

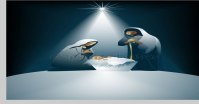


St. Columba's Church
Douglas
021-489 4128 (Office)
087-261 7143

Sunday Mass
Sat Vigil 6 pm
Sun 9.30am, 11.00 am



Douglas/Rochestown Parish



**Sunday 31 December '23
Feast of The Holy Family**

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

Sunday Mass
Sun 11.00am &
12.3pm

www.douglasrochestownparish.ie



NEWS DESK

Lens of the Gospel

Mass Times Feast of the Epiphany

St Columba's: Friday 5 Jan @ 6.00pm Vigil, Saturday 6 Jan @ 10.00am

St.Patrick's: Saturday 6 Jan @ 9.30am

St. Columba'23 Parish Office: Closed from Friday 22nd December to 2nd January '24

FEAST DAYS WEEK COMMENCING 1 JAN '24

Monday 1st January The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

In 431 the Council of Ephesus decreed that Mary is 'Theotokos' (literally "God-bearer") because her son Jesus is one person, who is both God and man, divine and human. At the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) the bishops decided not to add any new title to or make any new definition about Mary – for example, as "Mediatrice of all graces", as some of the more extreme Mariologists wanted at the time. Instead they went back to the tradition which saw Mary's greatness in her act of faith, by which she became "Mother of God"

Tuesday 02 Jan '24

Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church.

Basil: Born about 330 at Caesarea (Turkey); died there on 1 January 379. First a hermit, then bishop of his native city. Noted for his pioneering monastic rule, and for writings which developed the doctrines of the Incarnation and of the Divinity of the Holy Spirit.

Gregory: Born at Nazianzus (Turkey) in 329; died there in 389. Also a hermit before becoming bishop of Constantinople. Known as the "Theologian" because of his wisdom and acumen in maintaining orthodox doctrine against the Arians

Basil of Caesarea, his younger brother, Gregory of Nyssa, and his friend Gregory Nazianzen are often called "the Cappadocian fathers" after the province of Cappadocia in central Turkey from which they originated. Although Basil and Gregory of Nazianzen were friends, ecclesiastical politics put strains on their relationship..

Saturday 6 Jan '24 feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Summary: The feast of the Epiphany is so often associated with the three wise men from the East coming to bring gifts to the infant king. But there are other themes – baptism and Cana – originating in Egypt associated with this feast.

The word epiphany, means "appearance" or "manifestation" was used in traditional Greek religion to indicate the appearance or manifestation of a god or goddess in human form, along with the suggestion that the person or persons who had experienced the epiphany would be delivered from danger and/or their enemies defeated

The Christian feast of Epiphany first appears in Egypt commemorating the Baptism of Jesus, but besides this it later gathers round it other themes, such as Jesus's birth, the miracle of Cana and the coming of the Wise Men. In the West it is the coming of the Wise Men that became the dominant theme of this day, while in the East it is Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan which remains to the fore of the celebration.

Pope Francis Quote

In his homily during the Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, Pope Francis invites the faithful to rediscover "the enthusiasm of going" and "the wonder of seeing," as the shepherds did, "the secret that can make this world truly new."

"For all those who have no peace, let us invoke Mary, the woman who brought into the world the Prince of Peace."

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
31 December 2023**

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?

Simeon gave thanks because his eyes saw the salvation God had prepared. As you look back on the year ending today, 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.

Perhaps the past year may also have been one in which you have experienced great sorrow. What sword has pierced your soul and what has helped you to cope with it?

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**