

Dunleer Parish Bulletin

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MASS INTENTIONS

Dunleer

Sat, 29th-Dec-2018 @
7.30 pm

Av Brigid, Cecelia &
Joseph Flanagan

Sun, 6th-Jan-2019 @
11.30 am

Av Nuala, Ollie &
John Reilly

Philipstown

Sun, 6th-Jan-2019 @
9.30 am

Av Brigid Mackin &
dec'd of Caffrey
family

Dromin

Sun, 30th-Dec-2018 @
10.30 am

Av Noel Lynch

Sun, 06th-Jan-2019 @
10.30 am

Av Paddy Magee

Today, on this Feastday of the Holy Family, we leave the baby Jesus behind, as it were, and begin to deal with the reality of the growing child and, later, the grown man. His growth to maturity, like our own, takes place in the context of a human family. Scripture is very reserved about his growing up. It is referred to as his 'hidden life'. He is fully human as well as being divine, and like the rest of us, he has to grow physically, mentally and spiritually within the context of his time and place and family. 'The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him'.

Simeon, we are told, was an 'upright and devout man'. Joseph and Mary were likewise upright and devout. They were observant of the laws and rituals of their faith. They were also poor. We know this by the nature of their offering at his Presentation, two turtle doves or young pigeons; the offering prescribed by the Law as expected of the poor. Aside from the three years of Jesus' public ministry, the lives of the Holy Family were lived largely in ordinariness yet Simeon recognised the destiny of Jesus as Saviour and prophet and reveals the sorrow that Mary, like so many mothers, must endure. As our own poet and patriot Pádraig Pearse put it, 'Lord, thou art hard on mothers. We suffer in their coming and their going'.

The Feast day of the Holy Family presents us with an ideal of a family growing in wisdom and understanding of each other. They have their difficulties and they have to negotiate the dangers of their own time. Jesus' life begins in the shadow of violence; the threats of Herod that forced his family to flee to Egypt. He begins life as a displaced person, re-enacting the history of his people who were once exiled and enslaved. Like many of the children of our own time and culture, he experiences the world as a potentially dangerous place. He also experiences the care of his family who searched for him when he was lost and who worried about him and what might become of him. We take the stability of our own families for granted

Parish Notices

Carers **Group C** on duty.

Wishing all parishioners and friends a very Happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year in 2019.

'For all that has been – thanks – to all that will be – yes'
(Hammarkjold)

Nollaig Beag/Nollaig na mBean fé mhaise dhaoibh agus míle buiochas do gach mathar agus sean-mhathair.

Family, for us, begins with the marriage of a couple who are open to new life and the possible forming of persons in the values of the Gospel. We need not to lose sight of the wonder and the mystery under our very noses, the home. We need to pause and recapture the wonder with which any happy child sees the family. This is maybe made easier for us at this family season of Christmas. We need to recover the vision of what the family can be as well as the view of how it is at any given time. We also need to fight for our vision and to resource its strengthening, and ministering to the hurt and disheartened.