

Rest in Peace / Requiescat in Pace

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of the following parishioners whose anniversaries are being remembered on the following dates.

Day	10.00 a.m.	7.00 p.m.
Monday 02.01.2012	Bridget Larkin & her daughter Emily (AR) George Gannon (AR) Noel Mantel & his grandson Sean Foley (AR)	No Evening Mass
Tuesday 03.01.2012	James Ward (AR)	Daniel Beyen (AR)
Wednesday 04.01.2012		
Thursday 05.01.2012		Catherine Scully (AR)
Friday 06.01.2012		Paddy and Olive Martin (AR)
Saturday 07.01.2012		The Flynn Family (AR) Betty Weldrick (AR) Jack Glynn (AR) Lawrence & Margaret O'Neill (AR) Paddy and Olive Martin (AR) William & Catherine McBryan (AR)

Day	9.00 a.m.	10.30 p.m.	12.00 p.m.
Sunday – 08.01.2012		George & Gertie Byrne (AR)	Lawrence Cassidy (AR)

(MM) = Months Mind (AR) = Annual Remembrances (BR) = Birthday Remembrance

May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, **Amen.**

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*Although at this time of the year it is difficult to see beyond the sorrow brought on by the loss of a loved one, and you feel that no words can really help to ease the loss you bear, please remember that we keep you and your loved ones in our prayers every day.*

*Hold tight to memories for comfort, lean on your friends for strength, and always remember how much you are cared about by all of us.*

# Weekly Bulletin

Issue No. 01 / 2012 (058)

**St Patrick's Parish, Ringsend & Irishtown**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 / Sunday 01<sup>st</sup> January 2012**

**Mary, the Mother of God**

**Year B**



Parish Office: 01 6697429 - Opening Hours: 9.30 to 13.30 – Monday to Wednesday

Website: [www.stpatrickschurchringsend.com](http://www.stpatrickschurchringsend.com)

## *Mary, the Mother of God*

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, our Lady's greatest title. Normally you would hear the Latin phrase "**Mater Dei**" used instead of the English "**Mother of God**". The Greek word "**Theotokos**" is a beautiful word that describes Mary as God-Bearer, and is derived from the Greek words "Theos," meaning God, and "Tokos," bearer. Another phrase that can be used to describe Mary is "**Gifter of God**", through



Mary's unconditional obedience to God she **gifted God to the world**. The Council of Ephesus in 431 settled a dispute where the Patriarch of Constantinople, Nestorius, held that the Blessed Virgin Mary was the Mother of Christ but not the Mother of God. The Council bishops held that Tradition had always referred to Our Lady as **Theotokos**, and thus defined Mary as the Mother of God.

## *Theme for this Sunday*

*We thank God for Mary, who bore for us the Child she named Jesus, our Saviour.*

**Please remember to take a bulletin for your neighbour who, for whatever reason, is unable to join us today.**

**Mass times for the week after Christmas**

There is no 7.00 p.m. on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2012. Evening mass will recommence on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012.

**Thank you**

A big thanks to all the volunteers who helped prepare the church for our Christmas celebrations. As always the church looks wonderful.

**Happy New Year from the Editor**

**I would like to wish everybody a very Happy & Holy New Year.**  
**Tom**

**Solemnities & Feast Days**

Please note that the following date are solemnities and feast days:

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 – The Feast of Mary, The Holy Mother of God.
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2012 – The feast of the Epiphany of the Lord.
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2012 – The Baptism of the Lord.

**Amen Support Group**

Amen Support Group Meetings have recommenced on a Monday Evening in Navan from 8.00pm – 10.00pm

The Group Meetings are a support for men who suffer domestic abuse or are going through separation. The meetings will cover issues of Stress, Anxiety, Anger, Grief and New Beginnings.

**Please call [046 9023718](tel:0469023718) for further information.**

**New Year's Day at St. Mary's Haddington Road**

A Special Mass to celebrate the World Day of Peace will be held in St. Mary's Haddington Road on 1st January 2012 at 11.00 a.m. The Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Diarmuid Martin, will be the principal celebrant. Among the expected congregation will be the Taoiseach, several ambassadors, diplomats and former Taoisigh. Please join us if you can.

**A Wonderful Sight**

In these difficult times for our church it was a wonderful sight to look down the church and see the seats full of parishioners on Christmas Day. To all those who visited our church for the first time we welcome you, to all those who just join us for major feasts, we welcome you. Please remember that you are always welcome to join with us in our celebration of the Word and the Eucharist. To our regular parishioners we thank you for encouraging your family and friends to join our Christmas celebration and ask that whenever you can please extend our invitation to your family and friends to join us in St. Patrick's.

