

Ferbane Parish Bulletin

Sunday 26th December 2021

Feast of the Holy Family

Fr. Peter Burke - (090) 6454380 • Fr. Michael Morris - (090) 6454309 • www.ferbaneparish.ie

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, FERBANE

FRIDAY 24th DEC. - Christmas Eve
5pm and 9pm

SATURDAY 25th DEC. - Christmas Day
9am and 11am

SUNDAY 26th DEC. - St. Stephen's Day
9am -
11am Patrick & Sally Kenny.

Mon. 27th: 10am

Tues. 28th: 10am - Philip, Mary & Brenda Gilsean.

Wed. 29th: 10am

Thurs. 30th: 10am - People's Mass.

Fri. 31st: 10am

Sat. 1st Jan. 2022: 10am -

SATURDAY 1st JANUARY - 7pm

1. James, Anne, Noel & Joe Reamsbottom.

SUNDAY 2nd JANUARY - 11am

1. Eileen Dunican.

SS. PATRICK & SARAN, HIGH ST.

FRIDAY 24th DEC. - Christmas Eve:
7pm

SATURDAY 25th DEC. - Christmas Day:
12 noon

SUNDAY 26th DEC. - St. Stephen's Day:
12 noon Brian Cahill (*Months Mind*).
Alo Kenny (*3rd A*).

SUNDAY 2nd JANUARY - 12 noon

ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT, BOORA

FRIDAY 24th DEC. - Christmas Eve
7pm -

SATURDAY 25th DEC. - Christmas Day
9.30am -

SUNDAY 26th DEC. - St. Stephen's Day
9.30am Mary & Peter Grogan, Leamore.

SUNDAY 2nd JANUARY - 9.30am

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, Sunday 26th December. *'If you want to bring happiness to the whole world go home and love your own family.'* (Mother Teresa).

MASSES - All ceremonies can be heard on 106.5FM Parish Radio. All our weekday and weekend Masses can now be viewed on our livestream link www.ferbaneparish.ie. Parish bulletin is available on www.ferbaneparish.ie.

COLLECTIONS - Thank you for your continuing support. If anybody wants to offer financial support you can do so by electronic transfer.

BIC: ULSB IE 2D.

IBAN: IE28 ULSB 9857 2021 5400 50.

DEATHS - Please pray for the repose of the souls of Bianca & Kimberly O'Hara (daughters of Elton and Ilona O'Hara, Moystown) and Rosealeen McCormack, Kilbeggan (sister of Maura Clarke, Ferbane). May they rest in peace.

MARRIAGES - Congratulations to Donal Egan & Sharon Killian; Aishling Murphy & Brendan Kirwan and Katie Kenny & John Coyne who were married recently in our Parish.

BAPTISM - We welcome in to the Christian Community Bill Doyle.

SVP - Confidential FREEPHONE 087 9272877.

GALLEN UNITED - *Lotto Draw* (Prize fund €11,200 = Jackpot €1,200; Star Prize €10,000). Winning numbers in last week's draw 4, 13, 18, 28. Bonus 3. No jackpot winner. Two match three

winners. Next draw on Tuesday 4th January 2022.
FERBANE G.A.A. - *Lotto*: Winning numbers in last week's draw 6, 20, 27, 28. Bonus 24. No jackpot winner. One match 3 winner. Next week's jackpot is €8,000 and the draw is on Tuesday 28th December.
CARDS - Progressive 25, single hand, in Ferbane GAA Clubhouse on Wed. 29th December at 9pm.

CHRISTMAS AT CLONONY CASTLE - A word of sincere thanks to all who visited Santa Claus during his recent visit. Happy Christmas to you all!

PARISH OFFICE - *Please note* the Parish Office will be closed on Wed. 29th December and will reopen on Wed. 5th January. Tel: 090 6454309 or Email: parishoffice@ferbaneparish.ie.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

'They will call Him Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us'

We can't help remembering at Christmas, because Christmas is about remembering and memories are never indifferent. At Christmas all roads lead to home and our minds turn to everything and everyone we have ever loved. We gather the victories won, the defeats suffered, the opportunities taken or missed. We come face to face with who we are and where we came from and, surrounded by those we love or have loved, whose presence we enjoy, or whose absence we feel, we are drawn to the crib, the place that holds all time together. The message of the manger is Emmanuel. God is with us. When Christ was born so was our hope, a hope that never dies. Christmas isn't just a day. It's a frame of mind that should inform our whole year. *'Peace on earth will come to stay when we live Christmas every day'* (Helen Steiner Rice).

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2021

Two thousand Christmases have come and gone since the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. There, in the midst of danger, uncertainty and among strangers, the infant Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, took his first breath. We are familiar with the story, the main characters, the events leading up to this birth and the events that followed it. Depending on our experience in life, we each can have our own personal reaction to this coming of God among us, as one of us.

This year we face into Christmas with uncertainty about the future. We can look back on a second year when so many people continued to carefully provide services, when our frontline workers continued to look out for others, especially those who were isolated and in need of assistance.

In writing of Mary and all that happened to her in the lead up to Bethlehem, Saint Luke tells us that Mary, *"treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart"* (Lk 2: 19). It is an image of Mary in the midst of all the excitement and the danger, calmly recognising that something special was happening to her and to her Son.

We often reflect on what we treasure: spouse, partner, children, parents, grandparents, grandchildren and those who are very close to us, they are our treasures because their lives impact on our hearts. Since March 2020, with so much curtailment and threats to livelihoods, many have reflected on what they treasure, what is important to them. Sadly, sometimes our treasure is gone: bereavement can leave us feeling empty and at a loss. We all know the difficult circumstances in which illness and death and bereavement have taken place in recent times. People have risen to the occasion and continue to stand by the roadside and on the streets in silent solidarity with the bereaved.

The absence of another treasure, family members who are away, can leave our Christmas celebration a little sad. Technology can help us to keep in touch, and that is important.

Inevitably, as we look at the crib, we think about Jesus in Bethlehem and wonder what this tells us about God and about being human? It has to do with the treasure that God is to us, the treasure that we are to God and the treasure that we can be to each other. I hope the message of Christmas, that God loves each one of us, will bring us peace and joy and help us treasure what is important.

As we give thanks for the baby in Bethlehem, God's gift to us, and the treasure each person is, I wish you and your family and friends every blessing and happiness this Christmas and a peaceful 2022.

+ Francis Duffly