

Dunleer Parish Bulletin

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Issue Date Dec 20th 2020

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| Sat 19 th 7 30 | Peter, Teresa and Caroline Carron Cora and Tony Quinn Alice and Joe Johnston |
| Sun 20 th 10 30 | Nicky Cunningham |
| Sun Dec 20 th 11 30 | Peter and Loreto Landy |
| Mon 21 st 10 a.m. Av | Rev Sr Monica Markey |
| Wed Dec 23 rd 10 a.m. Av | Claire, Johnny and Josie Mc Mahon and dec'd parents. |
| Thurs 24 th 10 a.m. Av | Francis and Mary Carville and sons Arthur, Owen, Cyril, Joe and also Carmel Carville and Paddy Callan |
| Thurs 24 th 7 30 C'Mass Eve | Paddy Torris Trevor Murtagh and Dec'd of Hughes Family Paddy and Paula Faulkner George Harmon Alo Callan Martin Craven |
| Fri 25 th C'Mas Day 11 30 Av | Francis and Julia Clarke and John and Margaret Quinn. |
| Sun Dec 27 th 10 30 Av | Paddy Magee Noel Lynch |

**Wishing all people of
good will and especially
our parishioners the best
Christmas possible!**

Who ever thought that we would see cobwebs on the chapel door or the pubs of Ireland shut for the greater part of a year? This has surely been a critical year of our lives and this is a crisis Christmas. The world is not the safe and predictable place that we thought it was. We are all held hostage to fear. For what might be the first and only time in living memory, people live with the possibility of sudden illness and possible death knocking at the door. We have learned to live defensively, like medieval people living behind their city walls or cowering behind their shields. As always, such crises bring out the best and occasionally the worst in humankind. We have all seen the outreach of persons and communities that are known to us and we have witnessed the tension and the distress that it has brought and is still bringing to many people. While the prospect of a vaccine holds out some hope of an end to the catastrophe, we are all living with the need to return to safety and to the routine and rhythm of our lives unhindered by the protocols of the present dispensation. This state of waiting and of expectation may be a hint of how people felt as they waited for the Messiah, the one who would free them and remove the chains that enslaved them.

This was the reason for the Word becoming flesh. God's initiative was a reaching out in compassion to his suffering people. He tears open the heavens; clothes himself in our skin; pitches his tent among us and walks in our human shoes. He wrestles with death and overcomes it and tells us that his spirit rising within us is a promise and seal that we too can be free from the chains that bind us.

God does not enter our world like a boxer being trumpeted loudly. He comes softly, in the night, as a child, born into simplicity, not style. We need no appointment to greet him. There are no locks or passwords to the manger. He is accessible and radical. His very presence transforms everything. He chips away at our pride and shows what power really is. He shakes up our world-view and leads us towards the beyond-ness of God. He is simply, 'My Lord and my God.'