



**The Parish Team**  
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**Sacristy:** 01 6275942 (Mass times only)  
 Information about Baptisms please contact the parish office

*We wish all our Parishioners  
 A  
 Happy New Year 2019*

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

**A Big Thank You to ...**  
 The ladies who decorate 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, Angela and Josie, the parish office team, the stewards, the men who count the money, Sylvia who has worked so hard to keep the Church grounds looking great, the church cleaning team and all those Parishioners who assist in any way at Christmas time and throughout the year.  
 Grateful thanks to parishioners who are distributing the planned giving envelopes. If you are able to help with the distribution of the boxes please come in to the sacristy after Mass.

An excerpt from the MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS  
 FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE

**52nd WORLD DAY OF PEACE -- 1 JANUARY 2019**

*Good politics is at the service of peace*

**1. "Peace be to this house!"** In sending his disciples forth on mission, Jesus told them: "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you" (Lk 10:5-6). Bringing peace is central to the mission of Christ's disciples. That peace is offered to all those men and women who long for peace amid the tragedies and violence that mark human history. The "house" of which Jesus speaks is every family, community, country and continent, in all their diversity and history. It is first and foremost each individual person, without distinction or discrimination. But it is also our "common home": the world in which God has placed us and which we are called to care for and cultivate. So let this be my greeting at the beginning of the New Year: "Peace be to this house!"

**2. The challenge of good politics:** Peace is like the hope which the poet Charles Péguy celebrated. It is like a delicate flower struggling to blossom on the stony ground of violence. We know that the thirst for power at any price leads to abuses and injustice. Politics is an essential means of building human community and institutions, but when political life is not seen as a form of service to society as a whole, it can become a means of oppression, marginalization and even destruction. Jesus tells us that, "if anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all" (Mk 9:35). In the words of Pope Paul VI, "to take politics seriously at its different levels – local, regional, national and worldwide – is to affirm the duty of each individual to acknowledge the reality and value of the freedom offered him to work at one and the same time for the good of the city, the nation and all mankind".

**3. Charity and human virtues:** the basis of politics at the service of human rights and peace  
 Pope Benedict XVI noted that "every Christian is called to practise charity in a manner corresponding to his vocation and according to the degree of influence he wields in the polis... When animated by charity, commitment to the common good has greater worth than a merely secular and political stand would have... Man's earthly activity, when inspired and sustained by charity, contributes to the building of the universal city of God, which is the goal of the history of the human family". This is a programme on which all politicians, whatever their culture or religion, can agree, if they wish to work together for the good of the human family and to practise those human virtues that sustain all sound political activity: justice, equality, mutual respect, sincerity, honesty, fidelity.

The full text can be found on the Vatican Website

**Weekend Mass Intentions**  
**St. Brigid's Church**  
**Saturday 6pm:** Ann Cummins  
**Sunday 11am:** Declan Donoghue  
**St. Patrick's Church**  
**Saturday 6.30pm:** Ellen Kelly, Aaron Moore, Grainne Smith (m.m.) Kathleen & Joe Young  
**Sunday**  
**8.30am:** Rosaline Doyle  
**9.30am:** Mary Gorman, Gay Boylan  
**11am:** Joe Gibbons  
**12.30pm:** Sadie Clarke, Valerie Twomey, Daniel Meehan  
**7pm:** Special intention

**Weekday Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church**  
**Monday 31st 10am:** Hilary Shannon  
**Tuesday 1st 10am:** Grace Caden, Agnes & Billy Kelly, Laurence & Bridget Bolger  
**Wednesday 2nd 10am:** Kitty & Timmy Slaughter, James Quinn  
**Thursday 3rd 10am:** Leo & Kathleen Cullen  
**Friday 4th 10am:** Altar list of the dead **7pm:** Altar List of the Dead  
**Saturday 5th 10am:** Terry Ward

**Recently Deceased:** We remember in our prayers Jolipa Juteliene whose funeral took place last week in St. Patrick's Church. Jolipa who was from Lithuania was married and had one son. Most of her family are in Lithuania and we offer all of them and her friends in Ireland our sympathy and prayers.

**Joe O' Brien:** We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Patricia who leads the Church Choir in Straffan on the sad loss of her father, who was a faithful and highly respected member of our Church community in Straffan for years. The enormous attendance at the funeral reflected his immense popularity and kindness. May he rest in peace.

**Weekly Parish Lotto**

The Parish Lotto is temporarily suspended as a result of the break-in to the Church early on Christmas morning and the damage caused.

**PLANNED GIVING:**

**Weekly Envelope Collection:** The new planned giving boxes are ready to be distributed. **The boxes are available for collection by the collectors in the room off the sacristy this Sunday after all the morning Masses**

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.

**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