



# Douglas / Rochestown Parish

**St Columba's**  
Tel: 021 489 4128 (Office)  
Mobile: 087 2617143

**Mass Times**  
Sat Vigil: 6pm  
Sun: 9.30am, 11am & 12.15pm

**St Patrick's,**  
Tel: 021 489 6797 (Office)  
Mobile: 087 638 8655

**Mass Times**  
Sun: 11am & 12.30pm

1<sup>st</sup> January 2017



## BAPTISMS

We welcome to the Christian community the following who were baptised recently:

**Robyn Jane McDonald**, daughter of June & Alan, Palaceanne Lawn.

**Lauren Orla McKenna**, daughter of Anna & Ian, Grange.

**Ben Ryan Coughlan**, son of Michelle & Graham, Edgewood.

**Layla Sophie Davitt**, daughter of Sarah & Peter, Kilbrody.

**Rose Eileen Doyle**, daughter of Lorraine & Gavin, Ardekeale.

## News Desk

### FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY, Friday 6TH JANUARY '17

#### Mass Times

**St. Columba's:** 6.00pm (Vigil)(Thurs 5th) : 10.00am, 12.15 pm.

**St. Patrick's:** 9.30am- one Mass only

**Offices re-opening Tues 3<sup>h</sup> Jan '17**

#### Christmas Leftovers

Is your house full of surplus gifts after Christmas? If so, you might like to donate some items suitable for mothers, which the Parish Assembly will collect in January and pass on to **Edel House**. There will be a basket by the crib in each church after Mass on Sundays 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> January to facilitate this collection.

#### THE DEEP END- Treasure and ponder

If you're anything like me, you sometimes have to make a deliberate effort to slow down. Life can be so busy that sometimes there is little time left to think. Even our downtime can be full of activities and noise, whether we're into sports; video games; sitting down with a good book, movie or box set; or networking on social media. It can sometimes be difficult to remember the last time we sat down by ourselves in a quiet room.

In today's Gospel, Mary stands in contrast to the shepherds who hurried and talked and spread the word and praised God. Of course, there is a time for these things, and the excitement of the shepherds is palpable – they had found their Saviour. No doubt Mary and Joseph shared in their joyful enthusiasm. But when things quietened down again, we are told that Mary 'treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart'.

**Mary** sets a good example for us, taking time to meditate on all that is happening. As we start a new year afresh, we could do a lot worse than take Mary as our model. In our hectic world, we need to take time to sit quietly, to treasure and ponder, and to allow ourselves to delve deep into the mysteries of life.

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#### THANK YOU

Well done to the numerous people and groups who helped organize all the Christmas ceremonies in both churches. The church choirs, folk group, youth group, and enthusiastic congregations provided great music and singing. The altar societies ensured beautiful flowers and decorations were done. Thanks to those who erected and decorated the crib in both churches. All the Ministers of the Word and Eucharist were available to assist with large attendances. Our church volunteers ensure that our churches are clean and welcoming. The altar servers were great as always. The church collectors and dues collectors, do a great job. Both, Catherine (St. Columba's) and Breda (St. Patrick's) keep the offices and sacristies running smoothly. Thanks also to Tim & Eileen (St. Columba's), Michael and Bernard and all the volunteers (St. Patrick's) for their work and to Kevin, printer. Special thanks to Parish Assembly members for their enthusiasm and dedication to the parish.

## Notices

### WORLD MEETING OF

**FAMILIES 2018** - Pope Francis has chosen Ireland to host the next World Meeting of Families in Aug. '18. This is a graced moment for all families and for the Church in Ireland enhanced by the proposed visit by Pope Francis to coincide with this event. The Diocese will be offering a programme of preparation for all ages over the coming months leading up to this event. To begin your parish will be distributing prayer cards over the Christmas period to encourage families to pray together the special prayer which will also feature in your parish crib on the Manger prayer card.

### SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

**Luke 2:16-21 - 1.** The story tells us that the shepherds helped Mary to realize the significance of the child born to her. She treasured their words and pondered their meaning. Who have been the people who have helped you to understand the meaning of significant events in your life? Remember them gratefully.  
**2.** We are told that Mary 'pondered these things in her heart'. What part has prayerful reflection on life played for you? How has it been helpful to you in deepening your appreciation for the gift of life?  
**3.** When the shepherds realized that they had been witnesses to a wonderful manifestation of God's love for his people, they glorified and praised God. Recall ways in which you have been made aware of God's love for you. How have you expressed your gratitude? *Intercom*