

Parish of Sts. Mary & Peter, Arklow
with
St. David's, Johnstown
Sunday 26th December 2021



COME LORD JESUS
CELEBRATING
CHRISTMAS

Mass Intentions

Sunday 26th December
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8.30 a.m. Michael & Annie McDonald (and their Deceased family members)

11.30 a.m. May Molloy
Eamy & John Doyle
Bernie, Tom & Leonard O'Brien
Helena Murphy
7.00 p.m. Sylvester Bourke (1st Anniversary)
Charles Lennon
Christina Lennon
Hatty Walker

Monday 27th December
St John
10.00 a.m. David Jeffreys

Tuesday 28th December
10.00 a.m. Margaret Kinsella
Eugene Kane
Tommy Cullen
Aldona Rukiene
David Doveikate & His Grandparents

Wednesday 29th December
St Thomas Becket
10.00 a.m. Noreen Larkin

Thursday 30th December
10.00 a.m. John Lee

Friday 31st December
St Sylvester
10.00 a.m. Sarah (Sally) Farrell

Sunday 26th December—St Stephen's Day
Mass Arklow: @8.30am; 11.30am & 7pm
Mass Johnstown: @ 10am
Mass Castletown: @ 11am

Dec 27th—31st Weekday Mass @ 10am

New Year's Day January 1st 2022
Mass @10am - Solemnity, Mary The Holy Mother of God
World Day of Peace

Confession
Each Saturday after 10am Mass

Wednesday 5th January The Epiphany of the Lord
Vigil Mass @ 7pm

Thursday 6th January The Epiphany of the Lord
Mass @ 10am; 7pm

Sunday 9th January The Baptism of the Lord
Normal Mass times

Parish Office Christmas
Opening Times
The Parish office is closed and will reopen on Tuesday 4th January at 9a.m.

Thank you to the kind person who left in €500 donation in the church for Concern.



Christmas Due Envelopes and Christmas leaflets are available in the church, please take on one home.

Hope you and all your family had a Lovely Christmas Day and We wish you all a very Happy New Year From Fr Padraig & Fr David



The Holy Family Sunday December 26th

Background on the Gospel Reading (Luke 2: 41 - 52)

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme. It has no parallel in the other Gospels and is the conclusion of Luke's Infancy Narrative. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. When Jesus is found, Luke describes him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although he is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about his Jewish tradition. In his dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.



The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel reading Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead they are referred to by their relationship to Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasizes Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that he was never lost; he was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and he is in his Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus' public ministry.

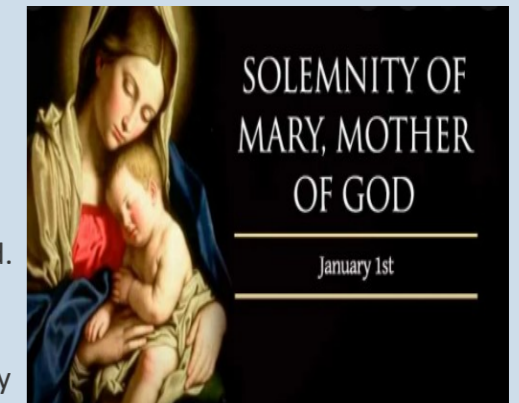
In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection at Pentecost.

Mary Mother of God Solemnity 1st January

Way back in 431AD, there was a bitter controversy among theologians over the role of Mary in the Catholic Church. They debated the question: Who is Mary in God's plan?

In the end, the bishops declared that Mary is really the mother of Jesus and Jesus is really God. So it must be said that Mary is the Mother of God. The oldest Christian greeting of Mary was proclaimed when Mary's relative Elizabeth called her "Mother of my Lord." When Elizabeth welcomed Mary, she recognized both the great privilege God had given Mary and Mary's great faith in accepting it.

For centuries, Mary has been praised because she believed. She is Mother of God because of her faith in God. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, celebrates Mary's faith and trust in God alone. The Church wants us to imitate her faith.



The **World Day of Peace** is a feast day of the [Catholic Church](#) dedicated to [universal peace](#), held on 1 January, the [Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God](#). [Pope Paul VI](#) established it in 1967, being inspired by the encyclical [Pacem in Terris](#) of [Pope John XXIII](#). The 55th World Day of Peace, to be held on 1st January 2022, will be entitled "Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace".

With Sympathy

Sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Brian McKay Patrick (Paddy) McManus Maureen Leahy who died recently. May they rest in peace.

