



NEWSLETTER

14 DEC 2022. FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT.

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 18th, 11.30am. Jim Loran. Alice & Tony Dunning.

Saturday 24th, 7pm. Glynn family. Late of Grehanstown.

Sunday 25th, 11.30am. People of the parish.

ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Saturday 17th, 6pm. Vinny, Florrie & Brendan Sheils. Edward (Ned) McKeogh. Edward, Rose & Christy Glennon.

Sunday 18th, 10am. Christina McKeogh.

Weekday Masses; Raharney Tues & Thurs 9am. Rahtwire Wed & Fri 9am.

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.

& St. Brigid's Wed. 5pm-10pm:

*Special Diocesan intention of prayer
for vocations and the family.*

Take one Hour with the Lord

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €600
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €510

Christmas Mass times: Dec 24th, 7pm in Rathwire and 9pm in St Camillus church. Dec 25th, 10am in Raharney & 11.30am in Rahtwire. 10.30am in St. Camillus church.

Confession; in Rahtwire church on Sat 24th from 2 – 2.30pm.

Communion calls; for Christmas. Friday morning in Raharney. Saturday morning in Rathwire and Killucan.

St. Stephen's Day 5K Fun Run/Walk; at 11am in Joristown Park. Proceeds in aid of LARCC centre.

An Garda Síochána are advising homeowners to be aware of bogus callers claiming to be members of An Garda Síochána, due to an increase of reported incidents across Meath/ Westmeath/ Offaly in the last week.

God With Us

Sunday's liturgy is about God with us, Emmanuel. We have arrived at the moment of the celebration of God's presence within the human family.

The Emmanuel of Advent-Christmas, the God who is with us, witnesses our social life from within the community, so that God is not far away but is actually among us as we become part of each others lives (and sometimes step on them), as we work together (and sometimes against each other), as we try to support each other (and yet abandon millions of people to the miseries of destitution).

There is no childish game of hide and seek with this God, who is present to witness our good deeds and our misdeeds.

"Let the Lord enter ([Ps 24:7c](#))."
We rejoice at the prospect of having God among us, and yet we should also reflect on the awesome responsibility of living in the presence of God.

"We who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ" ([Rom 1:6](#)) should imitate Mary, who, when faced with the reality of Emmanuel, "placed her life at the service of God's plan" ([Catholic Exchange](#)).

Seeking after the glory of Christ, the Church becomes more like her exalted model, and continually progresses in faith, hope, and charity, searching out and doing the will of God in all things.

Hence the Church in her apostolic work also rightly looks to her who brought forth Christ, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin, so that through the Church Christ may be born and grow in the hearts of the faithful also.

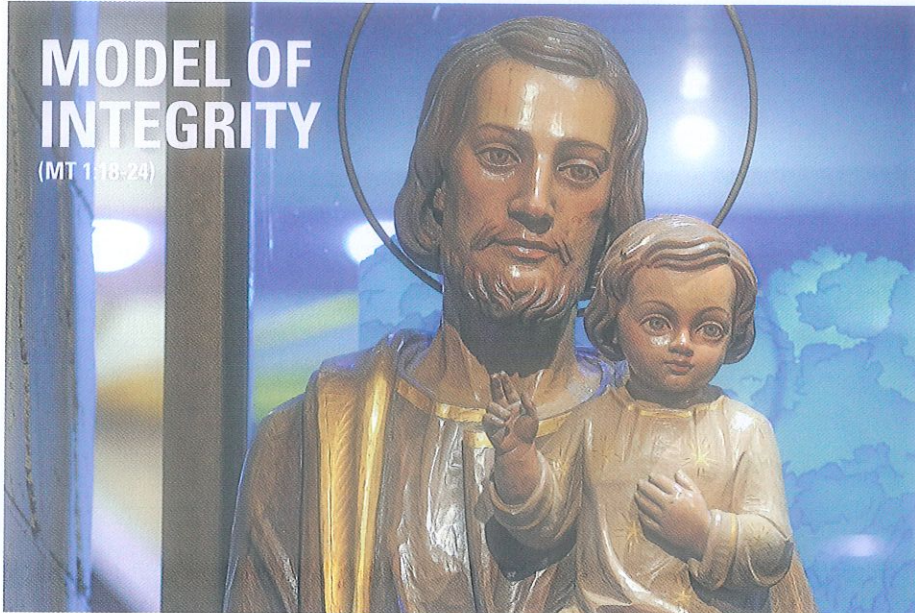
Vatican II, [Constitution on the Church](#)

