



CHURCH OF OUR LADY MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE, Raheny

Sunday 22nd December 2019 Fourth Sunday of Advent Cycle A Week 4

Parish : 01 831 3232 / Email : info@rahenyparish.ie
www.rahenyparish.ie / Issue No. 1120

THE DEEP END: Joseph the Dreamer

Pope Francis has spoken on several occasions about his devotion to St Joseph. St Joseph is his favourite saint, he says, because he shows us how God reveals his plan to us in our times of silence and rest. He keeps a statue of a sleeping St Joseph on his desk, placing prayer requests under it. Speaking on a trip to the Philippines in 2015, he said: 'I have great love for Saint Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength ... Joseph's rest revealed God's will to him. In this moment of rest in the Lord, as we pause from our many daily obligations and activities, God is also speaking to us. But like St Joseph, once we have heard God's voice, we must rise from our slumber; we must get up and act.'

Today's Gospel recalls the central role played by St Joseph in the story of the birth of Jesus. A man of honour from the outset, the goodness of his character is further highlighted by his response to God's voice. When he wakes up after hearing God's instructions in a dream, he immediately acts on it and takes Mary into his home. His openness to God's will is a crucial element in the story that follows: his partnership with and support of Mary, the birth of Jesus, his care for the child 'who is to save his people'.

Christmas is very near now, and we are busy and preoccupied with our preparations. A good time, perhaps, to pause in silence, to rest with God, and to listen to what he might have to say to us.

*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.

Crosscare wish to thank everyone for their very generous contributions to their annual food appeal.

The sum of €14,310 was collected by the St. Vincent de Paul society for their Christmas appeal. Thank you.

Sincere thanks to everyone for their generous donations to this year's charitable appeals.

Please pray for the happy repose of **Anne Kelly and Teresa Bergin** whose funerals took place week. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Next Sunday's readings 29th December :

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
 Eccles (Sir) 3:2-6, 12-14, Ps 127:1-5, R/ cf. v 1. Col 3@12-21. Mt 2:13-15, 19-23.

Other Holy Days this week

Thursday 26th, St. Stephen

Friday 27th, St. John

Saturday 28th, The Holy Innocents

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



MASS INTENTIONS

Vigil	6.00pm	Paddy Kavanagh (R.D.) Gerard Hanafin (Anniv.) Gwen Andreucetti (Anniv.) Andrew and Julia Killen and members of the Killen and McNamara families (Anniv.) Teresa Heffernan (Anniv.)
Sun	8.30am	Peig King (R.D.) John Savage (R.D.) Patrick Kavanagh (R.D.) Tom Barron (Christmas Rem.) Cecilia and Tom McDermott (Anniv.) Joseph and Philomena Whelehan (Anniv.)
	10.00am	Robin Lacey (R.D.) Sr. Louis Keane (R.D.) James Sheridan (R.D.) Kevin Stratford (Anniv.) Sinead Montague (Remembrance)
	11.30am	Bridie Weston (R.D.) Peig King (M.M.) Evelyn O'Sullivan (Anniv.) Thomas Stenson (1st Anniv.) Eddie Fagan (Anniv.)
Mon.	10.00am	Parishioners Intentions
Tues.	10.00am	Nuala Koetter (Anniv.) Health Intention
	6.00pm	Children's Mass for Christmas
	9.00pm	Concelebrated Mass with Choir
Wed.	8.30am	The Nativity of Our Lord
	10.00am	Jesus Christ
	11.30am	Masses for Intentions of Parishioners
Thurs.	10.00am	Jimmy Galvin (R.D.)
Fri.	10.00am	Patrick Kavanagh (R.D.)