

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Limerick

Newsletter Edition for Christmas

19th December 2021

Mass Times at Christmas

Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm
Christmas Day: 10:00 am & 11:30 am
St. Stephen's Day: 10:00 am & 11:30 am

Weekdays: 10:00 am
Sat. 1st Jan 2022: Vigil Mass at 6:00 pm
Sunday 2nd Jan: 10:00 am & 11:30 am

Nollaig Shona agus Nollaig Naofa

Our priests, Fr. Des and Fr. Tom, our Sacristan, Margaret, and the Parish Pastoral Council wish our parishioners a Happy and a Holy Christmas. May the Lord Bless you and Keep you Safe.

From Advent to Christmas

The Angel's candle will be lit on the Advent Wreath this weekend. This purple candle symbolises Peace and Goodwill as we approach the Birth of Christ. The white candle, which symbolises the Light of Christ, will be lit on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day.

As we come through this time of waiting, we have been reminded of all who helped us through the pandemic. We remember with gratitude those who have cared for the sick and dying; we see God's caring presence in the efforts of all who worked hard to get us through the year, to ease the burden of Covid-19.

We are especially mindful of family members who cannot come home for Christmas. We think of them through the Jesse Tree in the sanctuary. Although we cannot display cards this year, we use the traditional Family Tree of Jesus, as a symbol for our families, near and far, at this time of virtual if not physical reunion.



Stay Safe When Coming to Mass

We welcome parishioners who are able to return to our Church for Mass. We must continue to heed official advice to protect each other from Covid-19 and its new variants. Wear warm clothes and keep your coats on as we will have windows open for ventilation.

If you have symptoms, please stay at home and follow public health advice. Masses will be broadcast online.

Please observe hand hygiene; use the sanitiser as you enter Church and again as you leave. To protect each other from transmission of the virus, wear a face mask; remember it must cover your nose and mouth.

Care must be exercised at weekends and over Christmas, when attendance will be higher. Spread out to all the open pews. We cannot return to full capacity while we are still trying to observe social distancing.

We intend to have Ushers present over Christmas to help you find safe seats. If you find that a particular Mass is too full, please return at another time.

Please observe social distancing from others at all times. When approaching for Communion and returning to your seat, heed the Ushers, take your time and hold back from the person in front of you.

Christmas Dues & Clerk's Collection

Some bundles of envelopes for Christmas Dues, for Priests and Sacristan, are still available in the Church. If you are able to deliver in your home area, please collect them from the front seats as soon as possible

Pope Francis on the Annunciation and Hope

Speaking at the Angelus on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception 8th Dec. 2021, Pope Francis referred to the Gospel of the day and said: "With this annunciation, within the poor walls of a small house, God changed history. Today too, he wants to do great things with us in our daily lives: that is, in our families, at work, in everyday environments. God's grace loves to operate there more than in great historical events. ...

Let us ask Our Lady for a grace: that she may free us from the misleading idea that the Gospel is one thing and life is another; that she kindle our enthusiasm for the ideal of holiness which is not a matter of holy cards and images, but is about living what happens each day, *humbly and joyfully*, like Our Lady, free from ourselves, with our eyes fixed on God and the neighbour we meet. Let us not lose heart: The Lord has given everyone what it takes to weave holiness within our everyday life! And when we are assailed by the doubt that we cannot succeed, or the sadness of not being adequate, let us allow ourselves to be looked upon by the "merciful eyes" of Our Lady, for no one who has asked for her help has ever been abandoned!"

[full text of Angelus Address (above) and Prayer to the Holy Family (below) from Holy See at www.vatican.va]

A Prayer before the Crib by Pope Francis

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.