**Do this in Memory**

The next "Do This In Memory" Mass, for the boys & girls of the parish First Holy Communion & First Confession Class, will take place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 12.00.

**Community Notice Board**

**Ringsend and Irishtown Community Centre (RICC)**

RICC **Free Bus Service to Post Office.** Just a reminder to anyone who would like free transport over to the Post Office in Barrow Street. RICC have a free Bus Service every **Friday at 10.30am and 2.30pm from outside the Church.**

**Child Protection Policy**

Please note that a copy of our Parish Child Protection policy is displayed in the church. A copy may be obtained from the parish office.

**Parish office opening hours are 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Monday to Wednesday.**

**St. Pio Mass Group**

The St. Pio group would like to remind us that we are all welcome to attend the St. Pio mass on the third Wednesday of every month at 7.00 p.m. in our Church and bless ourselves with the St. Pio relic. The next scheduled St. Pio mass is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

**Christmas Dues**

We would like to thank all parishioners who have already sent in their Christmas Dues. Envelopes may be handed into the sacristy before or after mass each day. They can also be put in the collection basket on Sunday.

**Bingo**

Every Monday Night in the C.Y.W.M.S. to support our Local Boys and Girls Schools. **Doors Open at 7pm.**

**Penny Catechism**

**Question:**

**How did God make the world?**

**Answer:**

God made the world from nothing; and by his word only – that is, by a single act of his all-powerful will.

**Question:**

**Why did God make the world?**

**Answer:**

God made the world for His own glory, to show His power and wisdom, and for man's use and benefit.

**Church Collections**

We thank you for your contributions to the church collections. The amounts collected for the last three weeks were:

| Date                                              | First Basket | Second Basket | Other Collections |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 10 <sup>th</sup> / 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2011 | € 701        | €             | € 5,003 SVP       |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> / 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2011 | € 708        | € 628         | €                 |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> / 25 <sup>th</sup> December 2011 | € 1392       | € 1178        | €                 |

**The first basket is a collection for the support of priests of the parish and the Diocese. The second basket is for the Share collection.**

**The Book of Isaiah**

The book of Isaiah is named after a great prophet who lived in Jerusalem in the latter half of the eighth century B.C. This book may be divided into three sections: 1 - Chapters 1-39 come from a time when Judah, the southern kingdom, was threatened by a powerful neighbour, Assyria. Isaiah saw that the real threat to the life of Judah was not simply the might of Assyria, but the nation's own sin and disobedience to God, and their lack of trust in him. In vivid words and actions the prophet called the people and their leaders to a life of righteousness and justice, and warned that failure to listen to God would bring doom and destruction. Isaiah also foretold a time of world-wide peace and the coming of a descendant of David who would be the ideal king. 2 Chapters 40-55 come from a time when many of the people of Judah were in exile in Babylon, crushed and without hope. The prophet proclaimed that God was about to set his people free and take them home to Jerusalem, to begin a new life. A notable theme of these chapters is that God is the Lord of history, and his plan for his people includes their mission to all nations, who will be blessed through Israel. The passages about "the Servant of the Lord" are among the best-known in the Old Testament. 3 Chapters 56-66 are for the most part addressed to people who were back in Jerusalem, and who needed reassurance that God was going to fulfil his promises to the nation. Concern is expressed for righteousness and justice and also for Sabbath observance, sacrifice, and prayer. A notable passage is chapter 61 verse 1-2, words used by Jesus at the beginning of his ministry to express his calling. (Outline of Contents: Warning and promises 1.1-12.6; Punishment of Nations 13.1-23.18; God's judgement of the world 24.1-27.13; Further warnings and promises 28.1-35.1; King Hezekiah of Judah and the Assyrians 36.1-39.8; Messages of promises and hope 40.1-55.13; Warnings and promises 56.1-66.24).

