

MASSES

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm

Sunday 9.30am 11.00am, 12.30pm

Weekdays Mon. Wed. Friday **10.00am**,
Tuesday & Thursday **7.15pm**

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
every Tuesday 10.30am-7.15pm

CONFESSIONS

Friday: 10.30am

Saturday :5.30pm-6.00pm

Tuesday and Thursday :before or
after evening Mass

BAPTISM COURSES

1st & 3rd Thurs of the month 8pm

BAPTISMS: 1st and 3rd Saturday
of the month at 7.00pm

MARRIAGES Three months notice

Parochial House 71267070

Email:office@holyfamily-parish.com

Web www.holyfamily-parish.com

Parish Sisters 71260398

Holy Family School 71267798

St. Eithne's School 71377077

PARISH GROUPS

11am Choir practices Tuesday at
7.45 . New members welcome

Scripture Group Thurs 7.45pm

New members always welcome!

A.A .Fridays and Sundays at 8.00pm
in Upper Room.

REFLECTION

It is said that while there is life there
is hope.

This has an even deeper meaning in
reverse:

While there is hope there is life.

Hope is strength.

Hope sheds light into despairing
hearts.

It inspires the will to live.

It is the doctor's most powerful ally.

It is a shield against defeat and
failure.

It revives ideals and renews dreams.

As long as there is hope, no situation
is impossible.

Advent summons us to wait in joyful
hope for the coming of our Saviour
Jesus Christ.

In the final analysis, he is our hope.

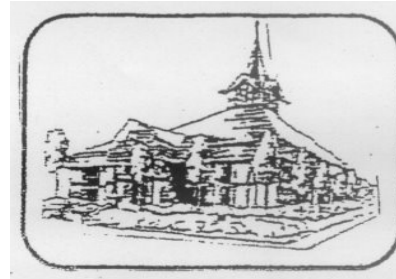
ST. EITHNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL. Do
you have a child starting Primary
School in September 2019? Come
along to our Open Afternoon on
Wednesday 5th December from 1 to
3pm.

MARIAN DEVOTIONS - will take
place in the Carmelite Retreat Centre
Termonbacca

on Tuesday 4th December at 7.30
p.m.

**MASS IN REMEMBRANCE OF
SR. CLARE CROCKETT** - in the
Carmelite Retreat Centre
Termonbacca,

on Sunday 9th December at 7
p.m. All welcome.



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Sun 2nd Dec 2018 Vol. 36 No 51

THE DEEP END. BE PREPARED

Have you ever heard the story of the ant and the grasshopper? It tells the tale of a grasshopper who has spent the summer singing and so is not prepared when winter comes, whereas the ant has been working hard all summer and has stored up enough food for winter. Like many of Aesop's Fables, it has a stark moral lesson, in this case about the virtue of hard work and being prepared for the future.

Of course, Advent is about looking forward to Christmas and our celebration of the birth of Jesus. It is a special time of preparation to welcome him anew into our lives. But today's readings remind us that Advent is also about looking ahead to another time, the second and final coming of Jesus at the end of time.

'Advent' comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning 'coming'. The problem, of course, is that we have no idea when this will happen. Unlike the ant and the grasshopper, we have no way of knowing when the seasons will change. We don't even know when the sun will set on our own individual lives. All we can do is to be prepared and to 'stay awake' - to live now in such a way that when we meet Jesus, we will be ready. The readiness is less a practical skill than a condition, or a way of life. Look at how St. Paul describes it: he talks about increasing our love for one another, and continually making progress in living the life that God wants. That is how we store up treasures here on earth to make sure we are ready for the heavenly things to come.



OUR PARISH NOVENA continues tomorrow (**Monday**) at the 7.15pm Mass Please pick up a petition card at the main door of the church and place it in one of the two petition baskets.