Sunday Message

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year A • 18 December 2022 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 4



MODEL OF INTEGRITY

(MT 1:18-24)

The central figure in today's Gospel is Joseph, the often forgotten hero of the Christmas story.

Christian art has never been kind to St Joseph. It usually depicts him as an elderly man. What of the real Joseph? We know little about him, except that he was a native of Bethlehem, and by trade he was a carpenter, a word that can include many aspects of the building trade. The Joseph of this story was probably a reasonably young man. Marriage took place early in Judaism. The usual age for men to marry was in their late teens. As the story opens, this young man's future happiness is clouded by an event he finds hard to understand.

Matthew uses only one word to describe Joseph: "he was a just man." That is the highest praise the Old Testament can lavish on any person. We hear not a word from Joseph in today's Gospel or throughout the entire two chapters of Matthew's account of Jesus' birth. For Matthew, what is more important is that Joseph is an obedient man. He responds without question to the challenges set before him. He embarks on marriage with a young woman who has conceived her child by the Holy Spirit. He will emigrate to a foreign land to protect the child and his mother. He will return, again without question, and settle in Nazareth, far from his kin, to give the child a secure future. Above all, he will provide the child with a name and a father's love.

Joseph is a model of integrity and uprightness, a model of what it means to seek to do God's will. ■

PRAY

Joseph and Mary were people of extraordinary faith. Despite the confusion and pain they must have experienced after discovering that Mary was pregnant, they trusted in God and his plan for them. Pray that you, too, may have the radical faith of Joseph and Mary.

LEARN

Like Joseph, we Christians are called to listen attentively to what God asks of us.

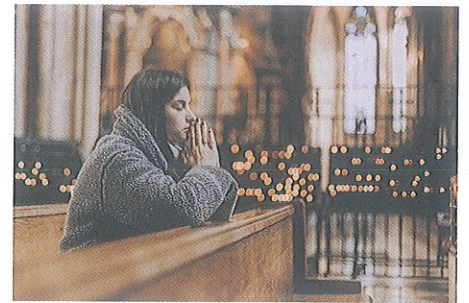
Jesus is the fulfilment of God's promise to humanity.

SAY

Lord, I look forward to your coming. Help me to be always aware of your presence.

DO

We can be so busy in the run-up to Christmas that we lose sight of what it is all about. Take some time this week to reflect on what we are celebrating on the feast of Christmas.



REFLECT

Advent is running out of time. In just a few days, Christmas will be on us. Lest we forget, the readings today are tripping over each other to remind us what Christmas is all about. The first reading reminds us of Isaiah's prophecy made many centuries earlier: "The maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'."

In the second reading, St Paul reminds us of Christ's origin: In the body, he was a human descendent of King David, and

in the order of the Spirit, he was Son of God. The Gospel tells us how Jesus was miraculously conceived in the womb of Mary and given the name of Jesus, meaning Saviour. The prophecy had been fulfilled.

So now the scene is set. Are you ready? Can you share in Mary's astonishment when Gabriel told her she was to become the mother of the Messiah? Can you realise with Joseph that something extraordinary is about to happen? Can you feel the excitement of knowing that the

God of the universe has put on our human nature? Are you thrilled by the knowledge that he who humbled himself to share in our humanity has offered us a share in his divinity?

In the days left, step aside for a while from the hustle and bustle of Christmas presents and Christmas dinners and let yourself be caught up in the intense joy of that night in Bethlehem. With Mary, can you find time to treasure all these wonderful events in your heart? ■