**The Book of Numbers**

Numbers tells the story of the Israelites during the nearly forty years from the time they left Mount Sinai until they reached the eastern border of the land that God had promised to give them. The name of the book refers to a prominent feature of the story, that is, the census which Moses took of the Israelites at Mount Sinai before their departure, and again in Moab, east of the Jordan, about a generation later. In the period between the two censuses the Israelites went to Kadesh Barnea on the southern border of Canaan, but failed to enter the promised land from there. After spending many years in that area, they went to the region east of the River Jordan, where part of the people settled and where the rest prepared to cross the river into Canaan. Numbers is an account of a people who were often discouraged and afraid in the face of hardship, and who rebelled against God and against Moses, the man God appointed to lead them. It is the story of God's faithful, persistent care for his people in spite of their weakness and disobedience, and of Moses' steadfast, if sometimes impatient, devotion both to God and to his people. (Outline of Contents: The Israelites prepare to leave Mount Sinai 1.1-9.23; a)The first census 1.1-4.49; b).Various laws and rules 5.1-8.26; c) The second Passover 9.1-23; From Mount Sinai to Moab 10.1-21.35; Events in Moab 22.1-32.42; Summary of the journey from Egypt to Moab 33.1-49; Instructions before crossing the Jordan 33.50-36.13).

**Daily readings for the week :**

Although the Mass is made up of the liturgy of the Word and the liturgy of the Eucharist, the two parts are so closely connected as to form one act of worship. In the Mass the table of God's word and of Christ's body is prepared and from it the faithful are instructed and nourished. When the scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks.

|                          |                                                         |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 01.01.2012</b> | <b>Mary, The Holy Mother of God</b>                     |
| <b>•First Reading</b>    | The Book of Numbers - <b>ch.6 v.22-27</b>               |
| <b>•Psalm</b>            | Psalm – <b>66: 2-3, 5, 6,8</b>                          |
| <b>•Second Reading</b>   | Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians - <b>ch.4 v.4-7</b> |
| <b>•Gospel</b>           | Gospel of Luke - <b>ch.2 v.16-21</b>                    |

For those who cannot join us for daily mass here are the readings for the week (01.01 - 07.01.2012):

| Day                             | First Reading                                                                                               | Gospel                                  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday<br/>02.01.2012</b>    | The First Letter of St John - <b>ch.2 v.22-28</b>                                                           | Gospel of John - <b>ch.1 v.19-28</b>    |
| <b>Tuesday<br/>03.01.2012</b>   | The First Letter of St John - <b>ch.2 v.29; ch.3 v.1-6</b>                                                  | Gospel of John - <b>ch.1 v.29-34</b>    |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>04.01.2012</b> | The First Letter of St John - <b>ch.3 v.7-10</b>                                                            | Gospel of John - <b>ch.1 v.35-42</b>    |
| <b>Thursday<br/>05.01.2012</b>  | The First Letter of St John - <b>ch.3 v.11-21</b>                                                           | Gospel of John - <b>ch.1 v. 43-51</b>   |
| <b>Friday<br/>06.01.2012</b>    | The Book of Isaiah - <b>ch.60 v.1-6</b><br>The letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians - <b>ch.3 v.2-3, 5-6</b> | Gospel of Matthew - <b>ch.2 v.1-12</b>  |
| <b>Saturday<br/>07.01.2012</b>  | The First Letter of St John - <b>ch.3 v.22-24 ; ch.4 v. 1-6</b>                                             | Gospel of Matthew - <b>ch.4 v.12-17</b> |

|                          |                                              |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 08.01.2012</b> | <b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>               |
| <b>•First Reading</b>    | The Book of Isaiah - <b>ch.55 v.1-11</b>     |
| <b>•Psalm</b>            | Psalm – <b>Isaiah 12: 2-6,</b>               |
| <b>•Second Reading</b>   | First Letter of St. John - <b>ch.5 v.1-9</b> |
| <b>•Gospel</b>           | Gospel of Mark - <b>ch.1 v.7-11</b>          |

The Church has always revered sacred Scripture even as it has revered the body of the Lord, because, above all in the liturgy, it has never ceased to receive the bread of life from the table both of Gods word and of Christ's body and to offer it to the faithful.

(Vatican II. Constitution on Revelation, 21)

## Paul's Letter to the Galatians

As the good news about Jesus began to be preached and welcomed among people who were not Jews, the question arose as to whether a person must obey the Law of Moses in order to be a true Christian. Paul had argued this was not necessary—that in fact, the only sound basis for life in Christ was faith, by which all are put right with God. But among the churches of Galatia, a Roman province in Asia Minor, there had come people who opposed Paul and claimed that one must also observe the Law of Moses in order to be right with God. Paul's Letter to the Galatians was written in order to bring back to true faith and practice those people who were being misled by this false teaching. Paul begins by defending his right to be called an apostle of Jesus Christ. He insists that his call to be an apostle came from God, not from any human authority, and that his mission was especially to the non-Jews. Then he develops the argument that it is by faith alone that people are put right with God. In the concluding chapters Paul shows that Christian conduct flows naturally from the love that results from faith in Christ.

