

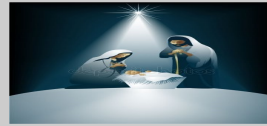


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St. Columba's Church Douglas/Rochestown Parish

Douglas
021-489 4128 (Office)
087-261 7143

Sunday Mass
Sat Vigil 6 pm
Sun 9.30, 11
.00 & 12.15



Sunday 29 December 2019
Feast of the Holy Family

www.rochestownparish.ie

St. Patrick's Church
Rochestown
021-489 6797
(Office)

Sunday Mass
Sun 11.00 and
12.30



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News Desk

THANK YOU

Well done to the numerous people and groups who helped organize all the Christmas ceremonies in both churches. The church choirs 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.

*Both, Catherine (St. Columba's) and Breda (St. Patrick's) keep the offices and sacristies running smoothly. Thanks also to Debbie & Eileen (St. Columba's), Michael 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. We also thank St Finbarr's NET TEAM for their dedication and enthusiasm.*

FIRST FRIDAY 3RD JAN '20 ST. COLUMBA'S

St Padre Pio prayers before 10.00am Mass. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass from 10.30am – 11.30am. Alliance of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary will keep vigil from 11.30am – 1pm.

Christmas Leftovers: Please donate your surplus gifts to charity. Edel House , Direct Provision ,Simon and other charities will benefit. There will be a basket by the crib in each church after Mass on Sundays 5 & 12 January to facilitate this collection .

Office reopening THURS 2 Jan.

Please return Christmas Dues envelopes

CRIB OFFERINGS CHRISTMAS 2019: This year's Crib offerings in St. Columba's will be sent to St.Paul's School, COPE FOUNDATION.

My 'Adopted' children so well catered for yet again, by Douglas/Rochestown, this year by St. Columba's Church and Surprises awaiting Mums & Dads in the New Year Raffle of RE GIFTED items. Thank You so much. **(Sr.) Frances**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph The Deep End - Displaced

'One of the unsettling things about my journey, mentally, physically, and emotionally, was that I wasn't sure when or where it was going to end.' (from *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah)

We like to imagine, sometimes, what the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph were like. What was their daily routine? How did they eat, work and pray together? There are very few details in the Gospels about Jesus' early years, other than the accounts of his birth and one story detailing the time he went missing in Jerusalem and was found in the Temple.

But in today's Gospel we get an insight into some of the early challenges faced by this little family. While Jesus was still small, Joseph was urged in a dream to escape with the family to Egypt as Jesus' life was under threat. Can you imagine what that experience was like for them – leaving their home and fleeing to another country, not knowing when, or if, it would be safe to return home? Sadly, millions of people in our world do not have to imagine this type of experience – they live it every day. Like many others, the Holy Family were, for some time, forced to leave their home country due to persecution – this is the very definition of a refugee or displaced person.

This painful human experience was at the very heart of the family experience of Jesus himself. Later in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells us that when we welcome strangers, we welcome Jesus himself. Compassion and welcome for strangers, particularly those who are vulnerable, was a key element of Jesus' life and ministry. It should be central to ours, too.

Intercom

Notices

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 29 Dec

1. The threat to the child Jesus put Joseph in a situation where he had to make a quick yet wise decision. Perhaps you have also had to make a speedy response to an unexpected crisis. Who were the 'angels' who guided you to wise decisions? Remember them and give thanks.
2. The whole narrative is designed to bring out the guidance of God's providence for the child Jesus. Have there been times when you have been grateful that things worked out well for you despite adverse circumstances or experiences?
3. External forces imposed migration on Joseph and his family, until he came to establish a home in Nazareth. Where have you lived before coming to the place you now call home? How has this journey helped to fashion the person you are now? Perhaps you have a mixture of gratitude and regrets as you look back. Give thanks for the good memories. What helps you to deal with the disappointments and hurts in the past? Bring them to God with a prayer for further healing.
4. The story and today's feast remind us of the importance of the family in nourishing and fostering new life. Recall and give thanks for those in your own childhood who helped you to find your way in life. **Intercom**