ANNIVERSARIES Margaret Dunne, Sadie McDowell, Mary Breslin

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

6.00pm Martin Dunn

12.30pm Dearbhla Coyle

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

6.00pm Tai Dalzell & family

12.30pm Reuben Coyle & family

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS for DECEMBER

Vigil Mass Sr. Paula Sorcha Brady
Rhianna McLaughlin

9.30am Myra Grant,
Doreen Rice Wray

11.00am Theresa Ferry,
Margaret Hamilton Danielle Archer

12.30am. Elaine McCloskey
Caitlin McCann, Sean Moore,
Paula Campbell Aoife McDermott

READERS FOR DECEMBER

6.00 Vigil Katie Devlin
Oran Gartland

9.30am Brenda Coyle

11.00am Maggy McCartney

12.30pm Marcella Patterson

SUNDAY COLLECTION 25th November £1985.63 €96.60 and Standing Orders £144.00

FIRST FRIDAY Friday is the first Friday of December. Fr O’Kane will arrange to see the sick before Christmas.

THE HOLY FAMILY PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP will hold their Christmas meeting on Tuesday night 4th December, starting with Mass at 7.15pm.

THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL will be taking up their annual Christmas collection next weekend the 8th and 9th of December at all masses. Thank you for your continued support.

PASTORAL PLAN Meditation, discussion, crack, a light supper and even the odd bit of music Everyone welcome- young and old, believers but especially unbelievers. In so doing we are trying to engage the new Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 'God is Love' especially encouraging "a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith and practices". (Theme 2) Every Thursday 8.30pm Upper Room Parochial House beginning Thursday 6th December. Please let other people (that might not see this bulletin) know.

CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE ADVENT BOXES available at the back of the church. You will read a story of hope, from a young girl called Tenaye, whose life was transformed from the help of Children in Crossfire. Please return to the chapel in January

THORNHILL MINISTRIES, DERRY: Advent Retreat Day – Prayerful Ponderings - Saturday 8 December 9:30am -2:30 pm Suggested Offering £20.

Advent Mornings for Busy People - Monday 3, 10, 17 December - 10:30 am to 12:15 pm. Reflective mornings allowing a time to pray our way through Advent. Suggested Offering £10. Suggested donations are a guideline that should not prevent anyone from benefitting from these experiences. Tel 71351233 or email secretary@thornhillministries.co.uk

JOB ADVERTISEMENT: Derry Diocesan Trust: Part Time Financial and Administrative Secretary required for Long Tower Parish. 25 hrs per wk, Mon to Fri, 9am – 2pm. full details, www.derrydiocese.org. For application emailoffice@derrydiocese.org or tel 02871262302. Completed applications must be returned to Bishop’s House, or email, office@derrydiocese.org , by 5pm on 10 December.

EDUCATION IN MINDFULNESS techniques for aged 10-12 year olds. Templemore Sports Complex on 14th December from 7pm-10pm. Cost £10 Tel 0035387 9129419

FOYLE ADVOCATES provides a listening ear and can provide support to anyone attending Hospital or Doctors Appointments/PIP Assessments. Office hours 12pm-4pm, 26 Bishop Street, Tel 02871 263461

BHCP PRESENTS: Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner @ The Cosh Bar on Sunday 16th December at 6pm. £5 for 2 courses + Tea/coffee. **Senior Citizens Lunch & Entertainment** Wednesday 5th Dec @ 12noon in Ballymagroarty Community Centre. Cost—Free. Limited Places. Tel Billy on 71271977 to book .

Santa with Parky Entertainment Cost—£1 per child. 6pm-8pm on 10th December at Cosh Bar 12th December at Ballymagroarty Community Centre 14th December at St. Eithne's P.S Youth Wing. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

HOLY FAMLIY SCHOOL RICKETY WHEEL Wednesday 5th December @ 7pm. All welcome. Great prizes & Santa’s Grotto.

'I AM PRESENT' by local band I AM returns to St Columb’s Hall on Sunday 16th December. A night of music and festive joy for all the family. Tickets £12 and kids £10 available at Cool Discs & Veritas. Also available online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/iam.

FOLLOW THE STAR CHRISTMAS TRAIL at the IOSAS Centre and Celtic Garden, Lenamore Road, Muff. We have some spaces still left for our beautiful family event starting on Sat 8th Dec and which celebrates the Christian traditions of Christmas. Booking essential. Please call the Centre on (00353) 74 93 84866