## The First Letter from John

The First Letter from John has two main purposes: to encourage its readers to live in fellowship with God and with his Son, Jesus Christ, and to warn them against following false teaching that would destroy this fellowship. This teaching was based on the belief that evil results from contact with the physical world, and so Jesus, the Son of God, could not really have been a human being. Those teachers claimed that to be saved was to be set free from concern with life in this world; and they also taught that salvation had nothing to do with matters of morality or of love for others. In opposition to this teaching the writer clearly states that Jesus Christ was a real human being, and he emphasizes that all who believe in Jesus and love God must also love one another. (Outline of Contents: Introduction 1.1-4; Light and darkness 1.5-2.29; Children of God and children of the Devil 3.1-24; Truth and error 4.1-6; The duty of love 4.7-21; Victorious faith 5.1-21).

## Letter from St. Paul to the Ephesians

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians is concerned first of all with "God's plan... to bring all creation together, everything in heaven and on earth, with Christ as head". It is also an appeal to God's people to live out the meaning of this great plan for the unity of mankind through oneness with Jesus Christ. In the first part of Ephesians the writer develops the theme of unity by speaking of the way in which God the Father has chosen his people, how they are forgiven and set free from their sins through Jesus Christ the Son, and how God's great promise is guaranteed by the Holy Spirit. In the second part he appeals to the readers to live in such a way that their oneness in Christ may become real in their life together. Several figures of speech are used to show the oneness of God's people in union with Christ: the church is like a body, with Christ as the Head or like a building, with Christ as the cornerstone: or like a wife, with Christ as the Husband. This letter rises to great heights of expression as the writer is moved by the thought of God's grace in Christ. Everything is seen in the light of Christ's love, sacrifice, forgiveness, grace, and purity. (Outline of Contents: Introduction 1.1-2; Christ and the Church 1.3-3.21; The new life in Christ 4.1-6.2; Conclusion 6.21-24).

## Liturgical Section:

**Weekday Morning Mass:** 10.00 a.m.:— Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri, Sat

**Weekday Evening Mass:** 7.00 p.m.:— Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs, Fri (except Bank Holidays)

**Sabbath Masses:** Sat:— 7.00 p.m. Vigil

Sun:— 9.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m. [Choir](#), 12.00p.m. [Folk Group](#)

**Eucharistic Service:** 10.00 a.m.:— Wednesday (unless there is a funeral)

**Benediction:** Every Monday after 7.00 p.m. Mass (except Bank Holidays)  
First Friday of each month.

**Rosary:** Monday to Saturday after 10.00 a.m. Mass  
Mon to Friday after 7.00 p.m. Mass

**Baptisms:** Please enquire in the sacristy for available dates. Baptisms are held on Sunday after 12.00 Mass. One months notice is required.

## Reflection on today's readings

**In today's first reading**, we hear the solemn priestly blessing, a prayer that God would bless and protect us and be gracious to us.

**In today's second reading** we hear St Paul tell us that through the Incarnation, the distance between God and man has been bridged and now we can call God "Abba! Father!"

**In today's Gospel** we hear the story of the visit of the shepherds on the first Christmas night. The closing verse, about Jesus' circumcision eight days later, makes it an apt reading for the octave (eight) day of Christmas. At this time of giving it is sometimes forgotten about the pure unselfish gift Mary gave to everyone of us. She did not look for anything in return, she even accepted the suffering that came with gifting the Saviour to the world, the hearth ache and anguish of watching her son die. But unlike the gifts that we give each other at this time of year the gift of Christ is not just for Christmas, the gift of Christ is forever, for every second of every minute of every hour of every day. We should strive to have that Christmas gift, that feeling in our heart and minds every day. That Christmas gift is the gift of love. Out of love for her God Mary offered herself unconditionally and this is how we should love one another, unconditionally. When our Lord was asked which was the greatest commandment he said *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'*<sup>38</sup> *This is the first and greatest commandment.*<sup>39</sup> *And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'*<sup>40</sup> *All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*" (Mathew 22:36-40). What we should note from this is that in both commandments we are commanded to love. Remember how St. Paul describes love in his letter to the Corinthians (12:31-13:8): *"Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails".* One wonders if St. Paul was writing about Mary, I think he was.