

### Mass Times

**Sundays:** 9 am & 11 am  
**Working Holy Days:** 10 am & 7.30 pm  
**Monday to Friday:** 10 am  
**Saturday Vigil:** 6.00 pm  
**Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem**



### Recently Deceased

**Pat Browne**, Ashleigh  
**John Joseph (Seán) Connolly**, Linden Avenue  
**Nora O'Keefe**, Castle Road  
May the light of heaven surround them always.



### Baptisms

**Isabel Corah Coughlan.**  
**Kacey Clodagh Gleeson.**  
**Eoghan Patrick Kiely.**  
**Róisín Catherine O'Callaghan.**  
**Frankie Christopher Peyton.**  
We welcome them into the Christian Family



### Christmas Blessings



Fr Colin, Canon Tadhg and Fr Michael wish you every blessing this Christmas time.  
May the Peace of Christmas be with you and your families

### CHRISTMAS DUES

For those parishioners who didn't receive the envelopes by post, there are some available in the church.

**Anam Cara Cork**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding it's monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on **Wednesday 5th January at 7:20pm in the Clayton Hotel, Silver Springs, Cork City.** This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. \*Subject to change in accordance with government advise\*



When you use the newsletter, please take it home with you.

**DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE**



### Christmas Reflection

It has been another tough and challenging year. It is hard to believe that we are at the end of it and about to embark on a new one. We are celebrating Christmas but very cautiously. We have to be careful as how we spend time with others as the Omicron variant of the virus takes hold.

Once again, though, the important thing is that we are marking the birth of Jesus. He has come into our lives as an infant- "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us". He comes into our world as one like us. We greet him with love and joy.

The beautiful crib in our church helps us to focus. We are invited to come and pray before the manger. It is lovely to stop for a while and visit the crib and sit quietly in the presence of the child Jesus.

We reflect on what God has done for us and for the blessings given to us. We have received the wonderful gift that is Jesus Christ. "Emmanuel- a name which means God is with us."

May the infant Jesus bless us this Christmas with peace and keep us safe.

*Fr Colin*

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**  
New Ministers of the Word Rota is available for collection in the sacristy.

### Thank You!

Our thanks to all the people who helped our parish in any way during the year. Our thanks to John, Jane, the ladies in the Choir and all in the Folk Group. Also to the Collectors, Stewards and Foggers who kept us safe and free from Covid. Thanks also to all in the Communications Team and anyone who volunteered their help and support of the parish during the year - to you all - go raibh mile maith agaibh!

Have a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.  
*Fr Colin, Canon Tadhg and Fr Michael*

You may be using your mobile phone for Mass, if so, please ensure it is on silent. If not, please switch it off. Thank you



### Thoughts

This is our second Covid Christmas, but it doesn't mean we can't enjoy the feast. The readings are inspirational and it is a great season for music. To adapt a prayer of St Augustine:

*You have spoken, O God, and shattered our deafness and we can hear you in one like ourselves. Let celebrate the feast, then, in love and great joy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### The Readings

The Christmas weekend offers a rich selection — four sets of readings for Christmas Day and one for the feast of the Holy Family. To keep things simple, it seemed better this time to give the link to the relevant webpage on [tarsus.ie](http://tarsus.ie), where all the material can be found.

### CHRISTMAS ON THE EDGE

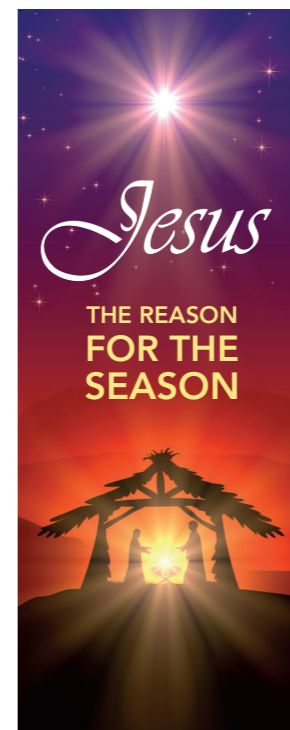
Christmas sets the centre on the edge;  
The edge of town, the outhouse of the inn,  
The fringe of empire, far from privilege  
And power, on the edge and outer spin  
Of turning worlds, a margin of small stars  
That edge a galaxy itself light years  
From some unguessed at cosmic origin.  
Christmas sets the centre at the edge.

And from this day our world is re-aligned  
A tiny seed unfolding in the womb  
Becomes the source from which we all unfold  
And flower into being. We are healed,  
The end begins, the tomb becomes a womb,  
For now in him all things are re-aligned.

*Malcolm Guite*

Sharing the excitement is a very human response. We have all done it at some stage: some great news in the family, perhaps at a promotion or the discovery of a place of spectacular beauty or some situation has turned around. The desire to let others know tells us that sharing such experiences is itself part of the original delight. Something similar may be said of the sense of discovery and delight we find in the Good News of Jesus.

Like the prophets of old (Jeremiah 6:19) or like St Paul (1 Cor 9:16), we just can't keep it in! We want, we need to let others know to complete our delight and our sense of discovery.



### Thought for the day

Today we have a chance to reflect on the mystery of our own families! It really is a bit of mystery, how we mostly come out okay from this most intense and formative of experiences. We receive so much that we really want to ponder and to treasure. We can also be burdened by attitudes and traits that we might well wish we were without. Yet, through it all, we are grateful. Family is our "first love" and never really loses its importance for us.

### Prayer

*Bless all our families. We thank you for the very gift of life itself we have through our parents and for all the other many gifts we receive from our families. We have received so much: help us to continue to give. Help us too to know what to overlook and forget, to pay attention to what can be healed and forgiven, and through it all to continue to love. Amen*

*K O'Mahony OSA*

### Reflections

1. Luke's skill as a storyteller comes through in the details of the story in a way that many people can identify with: the loss of a child, the frantic search, the seemingly offhand speech of the teenager. Let the drama of the story speak to you. Where do you find good news in it?

2. In Luke's Gospel this story serves to give a glimpse of the future greatness of Jesus, the teacher of his people. Sometimes we can look back over our own life, or the lives of others, and with hindsight can see in childhood or teenage years a glimpse of gifts and talents that were later to blossom. Where have you seen this?

3. "Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?" This seemingly insensitive reply by Jesus to Mary serves to highlight that in his life the mission given him by God would take precedence over family ties, painful though this would be. Perhaps you have known situations in your own life, or in the life of another, where there was pain for family members as you followed your own destiny? Where in the midst of the pain was the good news?

### PRAYER

*As your sons and daughters, O loving God, we come before you in thanksgiving, called and united by your eternal Word. Teach us to ponder the mystery of Nazareth, that we may always find in you the source of our strength and the unity of our families. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. Amen.*

**BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL**  
January Church Gate collection will take place on **w/e 1st/2nd January 2022**  
Your support as always, is greatly appreciated.