



Douglas/Rochestown Parish
27 December 2020
Feast of the Holy Family

BAPTISMS

Róisín Patricia Leogue, daughter of Maria & Joe, Maryborough Heights
Luke John Walsh, son of Nicola & Paul, South Douglas Road.

DEATHS

Kenneth Coughlan, Shamrock Lawn, beloved son of Ann and the late Brendan, loving brother of Tony, Aidon, Leonard, Mary and Rebecca.

News Desk

CHRISTMAS 2020 ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Closed from Tuesday 22 December Reopening Monday 4th January 2021

After Christmas Weekday Masses

1st January @ 10.00am. From Monday 4th January '21: 10.00am

• **Surplus Gifts**

Each year, we ask you to donate your surplus gifts.

We distribute them to various charities who are very pleased to accept them

On Sunday 3rd & Sunday 10th January, there will be black bags inside the porch of the church on the right-hand side for you to place your gifts. – manned by volunteers.

Due to Covid, it is wrapped and labelled Male or Female, would be very useful, unless food.

Thanking you in advance **Parish Assembly**

St Vincent de Paul

COLLECTION DATES: Saturday 2nd January & Sunday 3rd January 2021

The Deep End

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Presentation in the Temple

Simeon and Anna welcome Mary, Joseph and Jesus to the Temple. They have been waiting for this moment. What kind of Messiah were they expecting? Simeon welcomes this family who must have seemed 'ordinary' and poor. He can see that this child will be *'a light...for the glory of your people'*. Already there is a note of reversal; of boundaries being stretched. Mary is told that this child *'is destined for the fall and the rising of many'*. There will be challenging times ahead for this family. Simeon knows that many thoughts will be exposed for God's invitation and welcome has no boundaries and this radical hospitality might not sit well with everyone. Anna rejoices for all those who were looking for a change, for hope, she knows that this child will overturn systems of oppression and exclusion.

Luke is interested in how humanity responds to the Gospel. If Jesus' message is really good news, then this requires a shakeup; a shakeup which challenges comfortable assumptions about the way God works. God's abundant invitation to all may not sit comfortably with many. While Anna prays and fasts for a change of heart in the way Jerusalem operates, Simeon warns Mary that this will not be an easy road.

Many situations in our own world today need a shake-up, especially in our church. This can be uncomfortable as we have to let go of certain things and invite freshness. What situations in our own society and in our church require a shake-up; an uncomfortable but necessary change so that God's love and welcome can shine through? Jesus came to show us how to live. We must constantly look back at his example.

'We often make do with looking at the ground...I wonder if we still know how to look up at the sky? Do we know how to dream, to long for God, to expect the newness he brings, or do we let ourselves be swept along by life, like dry branches before the wind?' Pope Francis

Intercom

Lens of the Gosp The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

1. What started out as an ordinary day for Joseph and Mary turned out to be a day with an encounter they would remember for a long time. Perhaps you too have had significant encounters on what you expected to be just an ordinary day?

2. Simeon gave thanks because his eyes saw the salvation God had prepared. In what ways have you experienced God's salvation in your life: an experience of being loved, or discovering a sense of purpose in life, or being touched by the wonders of creation? Give thanks for those memories.

3. We are at the end of a year in which many family occasions, both sad and joyful, were disrupted by restrictions. A sword of sorrow has pierced the hearts of many. Remember what has helped your family to recover from disappointment or loss and find hope and life again.

4. The final sentence speaks of Jesus as one who grew and became strong and was filled with wisdom. What has helped you to grow in wisdom? Have you seen others grow in wisdom through the experience of life? Recall times when you had a sense of growing up in some way. What brought that about? Think also of how you have seen growth in another person. **Intercom**