

Dunleer Parish Bulletin

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Sat Dec 26 th 7 30	Joe and Brigid Flanagan and Cecelia and dec'd of family
Sun 27 th 11 30 Av	Thomas Kelly (50 th) Paddy Magee Noel Lynch
Tues 29 th 10 a.m. Av	Peadar Halpin
Sun Jan 3 rd 11 30 Av	Brigid Healy Nuala Ollie and John Reilly Ben and Lizzy Matthews and Tommy Matthews.

Wishing all people of good will and especially our parishioners the best New Year possible!

Because of the renewed restrictions, all Masses except funeral Masses will be on-line only for the present.

There will not be any baptisms until further notice.

Anniversary Masses can be booked by telephoning the above numbers or by using e mail.

Mass will be broadcast each day at 10 a.m. and on Saturday evenings at 7 30 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 11 30. The Rosary is recited each day before Mass beginning at 9 40 and accessible by live-stream.

Thankfully, most of us come from what we call 'ordinary' families. People often ask me if any other members of my family are priests. They expect somehow that a priest, almost automatically comes from a middle class, professional background and has several relatives already in religious life. When I write stories or tell tales about my family, people are usually amazed at how similar family experience can be. All of us who were reared in the middle decades of the last century have somewhat matching or parallel stories despite the particular and individual detail of every family and person. Likewise, if we exclude the three years of Christ's public ministry, the lives of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, were both ordinary and holy. Some people speak of the holiness of common decency. That is what our feast is about today. We celebrate the richness of family heritage and the possibilities that it offered us. The Incarnation of God's Word honours not only the human person but also the family.

There is, as always, a challenge thrown down to us too. The Scriptures always invite us to grow like the Christ child, in wisdom, stature, maturity and grace. Already we are invited to leave the infant Christ behind and to grow with him into the fulness of adult life and discipleship. There is always something to learn. 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 and compassion of his family who worried about him and what might become of him.