



NEWSLETTER DEC 31ST, THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH.

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 31st, 11.30am. Declan & Tom Brillely.

ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Sunday 7th, 10am. Joe Reid.

Weekday Masses; Rathwire Mon 11am, Wed & Fri 9am. Raharney Tues & Thurs 9am. Sat 11am.


MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €

RIP; Ryan O'Connor, Brutonstown.
Brendan Monks, Raheny. Brother of Fr. Frank.

Mary, the Mother of God; Jan 1st, World Day of Peace. Mass at 11am in Rathwire.

Feast of the Epiphany; Jan 6th. Mass for the Feast Day on Sat at 11am, in Raharney.

Used Stamps: remembers to save the stamps and bring them along to the church for missionary aid.

<p>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</p> 	<p>In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm. & St. Brigid's Wed. 5pm-10pm: <i>Special Diocesan intention of prayer for vocations and the family.</i> Take one Hour with the Lord</p>
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The Holy Family

The Holy Family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is a symbol of what every family should be like. It is in a special way a sign of the unity of the human family.

Today's liturgy tells of all the qualities which should characterize the human family: respect, care, kindness, forgiveness, love, peace, duty. It expresses, in terms of the culture of biblical times, the ideal of harmony and working together.

The boy Jesus disturbed his family's internal harmony momentarily, but with good reason, for the sake of something higher. The internal harmony of today's human family is also being disturbed, but for the sake of things baser: greed, the will to dominate, disregard for human dignity, pride, selfishness.

"Why have you done this to us?" This is the question that must be impressed upon all those who disturb the unity of the human family, the oppressors, racists and sexists, the hoarders of wealth, the polluters of the land, the abusers of children, the neglecters of the elderly, the instigators of war, the killers and rapists, the indifferent. And of course, in our day, ISIS. "Why have you done this to us?"

All of human life, whether individual or collective, shows itself to be a dramatic struggle between good and evil, between light and darkness. Indeed, man finds that by himself he is incapable of battling the assaults of evil successfully, so that everyone feels as though he is bound by chains. But the Lord himself came to free and strengthen man, renewing him inwardly and casting out that prince of this world who held him in the bondage of sin.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Heb 1:1-2)

Alléluia, alleluia!
At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son.
Alléluia!

GOSPEL (Lk 2:22-40)

(For Shorter Form, read between ▶ & ◀)
The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:
'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations
to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'
As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'
There was a prophetess also, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began

to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.
When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him. ◀

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Profession of Faith (Apostles' Creed)
I believe in God, the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), ...
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. ...

After the Consecration

The mystery of faith.
Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

THE COMMUNION RITE

Behold the Lamb of God, ...

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon (Bar 3:38)

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon (Lk 2:16)

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger.

In the name of the Father, ... Amen.

The grace of our Lord ... And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters), ...

A brief pause for silence follows.

I confess to almighty God / and to you, my brothers and sisters, / that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, / in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault, / through my most grievous fault; / therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, / all the Angels and Saints, / and you, my brothers and sisters, / to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, ... Amen.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING (Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3)

A reading from the book of Genesis.
The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless ...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then

taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth. The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 104:1-6.8-9)

He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! ♪

2. Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. ♪

3. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke. O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose. ♪

4. He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. ♪

SECOND READING (Heb 11:8-11-12.17-19)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: it is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.