

## Errigal Parish News – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### Weekday Masses:

**St. Mary's Church:** Monday through Thursday at 10am.

**St. Joseph's Oratory:** No weekday Mass presently.

### **'Parish of Errigal' Christmas Masses 2020**

**Christmas Eve** St. Mary's Church - 4pm (additional Mass) 6pm. St. Joseph's Church - 8pm.

**Christmas Morning** St. Mary's Church - 9am. - St. Joseph's Church - 11am.

To accommodate increased numbers attending Christmas Masses, we will operate a 'track and trace' system. This means you are required to provide your contact details (**name, address, telephone number – number of people to be seated together – 'social bubble' – data sheets attached**).

By indicating your intention to attend a Christmas Mass – (**Mass will be allocated with respect to numbers permitted in the church**), your seat allocation will be offered on a 'first registered – first accommodated' process. (You may only attend one Mass over the Christmas period to permit other members of our parish community to attend a Christmas Mass). Please, be aware just because you or your family has registered your intentions to attend a Christmas Mass, it does not automatically mean that you will be able to attend.

Once we are aware of the numbers, that we can safely permit to gather in the church, we will print a seating arrangement map for each church and for each service. These will be available to view at the back of each church once they are correlated, and no later than Sunday 20th December.

We advise that you arrive at the church, at least 10/15 minutes before the Mass begins. You will be greeted by a steward/usher who will have a seating plan – they will guide you or your family group to your designated seat. Once the seating arrangements are finalized, they will reflect the required regulations pertaining to – (1) Family Bubbles (2) Social Distancing.

I ask for your co-operation in our efforts to manage the safety of all who gather for our Christmas Services. Please ensure that you use the sanitiser as you enter and leave the church, also wear a facial mask, unless you are exempt from doing so.

All who enter the church will be seated, there will be **NO** standing at the back of the church or around the porch area. Once the Mass has concluded and instructed by the stewards/ushers you will be invited to exit the church safely from the back first. **Thank you for your co-operation in these challenging times!**

**PS - Data Sheets are provided for signing at the back of each church. (You may indicate your preferred choice of Mass, however there is no guarantee that it will be available).**

**Parish Finance:** Thanks to those in recent months who continued to contribute to the parish finances by cheque/parish envelopes. Please note that collection baskets circulating during Mass are suspended presently. There is a collection box at the back of each church at the weekend Masses. If you wish to contribute to the parish by standing order - forms can be forwarded upon request by sending an email to - [errigalparish@gmail.com](mailto:errigalparish@gmail.com) From the end of each month we shall include in the collection figures the amounts relating to the increase in standing orders, these figures are stated above in the brackets at the end of each month.

**Sick Visitation:** Fr. Crowley will attend the sick in his care on Wednesday (note the change of day) in the morning in Glenullin and the afternoon in Ballerin/Garvagh.

**Requiesant In Pace:** We extend our sympathy to the family and relatives of Aidan McNicholl, 58 Glen Road who died recently.

**Month's Mind Masses:** In St. Mary's Church. For Joe Johnson on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, and for Bertie Faulkner on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

**Season of Advent - Gaudete Sunday: Season of Advent (Year B) Gaudete Week:** Our week begins with "Gaudete Sunday." *Gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, "**The Lord is near.**" This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, the colour of the candle is rose/pink. The second part of Advent begins on December 17<sup>th</sup> each year - this year, in 2020, it will fall on a Thursday, this will be followed by the Fourth Sunday of Advent. For the last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings changes. The first readings are still from the prophesies, but now the gospels are from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter into the story of how Jesus' life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us. Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory. Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing expressed in hope for the unfolding day. It is that hope, however faint at times, and that God, however distant He sometimes seems, which brings to the world the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth and justice and righteousness over His people and in His creation.

Join the journey through Advent this year at [www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar) '*Lord our God, help us to prepare for the coming of Christ your Son. May He find us waiting, eager in joyful prayer. 'Come, Lord Jesus'.*

**Seasonal Christmas Cards:** Available for sale at the back of each church. (Pkts of six cards - £2.50p - please put the money in the candle box).

