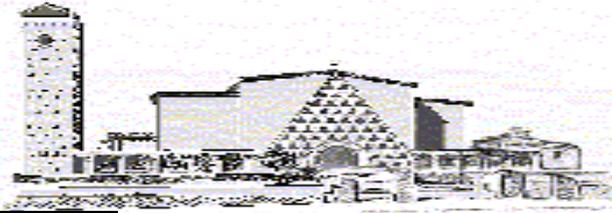


**NEXT BAPTISM  
PREPARATION MEETING**  
- will be on Thursday, 9th January  
at 8pm, for Baptisms on Sunday,  
12th January 2020.



CHURCH OF OUR LADY  
MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE

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### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Vigil</b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	Dr. Denis Cotter (Rec. Dec.) Matthew O'Brien (Rec. Dec.) Robert Coyle (Anniv.)
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>8.30 am</b>	Marie Rooney (Rec. Dec.) John Sullivan (Anniv.) Health Intentions
	<b>10.00am</b>	Marguerite Jackson (Rec. Dec.) Michael Doyle (Rec. Dec.) Gerard McCarthy (Anniv.) Browne and Tobin Families (Anniv.)
	<b>11.30am</b>	Sr. Paschal McMahon (Rec. Dec.) Nuala Koetter (Anniv.) Gerard Taylor (Anniv.) Cassie McGrath (Anniv.) Sean Breslin (Anniv.) Patrick Fitzpatrick (Anniv.)
<b>Mon</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Feast of Immaculate Conception</b> (transferred from Sunday 8th) Parishioners Intentions Pauline Moore: Funeral
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Brendan Kerrigan: Funeral
<b>Wed</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Josephine Nangle (M.Mind) Birthday Intentions
<b>Thur</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Albert Mooney (Rec. Dec.)
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Patricia Rafter (Rec. Dec.)

### 'Change of Heart'

'Once again, we come to the Holiday Season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice.' (Dave Barry)

We might recognise ourselves in the above statement! We are so used to the commercial side of Christmas – the frenzy of ads and gift-buying, the extravagant decorations and parties – that it is easy to forget what we are really celebrating. That's where John the Baptist comes in. We first meet him in St. Luke's Gospel, before he is even born: Elizabeth's pregnancy is announced at the same time as Mary's, though John will be born first. The next we hear of John, he appears as God's messenger (as we hear in today's Gospel), preparing the way of the Lord. His job is to set the stage for Jesus to begin His ministry, and his central message is repentance. The Greek word for repentance was metanoia, which literally means a change of heart, or turning one's life around. So John is inviting his audience to make a break with the past, turn to God, and go in a different direction. When Jesus begins His own ministry, His first message is the very same: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

This is a fitting message as we enter the second week of Advent. As we prepare to welcome Jesus, we are invited to metanoia, or change of heart. As we ponder the mysteries of Christmas, we are nudged onwards in a new direction. This week, we could make a conscious effort to move away from the noise and lights of 'the mall', to still our minds, and to open our hearts to God's call. 'Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart.' (Washington Irving)

*Triona Doherty (Email trionad@gmail.com)*

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society meets on Monday  
9th December at 2.30pm in the Old Baptistry.

Liturgy Group Meeting takes place on Tuesday  
10th December at 11.30am.

### Advent Prayer Evenings—Manresa

7:30 to 9 pm on Tuesdays 10 & 17 December

Prepare for Christmas through sessions of guided prayer. These evenings create 'sacred spaces' for you to open your heart to the Word of God, helping you to prepare to celebrate God's great love for us. You can come for either evening, or both, as you wish. There's no need to book. Just come along yourself, or bring a family member, a friend or anybody who you think may benefit from an evening of prayer and meditation on the events of Advent and Christmas. All are very welcome.

Christmas Mass Bouquets are available from  
Parish Office.

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of  
Podge Kavanagh, Bridget Weston and Pauline Moore  
who died recently. May they rest in the loving arms

"A Magical Musical Christmas", sung by *Dolce*, together with guest male voice ensemble, *Aeterna*, takes place in the church this coming Thursday, 12th Dec., at 7.30pm. Tickets €10, available at door or from eventbrite.ie

Penitential Service in the church, as preparation for Christmas, will be held next Monday, 16th December at 7.30pm

The SHARE collection this Sunday, will be replaced with the annual collection for the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

### READINGS Next Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent)

Is 35:1-6  
Psalm: 145  
Jas 5:7-10  
Matt 11:2-11

