

MASSES

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm
Sunday 9.30am 11.00am, 12.30pm
Weekdays 10.00am, 7.15pm

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday 10.30am-7.15pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 10.30am, and before evening Mass
Eve of Holydays & eve of First Fridays: 10.30am. and before evening Mass

BAPTISM COURSES

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month @8pm

BAPTISMS: One month's notice
Every Saturday at 7.00pm

Parochial House 71267070
Email: office@holyfamilyparish.com
Web www.holyfamily-parish.com

Parish Sisters 71260398
Holy Family School 71267798
St. Eithne's School 71377077

PARISH GROUPS

Tues: 8pm Choir Practice
Thurs 7.45pm Scripture Group
New members welcome!

AN INSPIRED CHRISTMAS GIFT

Trocaire is again offering Christmas Global Gift Plan - which will be delivered directly to hard pressed families in the developing world. available at Veritas shop Shipquay St or www.trocaire.org.

ST. MARY'S CAROL SERVICE

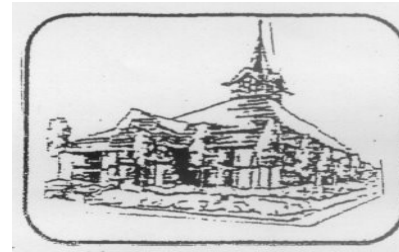
Thursday 17th December at 7pm in St. Mary's College. All welcome.

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

is delivering a Carer Information and Support Programme (CrISP). is a series of workshops for people caring for a family member or friend with dementia. It provides an opportunity for you to talk in a friendly and confidential environment about your experiences and the impact they are having on you. Tel Paula Canney on 02882250103 / 07718322726 or paula.canney@alzheimers.org.uk

CHRISTMAS CHARITY FLORAL DEMONSTRATION

by John Paul in aid of Brain Tumour Research. In the Everglades Hotel, Tuesday 15th December 7:30pm Tickets £8 from John Paul Florist or The Everglades Hotel. Call 71370260



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Sun 13th Dec 2015 Vol.32 No 49

REJOICE

In his poem Japanese Maple, Clive James offers a heartrending description of some of the beauty he observes during what he believes are his final days.

'You feel the drain of energy, but thought and sight remain Enhanced, in fact. When did you ever see So much sweet beauty as when fine rain falls On that small tree and saturates your brick back garden walls'.

Faced with his mortality, the poet was able to celebrate and take pleasure in the simplest of things. The poem radiates with acceptance and a certain contentment as he reflects on the world and its 'sweet beauty'. (A year later he wrote of his embarrassment at still being alive after the attention the poem garnered!)

Today is Gaudete Sunday; the day takes its name from the Latin 'Gaudete' meaning 'Rejoice' A pink candle is lit in the Advent wreath. The first line of our second reading uses the word 'happy' twice and 'happiness' once. This happiness Paul speaks of is not a passing mood, but a deeper happiness and contentment, a peace of heart. Do we take the time to cultivate this deeper sense of happiness? It is something we can think about as we prepare for Christmas. It is not the gifts and festivities that will bring us true and lasting happiness.

SYMPATHY We offer our sympathy to the family of Tess Cooley 17 Templegrove who died during the week. May she rest in peace.

NOVENA Our Parish Novena continues tomorrow (**Monday**) at the 7.15pm Mass

ANNIVERSARIES We pray for John King, Sadie Harley, John Davis Danny O’Kane, Peter McDaid, Rose Bradley, Michael Anderson, Myra Barr , Adam Campbell

SUNDAY COLLECTION 6th December amounted to £2221.79 and €254.91 Thank you.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION 6.00pm Zoe Thompson & family

12.30pm Daryl McGowan & family

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL 6.00pm Olivia Doherty

12.30pm Trinity McKeever

PARISH CAROL SERVICE will take place today Sunday at 6.00pm. All our church and school choirs will take part. We invite the children to bring gifts for the poor which will be distributed by St. Vincent De Paul Society.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP Christmas meeting, will be held on **TUESDAY** 15th December, starting with Mass at 7.15pm. There will be two 1st class relics at the meeting. Everyone is welcome.

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY: Bishop Donal McKeown will open the Holy Door in St Eugene’s Cathedral, today Sunday 13th December at 12.30pm. Everyone is invited to be present at the solemn opening of the Holy Door. In the words of Pope Francis - the Holy Door will become a *Door of Mercy* through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instils hope.

HOLY YEAR OF MERCY: As part of the diocesan celebrations for the Holy Year of Mercy, Bishop McKeown has established four *Centres of Mercy* in the diocese. The four centres are: **St Eugene’s Cathedral, Sacred Heart Church, Omagh, St Mary’s, Maghera, The Oratory, Buncrana.**

The first Day of Mercy in these centres will be held on Saturday 19 December, when Confessions will be heard in these churches continuously from 10.30am – 6.00pm, with visiting priests. You are welcome to come and experience the mercy of God as we begin our celebration of the Holy Year of Mercy.

MASS FOR THE SICK will take place in Termonbacca on Tuesday 15th December at 8 p.m

ADVENT EVENING VIGIL (Confessions, Adoration and Mass) will take place in Termonbacca, on Thursday 17th December at 7.30 p.m.

ADVENT AWAKENING Thornhill Ministries is offering Sung Morning Prayer and a period of meditation on the Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays of Advent. Begins at 9:15 am and ends at 9:55am in Thornhill Convent, Culmore Rd

PARISH CHRISTMAS DRAW
Your support is an expression of the esteem by you and the high regard in which Holy Family is regarded. There are still a few tickets left. They can be bought at all exits as leave Mass this weekend.

The Draw takes place in the Church on Wednesday 16th December after Mass has ended.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL are having their Annual Church Collection this weekend

YOUTH 2000 invites all **young adults** between ages of 16-35 to a Catholic weekend retreat taking place from 18th-20thDec at Newbridge College, Co. Kildare This will be an exciting weekend attracting over 600 young people from all over the country. Visit www.youth2000.ie or telephone 07598876399

THEY THAT WAIT ON THE LORD a book by Fr Neal Carlin— Ideal Christmas reading or present £12 available in the Sacristy

PARISH PILGRIMAGES HOLY LAND (half board)
From 9th-17th October 2016.
Cost: £1275.€1495. Deposit £150.

3 nights Galilee, 4 nights Jerusalem Flying directly from Belfast

4 Days MEDJUGORJE / 3 Days DUBROVNIK (half board)
1st-8th MAY £649

LOURDES (full board)
16th –21st July £605
Tel Margaret 07732468511

Savings scheme now started in the Parochial House each Thursday evening from 8-9pm.

FOLLOW THE STAR" to the Celtic Garden Christmas Trail at the IOSAS Centre, Muff. An interactive family experience to recapture the true spirit of Christmas and learn about some of the Christian stories behind our favourite Christmas traditions. Contact the IOSAS Centre 00353) 749384866

Foyle Yarnspinners Monday 14th December in Verbal Arts, at 7.30 guest yarnspinner—Jimmy Rafferty winner of the Bard of Armagh competition. Adm free. All welcome