



Weekday Masses:

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

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

Parish Collections - Thank you.

340 boxes of envelopes in circulation. Returns - (Pink/190 White/132)

St. Mary's - Parish: £795 Renovation £350

St. Joseph's - Parish £600 Renovation £480

'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 details – number of people to be seated together in advance – 'social bubble/individuals'**)

At the back of each church from this weekend, the schedule is available for viewing for each Christmas Mass, where possible, and if a bubble permits we have accommodated the majority of those who sought a particular preference of their Mass of choice.

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!**

'Solemnity of Christmas 2020'

'We extend a warm welcome to those who have travelled home to be with family and loved ones during the Festive Period'.

Fr. Crowley would like to extend to all our parish community a peaceful and joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

'Mary's Birthday Dream' I had a dream Joseph. I don't understand it, but I think it was about the birthday of our Son. The people in my dream had been preparing for about six weeks, they had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought many elaborate gifts. It was peculiar, though because the presents weren't for our Son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and stacked them under the tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right inside their homes! They'd decorated the tree with sparkling ornaments. There was a figure like an angel on the top of the tree. Everyone was laughing and happy. They gave the gifts to each other Joseph, not to our Son. I don't think they even knew him! They never mentioned his name. I had the strangest feeling that, if our Jesus had gone to this celebration he would have been intruding. How sad for someone not to be wanted at his own birthday party! I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real! **'A Christmas Prayer'** 'O God, our help in ages past, our hope in years to come - 'Look down upon this present, and see our need of thee ... For in this age of unrest, with danger all around. We need thy hand to lead us, to higher, safer ground ... We need thy help and counsel, to make us more aware. That our safety and security, lie solely in thy care ... And so, we pray this Christmas, to FEEL THY PRESENCE near. And for thy all-wise guidance, throughout the coming year.

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 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.

Baptism: We welcome into the parish community Keagan James Mullan, 12 Demense Manor who was baptised last weekend.

Month's Mind Mass: For Frances O'Kane, Maghera on Monday 21st December in St. Mary's Church at 10am.

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

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 - Sunday 20th December from 6pm - 7pm. St. Joseph's Church - Monday 21st December from 7pm - 8pm.

St. Mary's Church Readers - 26th/27th Dec

Vigil 6pm. - Tiara-Niamh Mullan.

Sunday 10am. - John Mullan

Eucharistic Ministers - 26th/27th Dec

Vigil 6pm. - Siobhan McIntyre & Orla Doherty

Sunday 10am. - Martina Bradley & Gillian O'Neill.

Christmas Readers

Christmas Eve 4pm - Fionn & Aoife Wade.

Christmas Eve 6pm Madison McGilligan & Grace Doherty.

Christmas Day 9.00am Jacob & Joshua O'Neill.

Christmas - Eucharistic Ministers

Christmas Eve 4pm Irene McIntyre & Don Robinson

Christmas Eve 6pm Carmel Harkin & Paddy Bradley

Christmas Day 9.00am Kate Mullan & Brian Mullan.

St. Joseph's Church Readers - 26th Dec/27th Dec

Vigil 7.30pm. - Dan Mullan

Sunday 11.30am. - Kerrie Mullan

Eucharistic Ministers - 26th/27th Dec

Vigil 7.30pm. - Mary Conway

Sunday 11.30am. - Meabh Close.

Christmas Readers

Christmas Eve 8pm - Nadine McNicholl & Dan Mullan

Christmas Day 11am - Kerrie Mullan & Eimear O'Kane

Christmas - Eucharistic Ministers

Christmas Eve 8pm - Eimear O'Kane & Nadine McNicholl

Christmas Day 11am - Margaret Rose Hasson & Declan McNicholl.

Thanks: The Johnston and entire family circle of the late Joe Johnston would like to thank their kind friends and neighbours who sympathised with them on their recent sad bereavement. A special Thanks to everyone involved in the Funeral Mass. Thanks to Fr. Crowley for the lovely Service, thanks to all that sent Mass and Sympathy cards. A heartfelt thank you to McKiernan & Sons for their professional and dignified manner in which the arrangements were carried out. Joe's Month Mind Mass is on Saturday 19th December at 6pm.

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

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 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.

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.

This Christmas: Trócaire will deliver life-saving support to thousands of families across the developing world. As well as supporting people living through conflict and natural disasters, Trócaire has launched a special appeal to support families who have not been able to grow food or earn money due to Covid-19. Please consider supporting this vital work this Christmas. You can purchase one of 17 special gifts for families, or else make a general donation to the Trócaire Christmas Appeal. Please visit trocaire.org to make a donation or buy a gift.

Ballerin GAA: There was no winner of the Lotto the Nos were 6, 9, 22, and 29 J/P was £10,000 2nd J/P £6,000. £50 winner Joe Hamill.