

St. Mary's Parish Dungarvan

January 2021

Prayer for the New Year

The new year, like a new-born child, is placed in our hands as the old year passes away.

The days and weeks to come are God's gift; they carry God's blessing. As a blessing we welcome them.

Our hope for the year ending is that all that was good in it will remain with us and all that was harmful be left behind.

Bless us, O Lord, and bless the time and seasons yet to come.

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart.

And fill this new year with your kindness, that we may be glad and rejoice all the days of our life. *Amen.*

Cling to Hope.

Cling to hope; include it in every conversation, think it in every thought, write it in every letter, (card, text, email) pray it in every prayer, encourage it in every soul, and search for it in every situation.

Fr. Vincent Sherlock

We are in Level 5!

During Level 5 of the National Framework for living with COVID-19, the Church is closed for Masses but is open for private visits. The church will be open each day from 10.00 am until 3.30pm. You are welcome to drop in to say a prayer. It is vital to sanitize your hands as you enter and leave.

The Parish Office is open each day from 10.00 am - 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm - 3.30 p.m.

Broadcast Masses during the Present Lockdown.

9.30am Mass: Monday to Friday.

11am and 7.30pm Vigil Masses on Saturdays

11am Mass only on Sundays.

All Masses broadcast on 98.5fm.

**Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference:
"Welcoming Vaccines for the Common Good"**

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference welcomes the encouraging news that a number of vaccines for COVID-19 are at an advanced stage of preparation and are likely to be available for use in the near future. The Catholic Church recognises that safe and effective vaccination is an essential aspect of the prevention of disease. We are encouraging Catholics to support a programme of vaccination, not only for their own good, but for the protection of life and the health of those who are vulnerable and for the common good of humanity. 09/12/2020.

Blessing of the New Year - Be with us, Lord.

In *January*, the month of darkness and frost - Be with us, Lord

In *February*, the month of rain, wind and snow - Be with us, Lord

In *March*, the month of farmers, lambs and new life - Be with us, Lord

In *April*, the month of swallows, growth and green grass - Be with us, Lord

In *May*, the month of the cuckoo, the flowers and summer - Be with us, Lord

In *June*, the month of examinations, the mid-summer and sun - Be with us, Lord

In *July*, the month of holidays, the dry grass and summer's end - Be with us, Lord

In *August*, the month of harvest, wheat and corn - Be with us, Lord

In *September*, the month of fruits, schools and St. Michael -Be with us, Lord

In *October*, the month of falling leaves, nuts and Hallowe'en - Be with us, Lord

In *November*, the month of the dead, the souls and the saints - Be with us, Lord

In *December*; the month of the gift, the light and Our Saviour - Be with us, Lord.

**Happy New Year to everyone and God's blessings on you
and your families for 2021.**

Sundays and Weekdays in Ordinary Time/Of the Year 2021.

Next Monday, 11th January 2021, we begin what the Church Calendar calls 'Ordinary Time' or 'Of the Year'. Next Monday is Monday of the First Week in Ordinary Time.

Weekday Readings: Cycle 1. Sundays: Year B

Ordinary Time continues until Tuesday, 16th February, Tuesday of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time, Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

Lent is followed by Easter (Easter Sunday: 4th April) and the weeks of Easter until Pentecost Sunday, 23rd May. Next day, Monday. 24th May is Monday of the 8th Week in Ordinary Time and the Memorial of the Blessed

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church.

Ordinary Time then continues until Sunday, 28th November 2021, The First Sunday of Advent.

Green vestments, worn at Mass and other celebrations during Ordinary Time, are a sign of growth and a way of saying that we grow quietly in Ordinary Time, outside the high points of the Church's Seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

Sunday of the Word of God: Sunday, 24th January.

Pope Francis has designated this 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time each year as Sunday of the Word of God. The Word of God is proclaimed at each Mass. This Sunday gives us an opportunity to focus on the importance of the Word of God in our celebrations and in our lives. God continues to speak to us His Word. The door to the new year has opened. May the Word of God be our guiding light for 2021.

Say: Thank You

'The prayer of thanksgiving always begins here:
to recognise that grace precedes us.

We were thought of before we learned how to think;
we were loved before we learned how to love;
we were desired before our hearts conceived a desire.

If we view life like this,
then "thank you" becomes the driving force of our day.

And how often we even forget to say "thank you".

Pope Francis: General Audience, 30/12/2020.

St. Joseph.

2021 - Year of St. Joseph.

On December 8th last Pope Francis gave us a year to focus on St. Joseph. On that day Pope Francis wrote a letter to the whole Church to mark the 150th anniversary of the naming of St. Joseph by Pope Pius IX as Patron of the Church throughout the world on December 8th, 1870.



Pope Francis's letter has the beautiful title: 'With a Father's Heart' (Patris Corde). With a father's heart, St. Joseph loved Jesus. He protected Jesus and Mary. The gospels tell us of the particular difficulties which the family faced when Jesus was born and of how Joseph had to

bring them to safety from those who wanted to harm the baby.

In his letter (footnote 10), Pope Francis included a prayer which he has prayed every evening for more than 40 years. He prays:

**Glorious Patriarch St. Joseph,
whose power makes the impossible possible,
come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.**

**Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations
that I commend to you, that they may have a happy out come.**

My beloved father, all my trust is in you.

**Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain,
and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary,
show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.**

(From a 19th century prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary

