

SACRED HEART CHURCH

ROSCOMMON

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH NEWSLETTER

19th DECEMBER, 2021

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MARY AND THE GRACE OF VISITATION

After the angel delivered the message, the bewildered Mary took off immediately to visit Elizabeth not because she disbelieved the angel's message about Elizabeth's pregnancy but was overjoyed with desire and was eager to fulfil a duty of piety. They were in each other's company in an extraordinary way by the presence of the Holy Spirit so much so that the woman recognised the woman's arrival, and the child recognised the child's arrival. It would have been easy for Mary to say "I am going to be the mother of the Lord, so let the whole world come and visit me." No, but she was humble to go visit Elizabeth to give her physical, emotional, and spiritual support, and to share in her joy.

Visitation is a great ministry that we seeming have lost today. Technology has estranged us from one another. The phone has today replaced physical visits. Years ago, when we wake up, we visited the neighbour to see how well they woke up. But today, a neighbour might be dead for a week without anyone knowing. Also, when neighbours are successful or their children, instead of going to share in their joy we become jealous and indignant. On the other hand, the so-called "successful" ones will be so full of themselves that they expect people to nearly worship them.

Mary's attitude challenges all of us today. As Christmas draws closer, let us open ourselves to receive from the Holy Spirit that same intensity and humility "to set out in haste" to touch others with the Divine presence. In our act of reaching out to others in love, God is present. In our visits to the sick, God is also present. In our visits to those struggling with anxiety and bereavement, God is present. REMEMBER JESUS SAYS IN MATTHEW 25:36FF "WHEN I WAS SICK, IN PRISON ... YOU VISITED ME"

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND EVERY BLESSING IN THE NEW YEAR

PAX VOBIS

FR. DOUGLAS ZAGGI

Mass Intentions for the coming week.

MONDAY	11 am	Willie Casey
TUESDAY	8 am	No Morning Mass
	11 am	Jim Gibbons & Gemma Golden
WEDNESDAY	8 am	No Morning Mass
	11 am	Pat Raftery
THURSDAY	8 am	No Morning Mass
	11 am	Christy & Philomena Tully Special Intention
FRIDAY <i>(Christmas Eve)</i>	4:00 pm 6:30 pm 8:30 pm 10:30 pm	Christmas Vigil Masses
SATURDAY <i>(Christmas Day)</i>	8:30 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm	Christmas Day Masses
	7 pm	No Vigil Mass
SUNDAY	9 am 11:30 am	Morning Mass John Neilan (Month's Mind)



RECENT DEATH: Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of -
Seamus Lohan, Tulska brother of Eddie Lohan, Racecourse Road, Roscommon.

We offer sincere sympathy and the assurance of our prayers to his bereaved family and friends.



We also remember Mary, Peter & Katie McDermott, Kathleen Mongan, Baby Teresa Mongan, Martin & Brigid Mongan, Fr. Casey, Fr. Ray Browne & Martin & Anne Reilly whose anniversaries occur around this time.

CONFESSIONS FOR CHRISTMAS - will be available next **Thursday 23rd December from 12 noon - 1.30 pm at our new confessional areas** by St. Joseph's and Our Lady's altar rails. Please observe Covid 19 guidelines.

CHRISTMAS MASSES-2021

The Parish Pastoral Council has decided, in the interests of health and safety of parishioners, our Christmas Masses will again be arranged on a ticket basis this year.

The times of the Masses are as follows:

Christmas Eve

4.00pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm & 10.30pm

Christmas Day

8.30am, 10.30am, 12.00noon.

There are a **limited number** of tickets still available from the **Sacred Heart Church** after all Masses (Weekdays and Weekends) **until 23rd December or while stocks last.**

With consideration for other households we urge each household to take only as many tickets as is necessary for **one** Christmas Mass.

N.B. A ticket can only be used for the Mass time printed on the ticket.

Tickets will not be available by telephone booking.

Thank you for your cooperation and looking forward to meeting you all as we will shortly celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.

PLEASE NOTE :

The normal Sunday Mass schedule of 9 am and 11.30 am will return next Sunday 26th December.

There will be no 8 am Mass from Tuesday 21st December 2021 until Tuesday 1st February 2022.

Also there is no 7 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 25th December .

Christmas Communion Calls

The Priests of the Parish will attend to their Christmas calls to the sick as follows: Fr. Kevin and Fr. Joe on Wednesday 22nd December at the usual times and Fr. Douglas on Friday 24th December, Christmas Eve. If there are any others who would like a call from the Priest, please let us know. Phone Parish Office on 090 66 26298.



Blessed Sacrament Chapel—Christmas Arrangements:

Chapel will close on Thursday 23rd December at 11 am and re-open after Christmas on Wednesday 29th December at 11 am.

Altar Society - Week starting Monday 20th December - Group 2.

The Altar Society would welcome any donations/poinsettia to beautify the altar and surrounds for Christmas. Thank you in advance.



BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL - Adorers for the following hours are urgently required: **Sunday**: 2pm - 3pm, 4pm - 5pm. **Monday**: 2pm - 3pm. **Tuesday**: 1pm - 2pm, 4pm - 5pm. **Wednesday**: 1pm - 2pm, 2pm - 5pm. **Thursday**: 4pm - 5pm, 5pm - 6pm. **Saturday**: 11am - 12noon, 2pm - 3pm. Thank you for your support. If you can help out with any of the above hours, please contact Mae McBrien 086 8622354 or Tom Beirne 086 3861954.

ADVENT WREATH: The Advent Wreath is made from evergreen leaves that are woven around a circle of wire. A purple ribbon is then wound around the leaves. Three purple candles and one pink candle are placed on the Wreath. The circle of evergreen leaves represents God who is without beginning or end. The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again. This colour is also purple to represent the culmination of love through the Messiah.



A Christmas Prayer

Little one of Bethlehem

Smile your love in our hearts

Hold out your arms to us

And take away all our fears.

Reveal to us the power of God

In the powerlessness of the Child.

Hold all our family in your open heart

That makes space for all of us.

Lead us all out of the darkness of fear

Into the gentle light of your love.

Sunday's Offertory Collection: €3,185.00

Thank You