



NEWSLETTER

1 JAN 2023. MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD.

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 1st, 11.30am. Declan & Tom Brillely.

Sunday 8th, 11.30am. Brendan, Kathleen, Niall, Michael & Adrain Ennis.

ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Sunday 8th, 10am. Michael & Margaret Lynam.

Weekday Masses; Tues & Thurs Raharney 9am. Wed Rathwire 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: €
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €

Richard Dixon, Rathwire Lower.
Victoria Keane, Old Glebe.

Feast of the Epiphany: Jan 6th. Mass for the Feast Day at 7pm in Rahtwire.

Mary's Peace

The passage from Numbers includes this blessing: "The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!"

Mary was filled with God because she was at peace, and we too should experience peace from God sending forth "into our hearts the spirit of his Son."

What could be more peaceful than the image of a baby lying in a manger? The second prayer for this solemnity refers to Jesus as *Wonderful God, Prince of Peace*.

We present to the Blessed Virgin difficult individual situations, so that she may place them before her Son, asking that he alleviate and change them. But we also present to her social situations and the international crisis itself, in their worrying aspects of poverty, unemployment, shortage of food, the arms race, contempt for human rights, and situations or dangers of conflict, partial or total.

Pope John Paul II, [Sollicitudo Rei Socialis](#),

**WISHING YOU ALL THE BLESSING OF PEACE
AND JOY FOR THIS NEW YEAR.**

Sunday Message

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

THE WORD

Year A • 1 January 2023 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 2

THEOTÓKOS

(LK 2:16-21)



Imagine how bewildered Mary must be. She has just given birth to her baby in a cattle shed, of all places. This baby, she has been told, is God's own son. And now some local shepherds have turned up with a most extraordinary tale – how an angel of the Lord had appeared to them and told them of the birth of the saviour and that they would find him in a stable.

Mary watches as the shepherds pay homage to her child and listens to them as they leave, glorifying and praising God.

No wonder today's Gospel tells us that Mary ponders these things in her heart. It must have been so hard to take in, make sense of, and come to terms with. Here she is, a young teenager from an average background, and she is the mother of God's Son. Here she is, nursing her newborn in a miserable outhouse, and strangers are coming to pay him homage.

Overwhelming as her situation may be, Mary does not panic. She does not back away from God's will for her.

On the eighth day, she and Joseph take the child to be circumcised, and they give him the name the angel had told her to give him. They call him Jesus.

Mary is fulfilling God's plan for her. She does what God has asked her to do. ■

REFLECT

The ritual of circumcision and naming of Jesus establishes and proclaims his identity. We have our Catholic rituals (Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation), which establish and proclaim our identity as followers of Jesus. Secularism and loss of faith have eroded the meaning of such rituals and turned them very often into meaningless and superficial social rites of passage characterised by wasteful excess.

The memory of Jesus' naming and circumcision is a challenge to all of us who take our faith seriously. How do we recover a sense of God's presence in our everyday lives? Where is the mystery to be found among us? What have we lost by devaluing and desacralising our rituals? As you think about these questions, let God guide you to reclaim and proclaim more profoundly your identity as a disciple of Jesus. ■

SAY

"Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

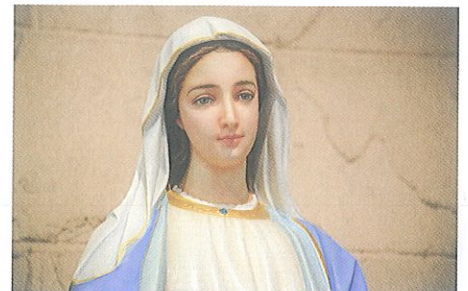
LEARN

Today's feast is always celebrated on January 1. While it has its origins in the Eastern Church, the feast was celebrated in Rome by the fifth century AD. By the late Middle Ages, it was celebrated in the Western Church under the title of the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ. After the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI replaced the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ with the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

In 431 AD, the Church gave Mary the wonderful title of *Theotókos*. It is a Greek word which means 'God-bearer'. In the Western Church, this title was translated into Latin as *Mater Dei* or 'Mother of God'. Unfortunately, it is not an exact translation and usually needs a lot of explanation for English speakers. God is eternal and does not have a source. So the title *Theotókos* does not mean that Mary is the mother of God from eternity. She is the mother of Jesus, who is the incarnate Word of God. It is a profound title that says something about Jesus and about Mary in relation to Jesus. Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God. Mary is his mother and, as such, can be venerated as *Theotókos*.

DO

Take some time to think about Mary and the place she occupies in your own spirituality and Christian faith.



PRAY

As Christians, we are called to imitate Mary, our mother and model. We are called to say yes to God's plan for us, whatever it may be and wherever it may lead. Pray for the strength to say yes to God in your life.