick Meade (Anniv.)
Sun.	8.30 am	Pro Populo
	10.00 am	Lily Gallagher (Anniv.) Kevin Stratford (Anniv.)
	11.30 am	Eddie Fagan (Anniv.) Evelyn O'Sullivan (Anniv.) Jack & Michael Matthews (Anniv.)
Mon.	10.00am	Mary Kennedy (Anniv)
Tues.	10.00am	Patrick Kennedy (Anniv.)
Weds.	10.00am	John Power (Anniv.) Patrick & Julie Egan (Anniv)
Thurs.	10.00am	Kate Byrne (Anniv.) Mary Browne (Anniv.)
	6.00pm	Children's Mass for Christmas
	9.00pm	Concelebrated Vigil Mass (with choir)
Fri.	8.30am	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JE-
	10.00am	SUS CHRIST
	11.30am	Masses for intentions of all parishioners
Sat.	11.00am	Pacifico Borza (Anniv.)

### THE DEEP END - TAKE A BREATH

Grant peace; For a space let there be no roar of wheels and voices,  
No din of steel and stone and fire.

Let us cleanse ourselves from the sweat and dirt,

Let us be hushed...

(from 'Retreat' by Richard Aldington)

Let us be hushed. In all the madness of the festive season, we need some peace and quiet and time to reflect. Mary was caught up in the excitement of being pregnant, and wonderment at what the angel had told her. She went as quickly as she could to visit Elizabeth. Perhaps she needed a bit of 'head space' to reflect on everything that was happening. And then we have this precious moment when Elizabeth greets her, and describes how the child in her womb leapt for joy. Like Elizabeth, we await the arrival of Jesus with joy. Like Mary, we are filled with wonder.

As we count down to Christmas, we may need a little time out. Make a little space to pray and reflect today. Wrap up warm and head out for a walk, visit your local church in the quiet of the afternoon, or take a few moments to yourself at home to get away from the noise.

(Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co Roscommon. Email trionad@gmail.com)

**St. Francis Hospice** is deeply grateful to the people of Raheny for ongoing support, and especially to all the parishioners who contributed to the raising of the enormous sum of €11,000+, and to Fr Michael and his companions who walked the Camino to raise these funds. With a cost of €1,500 per bed, the funds will purchase 7 beds - which it expects to have early in 2016.

The existing hospice beds, in full use for over 20 years, have seen better days. The new beds, electronically controlled, will provide more comfort and greater ease of use for patients and staff.

The manager and staff at St. Francis Hospice wish all a very peaceful Christmas.

Mass will be offered in the Hospice Oratory for all your intentions.

### BENEMERENTI MEDAL

**Congratulations** to John Lowth who will be awarded the Benemerenti Medal at the 11.30am Mass this Sunday, in recognition of 40 years dedicated and loyal service to Raheny Parish.

**History:** The medal was first awarded by Pope Pius VI (1775 - 1799) to recognise military merit. In 1831, under Pope Gregory XVI (1831 - 1846) a special Benemerenti Medal was struck to reward those who fought courageously in the papal army at Ferrara, Bologna and Vienna. In 1925, the concept of awarding this medal as a mark of recognition to people in service of the Church, civil and military, lay and clergy, became acceptable. Members of the Swiss Guard may receive it for three years of faithful service.

**Appearance:** The current version of the medal was designed by Pope Paul VI. It is a gold Greek Cross depicting Christ with His hand raised in blessing. On the left arm of the cross is the tiara with the crossed keys symbol of the papacy. On the right arm is the papal coat of arms. The medal is suspended from a yellow and white ribbon, the papal colours.

✠ Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of: Peter Enda Flynn, Martin Hayes and Patrick Healy- who died recently. May they rest in peace. ✠

### READINGS Next Sunday Feast of the Holy Family

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28

Ps. 83

Col 3:12-21

Lk 2: 41-52

