

MASSES

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm

Sunday 9.30am 11.00am, 12.30pm

Weekdays 10.00am, 7.15pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 10.30am, and before evening Mass

Eve of Holydays & eve of First Fridays:

10.30am. and before evening Mass

BAPTISMS DATES:

22nd & 29th December

Parochial House 71267070

Email: office@holyfamilyparish.com

Parish Sisters 71260398

Holy Family School 71267798

St. Eithne's School 71377077

www.holyfamily-parish.com

AN INSPIRED CHRISTMAS GIFT

Trocaire is again offering Christmas Global Gift Plan - a memorable collection of practical and life changing Christmas gifts which will be delivered directly to hard pressed families in the developing world. These gifts are available at Veritas, Shipquay Street Eason's, Foyleside or www.trocaire.org .

This year you can buy a selection of enduring gifts - like a cow, olive trees, goats, chickens, school fees the gift of water, safe motherhood, and other gifts in a friend's or relative's name.

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Make us true servants to all those in need,
Filled with compassion in thought word and deed;

Loving our neighbour, whatever the cost,
Feeding the hungry and finding the lost.

Lord, make us prophets to cry out the way,

Telling the nations of mercy's new day.
Let us break barriers of hatred and scorn,
Speaking of hope to all people forlorn

*St. Colmcille,
Who suffered pain and grief of exile,
Watch over the children of Ireland,
scattered throughout the world.
Obtain for them solace and courage, and
keep them true to God in every trial and
temptation.
Amen*



**HOLY FAMILY
CHURCH**

Sun 16th Dec 2012 Vol. 29 No 48

AWAY FROM HOME AT CHRISTMAS

When I was a child growing up in Culdaff in the 1950s we had the practice of lighting a candle in the window at Christmas. This, I was taught was to be a sign to the Holy Family, that they would find welcome and food in our home.

Today we are still called to be a light to others. The biblical call 'to welcome the stranger', is very relevant In a world where so very many are forced to wander from home. We are especially called to promote human dignity in a broken world.

Sadly, as the economic crisis continues, increasing number of Irish people are leaving our shores in the hope of starting a new life . Their departure creates a void in Irish families and in parish. There will be three empty chairs in my brother's table where I celebrate Christmas this year with my father.

This Christmas may the light of our love burn strongly above and beyond the glitter of the festival illuminating what the feast, is really about: God-with-us, God-for-us. And may that message shining through us be a beacon of hope to all immigrants and refugees this Christmas and into the new year.

*Loving God,
We pray for those whom we love, but who are absent from us.
Keep them safe from all harm, evil and danger.
Bless them with laughter, wisdom, love and joy.
Grant that we may be reunited in the fullness of love;
In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.*

SYMPATHY We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of Jackie Sharkey, 155 Templegrove who died during the week. May he rest in peace.

VISITATION OF THE SICK Fr O'Kane will visit those sick not already visited on Thursday and Friday of this week.

BAPTISMS Our parish family welcomes:

Jack Bobby Sean Strunks 44 Fern Park
Emily Rose McCrossan 81 Ardgrange

NEXT BAPTISM dates 22nd & 29th December

CAROL SERVICE Our 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 later by St. Vincent De Paul Society.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE tomorrow Monday 17th December 7.15pm. Priests from all over the city will join us to hear Confessions in preparation for Christmas. This celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation concludes our Parish Novena. The opportunity to experience the forgiveness of Christ is an essential part of our Advent preparation for Christmas.

PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Mon. 17th 7.15pm Holy Family

Tues. 18th 7.30pm. St. Mary's

Wed. 19th 8.00pm. Long Tower

Christmas Eve 11.30am-6.00pm.

St. Eugene's Cathedral

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT takes place on Tuesdays from 10.30am-7.15pm. During the winter months Exposition will take place in the Upper Room from 11am

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

6.00pm Ava Jones Radcliffe & family

12.30pm Chelsea Davis & family

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

6.00pm Nadia McFarland

12.30pm Kelly Pyne

Anniversaries We pray for:

Frank McAdams, John King, Norah Hamilton, Marie Stewart, Mary Deery, Gerry McAuley, Ian Forbes, John Davis

SUNDAY COLLECTION 10th December amounted to £. and €89.53 Thank you for your generosity

ONE CITY, ONE VOICE CAROL SERVICE

One City, One Voice Carol Service and Living Nativity will be held on Wednesday 19th December 2012 at 7 pm in the Urban Park adjacent to Foyle Street in the City Centre. The event will be led by choirs from the four main churches accompanied by children from St Patrick's Primary School, and Ebrington Primary School choirs. Cast from the Youth Ministry of Templemore Parish will perform the living Nativity. Choirs will process to the Park following a procession of light from Ebrington Square via the Peace Bridge accompanied by Mary, Joseph and the Donkey

MASS FOR THE SICK with Eucharistic Blessing will take place in the Carmelite Retreat Centre Termonbacca on Tuesday 18th December, beginning at 8p.m.

ADVENT EVENING VIGILS

Confessions, Exposition & Mass in Termonbacca on Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th December, beginning at 7.30p.m. All are welcome to attend.

ACCORD DERRY Marriage

Preparation Workshop Jan 11th/12th

Feb 8th/9th 2013 Mar 8th/9th 2013

May 10th/11th 2013 **Venue:**

Ardmore Parish Centre Booking

online: www.accordni.com or Contact:

Accord Derry Tel: 71362475 Email:

derry@accordni.com

DERRY DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES JULY 1ST - 6TH 2013

(£ 575.00) Gift vouchers for the Pilgrimage are available from Rosemary Diocesan Pastoral Centre 164 Bishop Street Derry 71362475

CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE has a range of Christmas Gifts this year that will make great stocking fillers or teachers' gifts! Give them to family, friends, clients - or give them as Secret Santa presents. Visit website for details.

Holy Family Primary & Nursery School

Forms now available from the school office for children due to commence either nursery or primary school in September 2013. For further information Tel: 71267798

HOLY FAMILY LOURDES

PILGRIMAGE 16th- 21st July
2013 Cost £595 Deposit £150

Pilgrimage To Fatima/Estoril

2013 19th -26th September.

Savings scheme on Thursdays 8-9pm in Parochial House.

For details phone Margaret
07732468511.

ST BERNADETTE'S PLAYGROUP

Hazelbank applications are also available for September 2013. Call into office or Tel 71308932.

The Sister Aloysius Memorial

Concert Colmcille Ladies Choir present the Christmas story in words and music with 'The Sister Aloysius Memorial Concert' at The Playhouse on Sunday 16th December at 8pm. Tickets: £8. Tel 71268027.

Pro-Life Candle-light Vigil - carry a 'LIGHT FOR LIFE' for unborn children at a Prayer Vigil to be held outside the *Marie Stopes Abortion 'Clinic'* in Belfast on Saturday 22nd December, commencing 3.00pm with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy followed by the Holy Rosary. from your area - to book your seat or for further information, Tel. Precious Life 90278484

FLEADH VOLUNTEERS OPEN

EVENING Organisers of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2013 are calling on people from across the island interested in volunteering at the event to attend an open evening on Tuesday 18th December at 6.30pm in Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin to find out more.