

PLANNED GIVING: Weekly Envelope Collection: Our financial year ended on 30th Nov and new boxes have been distributed. The envelope known as the planned giving is the only way in which the running of the Church and parish facilities is funded. Your support is important and appreciated. You can contribute through the boxes of envelopes or direct debit. Contributions of €250 and over during the financial year qualify for a tax refund, which makes an important contribution to reducing the parish debt. Please consider supporting our parish. For further information please contact by texting your name and address to 085 8662255. Receipts showing the total amount donated in the year to 30/11/2015 will be issued in Jan 2016. The amount contributed last week was €2132.71.

A Holy Year of Mercy

A Holy Year of Mercy has been announced by Pope Francis and began last Tuesday 8th December. This year of Mercy is an extraordinary gift of grace. To get to that door (the symbol of the Holy Door) means to discover the depth of the mercy of God that welcomes one and all and invites everyone to meet the Mercy of God personally. Jesus is 'He who seeks us! and 'He who comes to meet us! It will be a year in which to grow in the conviction of mercy. God's judgment will always be in the light of His Mercy. Entering through the Holy Door, makes us feel we share in this mystery of love and tenderness. We abandon all forms of fear and dread, because it does not befit one who is loved. We live, rather in the joy of the grace that transforms everything.

Today, here in Rome and in every diocese in the world, crossing the Holy Door we also remember another door, fifty years ago, the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council opened wide to the world. This deadline can not be remembered only for the wealth of documents , which to this day provides a check on the great progress made in faith. First, however, the Council has been a meeting. A real encounter between the Church and the people of our time . A meeting marked by the power of the Spirit that drove her church to come out of the doldrums for many years that she had locked herself in, to take up with enthusiasm the missionary journey. Saint Pope John xx111 was opening a path to meet each person where they lives: in his city, in his home, in the workplace ... wherever there is a person, there the Church is called to join them to bring the joy of the gospel and bringing the mercy and forgiveness of God. A missionary impulse, then, that after these decades we continue with the same strength and the same enthusiasm. The Jubilee urges us to this opening of the heart and obliges us not neglect the spirit that emerged from Vatican II, that of the good Samaritan , as he was remembered by the blessed Paul VI at the end of the council . Today we cross the Holy Door and we promise to extend the mercy of the Good Samaritan.

A Holy Year of Mercy pack is available at the back of the Church for each family in the parish to take home. We encourage people to put the images in the pack on you window / door of your house or on your car.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) Rite 2
St. Patrick's Church Saturday 19th at 10.30am & Christmas Eve 10.30am. Individual Confessions: Christmas Eve 11am - 12.30pm.
St. Brigid's Church: Christmas Eve 10am - 11am

Parish Carol Service with Parish Choirs
Monday 21st December @ 7.30pm
Everyone Welcome

The evening will consist of our traditional Carols which we can all join in and a repertoire chosen from all of our parish choirs.

Let this evening gets us into the Christmas spirit as we come to prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ in harmony together.

Society of St Vincent de Paul hold their Christmas Appeal to replace the Share Collection at all Masses this weekend. Please be as generous as you can in supporting those less fortunate in our local community this Christmas. If you are not in a position to contribute today, donations payable to St Wolstan's Conference SVP can be made at the Vincent's Shop on Main Street, at The Parish Office, St Eustace Centre or directly to our bank account at AIB Celbridge 933503 A/c No 20127068. Receipts will be issued where name and address provided.

Christmas Dues

The Christmas Dues (offerings for the Priests of the Diocese) envelopes are available at the back of the Church. The contributions made by you, include the support of the priests of the parish and is deeply appreciated. THANK YOU.

Priests Roster for the Masses Weekend 19th / 20th Dec

St. Patrick's. - Vigil **6.30pm:** Fr. Douglas
Sunday: 8.30am: Fr. Paul Fr. Douglas **9.30am:** Fr. Brian
11am: Fr. Paul **12.30pm:** Fr. Douglas **7pm:** Fr. Douglas
St. Brigid's. - **Saturday 6pm:** Fr. Brian **Sunday 11am:** Fr. Brian

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

Weekend Mass Intentions:

St. Patrick's Church:
Saturday
6.30pm: Margaret Humphreys 1st anniversary
Veronica & Christy Lee
Sunday
8.30am: James & Kathleen Hayden
9.30am: Philip Wright
11am: Elizabeth Logan Pray for John Conlon
12. 30pm: Charles Callis
7pm: Jim & Shane Clyne

We remember in our prayers **Most Rev. Dermot O' Mahony**, Emeritus Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin who died on Thursday evening. Bishop O' Mahony had celebrated Confirmations here in our parish some years ago. May he rest in peace.

A Special Collection for St. Brigid's Church, Straffan towards the cost of the flowers for the Christmas period and beyond will take place after Mass the weekend 20th December in St. Brigid's Church.

Parishioners who wish to make a donation towards the cost of flowers in St. Patrick's Church can do so by leaving it in the sacristy or writing flower donation on an envelope and placing it in the basket during Mass. Your contribution is appreciated. Thank you.

Weekday Mass Intentions

Mon 14th 10am: Brendan Crawley **7pm:** Patrick, Elizabeth, Tom, Edward Kelly
Tues 15th 10am: Margaret, Terence John Graydon, Kathleen Doyle
7pm Sean Healy
Wed 16th 10am: Sean Doyle **7pm:** Ita O'Dwyer, Frank Keane
Thur 17th 10am: Noeleen Bashford **7pm:** Claire O'Leary
Fri 18th 10am: Deceased members of the Brady and McKenna families, Margaret Hill (m.m.) **7pm:** Noel Galvin (1st anniversary)
Sat 19th 10am: John & Maureen Hanan

Christmas Mass Cards: All Masses (12 Masses) will be offered on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for the intention of those named on the special Mass cards. Each Mass card cost €5 and can be purchased in the parish office or in the sacristy after all Masses. When purchasing the card give the name of the person for whom the Masses will be said.

Rosters for 19th / 20th December 2015

Ministers of the Word (Readers)

6.30pm: C. Ramos **8.30am:** Corina Curran
9.30am: T. Browne **11am:** A. Kelly
12.30pm: J. Rodgers **7pm:** C. Anderson

Eucharistic Ministers

6.30pm: S. Herrero, W. Lynch, L.O'Connor
8.30am: H. Boothman, B. Quinlan, S. O' Regan
9.30am: G. McLoughlin, A. Menton, M. Waters
11am: I. Murray, A. O'Connell, P. Sexton
12.30pm: B. Ryan, L. White, D. Harkness, M. O'Shea
7pm: C. Barry, R. Gajkowski, C. Walsh

The Christmas Timetable is available at the back of the Church.

We welcome all the Children today who are preparing for their First Holy Communion and thank them for their wonderful participation at Mass. We will keep them in our prayers as they continue on their journey.

Advent Wreath Candle—3rd Sunday

We rejoice in the Anointed One who came and will come again in glory. With Christ, we too, will bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

For us, God has replaced our mourning with the oil of gladness, so we light this third candle which is pink and name it ... "JOY".



What to do in the case of a Medical Emergency

Join us on Monday December 14th at 11am in Straffan Community Hall for a First Aid Awareness Presentation. C.P.R. Adult and Child AED's and Defibrillator. First Aid etc. Everyone welcome.

Pope Francis' Prayer for the Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!" You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God. Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.