

## Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Limerick

### Newsletter for 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

#### Gaudete Sunday

This Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020, is the Third Sunday of Advent. The priests may wear rose vestments and the pink candle will be lit as we rejoice at this stage of preparation and look forward to the joyous occasion of the Birth of Christ.

#### Returning for Mass

The Church is open for the Celebration of Mass and we welcome parishioners who are able to return. We must continue to heed the advice of Government, HSE and NPHET to protect each other from the Covid pandemic. Please wash your hands before you leave home and as soon as you return. Please use the hand sanitiser as you enter Church and again as you leave.

Particular care must be exercised at weekends and over Christmas, with the restriction on numbers. Extra Masses have been arranged for Christmas time. Please consider which time is best for you and whether you might switch from your usual Mass in order to spread the expected congregation.

To protect each other from transmission of the virus, you are asked to wear a face mask, to cover your nose and mouth, both inside and around the Church, unless there is some reason why you cannot.

Please observe social distancing, keeping at least 2 metres from others at all times. When approaching for Communion and returning to your seat, please hold back 2 metres from the person in front of you.

#### Mass Times at Christmas

Christmas Eve: **4:00 pm**; 6:00 pm & 8:00 pm  
Christmas Day: **8:00 am**; 10:00 am & 11:30 am  
St. Stephen's Day: **10:00 am** & 6:00 pm  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Dec: 10:00 am & 11:30 am



#### Mass Intentions for the Week

Mass Celebrated at Our Lady of the Rosary Church  
and Streamed Online from the Parish Webcam

Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	18:00	Carmel Custy (A) Jacqueline Staunton (A) Liam O'Leary (A) Kathleen Hynan (A)
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00 11:30	Patrick Quane (7 <sup>th</sup> A) Michael Meaney (A)
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00	Pro Popolo Peter & Catherine Phelan (A)
Tue 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00	Sr. Bridget Beggan Rec.Dec John McCormack Rec.Dec. Joe Connolly (A)
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00	Chris Conroy Rec.Dec.
Thu 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00	Michael Gleeson
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00	Purgatorial
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	18:00	William Hogan (1 <sup>st</sup> A) John Cosgrave (1 <sup>st</sup> A) Gerard McKeon (A) Liam & Mary Garrihy (A)
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00 11:30	Purgatorial Tom Clohessy

#### Christmas Dues & Clerk's Collection

Dear Parishioner,  
The past year has been an extraordinary year for everybody. Our Parish has managed to sustain its running costs due to previous giving. Since Christmas 2019, there has been no appreciable income to Margaret Clifford as Sacristan or ourselves as priests.

We hope that, in your giving for Christmas, you might take this reality into account. Thanking you again for your continued loyalty and generosity to our parish.  
Yours Sincerely,  
Fr. Des Mc Auliffe.

#### A Message from the Irish Bishops

We strongly encourage the faithful to *keep Christ at the centre* of Christmas this year. Clearly it will be impossible for our usual large congregations to assemble for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We wish to remind Catholics that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended during the pandemic.

But Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. Christmas Masses will also be widely available over webcam and we strongly encourage families to "tune in" from the "domestic churches" of their living rooms and join with those who are gathering in their local churches in welcoming the birth of the Christ-child.

It is possible to experience the spiritual richness of this special season in many ways. Our homes can become "little churches" where we invite the Christ-child in. The age-old tradition of having a Christmas crib in the home and gathering there as a family to pray or to sing a carol will be especially meaningful this year. We also invite families or "household bubbles" to pay a visit to their local church at some time during the twelve days to offer a Christmas prayer at the crib and pray together for their families and for those particularly impacted by the pandemic.