

THE DEEP END *Joseph the dreamer*

Pope Francis has spoken on several occasions about his devotion to St Joseph. St Joseph is his favourite saint, he says, because he shows us how God reveals his plan to us in our times of silence and rest. He keeps a statue of a sleeping St Joseph on his desk, placing prayer requests under it. Speaking on a trip to the Philippines in 2015, he said: 'I have great love for Saint Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength... Joseph's rest revealed God's will to him. In this moment of rest in the Lord, as we pause from our many daily obligations and activities, God is also speaking to us. But like St Joseph, once we have heard God's voice, we must rise from our slumber; we must get up and act.'

Today's Gospel recalls the central role played by St Joseph in the story of the birth of Jesus. A man of honour from the outset, the goodness of his character is further highlighted by his response to God's voice. When he wakes up after hearing God's instructions in a dream, he immediately acts on it and takes Mary into his home. His openness to God's will is a crucial element in the story that follows: his partnership with and support of Mary, the birth of Jesus, his care for the child 'who is to save his people' Christmas is very near now, and we are busy and preoccupied with our preparations. A good time, perhaps, to pause in silence, to rest with God, and to listen to what he might have to say to us.

Triona Doherty (trionad@gmail.com)



***Nollaig Naofa, Beannachtaíosa,
Nollaig chroíúil, is
bliainnuamhaith.***

*From
Fr. Des, Fr. Tom, Margaret & the
Parish Council*

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Tuesday, 24 December:

Mass 10.00am

Children's Mass 6.00pm

Vigil Mass of Christmas 8.00pm

Wednesday 25 December: Christmas Day

Masses at 10.00am & 11.30am

No Evening Mass on Christmas Day

Thursday 26 Dec: Feast of St Stephen, the first Martyr, morning Mass 10.00 am

Friday 27 December: Feast of St John the Evangelist, Morning Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 28 December: Feast of the Holy Innocents (Martyrs) Prayer Service 9.45am.

THE CANDLE OF LOVE: The fourth candle, the last purple candle, the 'candle of love' oftentimes called the 'Angels Candle,' is lit today. The angels announced the good news

of a Saviour. God sent his only Son to earth to save us because he loves us.

On Christmas Eve, the white centre candle is traditionally lit. This candle is called the 'CHRIST CANDLE' and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The colour white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Saviour.

CHRISTMAS DUES: The Christmas dues envelopes for the Parish Clergy and the Sacristan have been distributed to houses during the week. If you are contributing by cheque, please make the cheques payable to 'Our Lady of the Rosary Parish' and in relation to the Sacristan to 'Margaret Clifford'.

THE CRIB: Many years ago, in the thirteenth century, when most ordinary people could not read, St. Francis decided he would demonstrate the Christmas story in a way everyone could understand. He set up a stable scene in a cave not far from his home in Assisi, with real people and animals. As people gathered around to see what he was doing, he told them how Jesus had been born in a simple stable and how angels had appeared to shepherds telling them to go and find for themselves the Messiah who had been born. The idea gradually caught on and now the Christmas Crib (also called a creche or Nativity scene) is a universal part of the celebrations.

***O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel***

PARISH WEBSITE

www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie

Fr. Des McAuliffe P.P. Tel: 061 324825

Fr. Tom Ryan C.C. Tel: 087 2997733

Parish Clerk: Margaret Clifford at Church Sacristy

Tel: 061 325288

Office Hours: 09:00 - 09:45 Weekdays

09:00 - 12:30 Sunday

MASS TIMES: Weekends and Holy Days

Saturday Vigil 18:00

Sunday 10:00; 11:30

Weekdays:

Mon. to Fri. 10:00

Saturday 09:45 Prayer Service

BAPTISMS: Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 21 st	18:00	Liam & Mary Garrihy (A) Gerard McKeon (A) Paddy Hartnett (Rem.) Eddie Holliday (A) Eddie Holliday (A)
Sun 22 nd	10:00 11:30	Jim & Rose Hurley (Rem)
Mon 23 rd	10:00	May & Jack Connelly (A)
Tue 24 th	10:00 18:00	Mary O'Rourke(A) VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS (Children) NIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS DAY
Wed 25 th	20:00 10:00 11:30	
Thur 26 th	10:00	Paddy Rea (A) Carmel Corbett(A) Bernie Cavanagh, (A) Michael Hehir (A)
Fri 27 th	10:00	Prayer Service Paddy Ryan (A) Ita Duffy (A) Pat O'Connor (A) Ann O'Brien (A) Hartnett, Murphy & Carroll Families (Rem.)
Sat 28 th	09:45 18:00	
Sun 29 th	10:00 11:30	Fr. Sean McCarthy & Parents(A) Lilly O'Brien (A) Carmel Corbett (A) Liam Kelly (A) Ger McNamara (A) Ann O'Brien (A)

