



The Catholic Parish
of
Celbridge
and
Straffan



Parish Team

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MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD DAY OF PEACE 1 JANUARY 2016

The theme of the Message for the Church's 49th World Day of Peace that will be celebrated on 1st January 2016 is:

Overcome Indifference and Win Peace.

A communique released by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace which explains why the Pope chose this theme for the 2016 World Day of Peace is available to read on our webpage at www.celstra.ie

Hands

I see the hands of Joseph.

Back and forth along bare wood they move.

There is worry in those working hands,
sorting out confusing thoughts with every stroke.

"How can this be, my beautiful Mary now with child?"

Rough with deep splinters, these hands,
small, painful splinters like tiny crosses
embedded deeply in this choice to stay with her.

He could have closed his hands to her,
said, "No" and let her go to stoning.

But, dear Joseph opened both his heart and hands
to this mother and her child.

Preparing in these days before with working hands
and wood pressed tight between them.

It is these rough hands that will open
and be the first to hold the Child.

I see the hands of John,
worn from desert raging storms
and plucking locusts from sand ripped rocks
beneath the remnant of a Bethlehem star.

A howling wind like some lost wolf
cries out beneath the moon,

or was that John?

This loneliness,
enough to make a grown man mad.

He's waiting for this, God's whisper.

"Go now. He is coming.

You have prepared your hands enough.

your cupping hands to lift the water,
and place his feet upon the path to service and to death.
Go now, John, and open your hands to him.
It is time."

I see a fist held tight and fingers blanched to white.
Prying is no easy task.
These fingers find a way of pulling back to old positions,
protecting all that was and is.
Blanched to white. No openness. All fright.
But then the Spirit comes.

A holy Christmas dance begins
and blows between the twisted paths.

This fist opens
slowly, gently, beautifully,
the twisted fingers letting go.
Their rock-solid place in line has eased.

And one by one the fingers lift
True colour is returned
And through the deepest of mysteries,

The holiest of holies,
O longing of longings

Beyond all human imagining
this fist,
as if awakened from Lazarus' cold stone dream
reaches out to hold the tiny newborn hand of God.

Catherine Alder



Weekend Mass Intentions:

St Brigid's Church

Saturday 6pm: Tom Talbot

Sunday 11am: Anne Cummins

St. Patrick's Church:

Saturday

6.30pm: Jack Birchall

Sunday

8.30am: Bridget Baker

9.30am: John Burke

11am: Joe & Kathleen Young

12.30pm: Michael & Elizabeth Foley

7pm: Aaron Moore

Christmas Dues :

Thanks to all parishioners who have returned the Christmas Dues envelopes. The contributions made you, for the support of the priests of the parish is deeply appreciated.

THANK YOU.

Parish Office Hours: The office will be closed until the Monday 4th January.

Weekday Mass Intentions

Mon 28th 10am Susan Teague

Tues 29th 10am Michael Collins

Wed 30th 10am Matt Tyndell

Thur 31st 10am Marie Murphy, Special intention, Hilary Shannon

Fri 1st 10am Altar List of the dead, Noel O' Sullivan

Sat 2nd 10am Paddy Screeney

No evening Mass

We wish all our Parishioners

A

Happy New Year 2016

May this year give you the courage to triumph over your vices and embrace your virtues

A Big Thank You to ...

The ladies who decorate and clean the Church, and those who do the flowers and the Altar and wash the Altar cloths, the parish choirs and all involved in music ministry in the parish, the volunteers of the Play and Pray, the sacristans, Bernadette and Josie, the stewards the men who count the money and all those Parishioners who assist in any way at Christmas time.

Parishioners who distributed the planned giving envelopes. All those who contributed to the Christmas Offering envelopes. The men who have worked so hard to keep the Church grounds looking great.

A NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

May your inner vision be transformed so that you can see more clearly your own journey with all humankind as a journey of peace, hope, and unity (Nm 24:15-17; In 20:20)

May your God be someone you can lean on in your weak or painful moments. May you know God as your rock, your shelter, your strength, your wing of comfort and support (Ps 94:18)

May you be aware of all the places your feet carry you in the new year.
May you know "How beautiful are the feet of the messenger of good news" (Rom 10:15)

May you not be afraid of the questions that press upon your mind and heart.
May you welcome the questions and wait patiently for the day when they will have their answers (Mt 11:3)

May you be the one with welcome in your smile and hello etched upon your hand, the hand you extend to everyone who blesses you with presence (Lk 7:36-50)

May yours be the gift of reverence for all created things.
May you face bravely and enthusiastically the responsibility to preserve and care for the beauty of the earth (Sir 42:15-43:33)

May the wellsprings of compassion flow deep within you, until you can taste the tears of your brothers and sisters (2 Cor 1:3-7)

May you awake each morning with thank you on your lips and in your heart, recognizing that all is gift, that all is blessing (Ps 138:1)

May your friendship with God be strong and healthy.
May that love be both a comfort and a challenge as you struggle to find your way in the new year (In 21:15-19)

May your spirit be open and perceptive in discovering the will of God for you.
May your prayer be that of wisdom, guidance, and a deeper understanding of God's way for you (Lk1:26-38)

May your life this new year be a living legacy to your God.

Joyce Rupp 'May I Have This Dance?' Ave Maria Press