**Stamp Boxes:** There is a box at the back of each church for the collection of used stamps for the missions.

**Sacrament of Initiation Dates 2021:** Sacrament of Confirmation - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 11am. First Communion - St. Columba's School Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 11am. St. Patrick's & St. Joseph's School Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 11am.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Following enquires regarding the reception of this Sacrament (Confession) provision can be accommodated respecting social distancing and wearing a facial mask, by arrangement either in the space proved in the church or alternatively in the Parochial House.

**St. Mary's Church - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 7pm - 8pm. St. Joseph's Church - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December from 7pm - 8pm.**

**St. Mary's Church Readers - 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Dec**

Vigil 6pm. - Mary McLaughlin

Sunday 10am. - Arranged

**Eucharistic Ministers - 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Dec**

Vigil 6pm. - Siobhan McIntyre & Orla Doherty  
Sunday 10am. - Josephine McKeown & Amanda Ferris.

**St. Joseph's Church Readers - 19th/20th Dec**

Vigil 7.30pm. - Rachel O'Kane  
Sunday 11.30am. - Mairead McNicholl

**Eucharistic Ministers - 19th/20th Dec**

Vigil 7.30pm. - Grainne O'Kane  
Sunday 11.30am. - John Heaney.

**St Vincent de Paul - Christmas Appeal 2020:** Christmas time is the busiest time for St Vincent de Paul giving out lots of toys and food parcels kindly donated by the public. However, this Christmas is going to be different with COVID-19 and government restrictions. The safety of the public and their members is paramount. Therefore, St Vincent de Paul are asking the public that instead of buying a physical toy or items of food that they buy a voucher or make a donation for the amount they were going to spend. If you have any questions or need any help please ring **St Vincent de Paul on 07563595868. There is also a link on the parish website to donate.**

**Prayer Resources for Advent:** A series of Prayer resources for Advent has been created by the Diocese, in conjunction with the Northern Pastoral Network and the Catechetical Centre, for family prayer at home during the season of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. These resources contain lots of creative ideas and tips to help families and parishes during Prayer resources for Advent the Season of Advent. A family prayer booklet has been compiled specifically with families in mind. The Gospel for each Sunday of Advent is accompanied by a family activity, prayers and a reflection. The booklet can be downloaded at this link: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/advent-prayer-service-for-use-at-home> Family activities for Advent including prayers, how to create a Jesse Tree, an Advent Wreath and lots more are available to view on the Catechetical Centre website at: <https://catecheticalcentre.org/family-resources/preparing-our-hearts-for-christmas-adventresources>.

**An Advent Prayer -** Come long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power, Of your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service. Of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice. Come long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world. Peace in my home, peace in myself. Come long – expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy, responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, Singing and joy. Come long – expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace. It is right to bring to the manger of the Lord. Raise in me, too sober reverence for the Lord Who acted there. And spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ whose advent I hail. Amen.

**Sacraments of Initiation:** [MyFaith.ie](http://MyFaith.ie) is a parish-based programme of preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. It releases new modules every two weeks or so as the children and their families prepare for the Sacraments. Each module begins with a short lesson - for parents - on the content of that module before the next item, a taught lesson for the children. The programme is highly interactive and learning is reinforced through challenges, quizzes and interactive games which are scored but can be repeated indefinitely. This is offered to parents/guardians as a format of instruction during the pandemic.

**Face Coverings/Numbers at Services:** We request the wearing of face coverings as they are now mandatory upon entering and leaving the church. Some people are exempt from the wearing of face coverings, even in situations which would otherwise be mandatory. Please continue to observe social distancing, to use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving each of our churches.

**Diocesan Paper 'The Net':** The December edition of The Net is now available online, on the parish website. As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese. You are invited to read 'The Net' on the diocesan website, at your convenience.

**ACCORD Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme - 2021 Course Dates:** 12th/ 13th January, 9th/ 10th February and 9th/ 10th March. Booking now online at [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com).

**Sisters from the St. Elisabeth Convent:** (Minsk, Belarus) are launching the very first Online Christmas Market, so that people from all over the world can purchase Christmas presents and souvenirs made with love and continuous prayer. Please, click here to participate: <https://catalog.obitel-minsk.com/christmas-market> . Every item purchased at the Online Market is a donation towards one of the Convent's ministries.

**Ballerin GAA:** Congratulations to Una McAtasney on winning the 1<sup>st</sup> £10.000. Lotto the no's 8,9,14,and 16. New J/P is £10.000 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> J/P is £5740 (approx.).