



# Parish Newsletter

30th December 2018 ✘ *The Holy Family Sunday* ✘ Year c

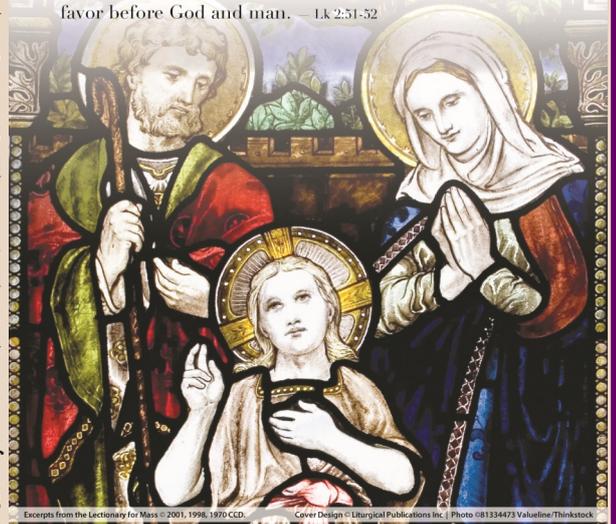
The experience of being part of a family is something fabulous, no matter what is the size, shape or duration of the time, but everyone has got one's own part to make the family a special one. The Christian family is a space, where the young grow to maturity as Jesus did in Nazareth. The family is where we learn the basics of life, where we are loved and taught to love and care for those around us. We get our emotional security from being loved unconditionally by our family and it is a sense of belonging, a sense of deep intimacy and a sense of companionship.

As we celebrate the feast of Holy Family they put before us a lot of lessons to learn. They led a normal life and treated Jesus as any parents would treat a child in those times. Everything was not fine in their life, because they lived in the deep shadow of the cross. At a very early stage Mary and Joseph were migrants with a young baby, they were refugees seeking shelter in a foreign land with only the clothes they stood in. They were lost, lonely, terrified and afraid.

When we look at the family of Joseph and Mary of Nazareth, this family highlights certain qualities. Among many of those I would like to look closely at one quality - **that is generosity**. Firstly the generosity of the Father Almighty in His revelation through the Incarnation of His only Son. Secondly, generous acceptance of the Word of God and the total submission to the same by our Holy Mother. Lastly the generous love and mercy St. Joseph had to his wife Mary and to God's Son "Jesus." Pope Francis, says "Jesus was born into a family. He could have come in a spectacular way, either as a warrior, or as an emperor" but Jesus chose to enter this world through the love of a family. So let us pray for all our families especially those families that are facing difficulties of any kind. And let us strengthen families and the institution of marriage in our society. Real love includes pain, forgiveness, embracing, positively challenging and starting all over again.

## Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. — Lk 2:51-52



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. Cover Design © Liturgical Publications Inc. | Photo 081334473 ValueLine/Thinkstock

We wish and pray for all the families in our Church to have all blessings through The Holy Family.

*Fr. Bibin*

**EVENING PRAYER**  
will be celebrated on  
**Monday, December 31st @ 6pm**  
As we prepare to say goodbye to  
2018 and to greet the New Year

*Happy  
New Year  
2019*

Confession: Saturday 10:30am-11:30am and 6:00pm to 6:20pm & After 10:00am Mass on the Thursday before the First Friday

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS	PRAY FOR	10 AM MASSES NEXT WEEK
<b>6:30pm:</b> Kathleen, Marie & Aisling Skelton (A)	Katrina Harford (A) Paula O'Keeffe	<b>Mon:</b> James Cummins (1st A)
<b>9:00am:</b> Parish Intentions		<b>Tues 11am:</b> New Years Day
<b>11:00am:</b> Eddie Farrell (A)		<b>Wed:</b> Deceased Members of Kelly & Rooney Families
<b>12:30pm:</b> Michael Snr. (20th A), Nora & Michael Jnr. Ward (A)		<b>Thur:</b> Deceased Members of Stone & McGonigle Families
<b>5:30pm:</b> Eileen McGuirk (Rem)		<b>Fri:</b> Special Intention
		<b>Sat:</b> Mairead Manton (MM)

# Brackenstown 2018



DUBLIN, IRELAND  
**WORLD  
MEETING OF  
FAMILIES**  
21-26 AUGUST 2018



All Welcome to the  
next meeting in

St. Cronan's Pastoral Centre  
Tuesday 8th January from 11am - 12pm  
Tea & coffee available from 10:30am

### Brackenstown Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 2019



The dates are 13th - 21st September 2019

Cost €1,850.00 per person

Deposit of €250 required by the end of February

Agent will be MAP Travel.

Bookings through the Parish Office



Next Parent Meeting is  
Thursday 3RD JANUARY  
Next dates for Baptisms:

Sunday 13th January 11am & 12:30pm Masses  
Saturday 26th January at 12:30pm

Please note one Month's Notice to be given & a copy of

### Praying with God's Word

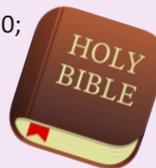
Below are the readings for this Sunday & the following Sunday:

#### Holy Family Sunday

First Reading: Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Psalm: 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10;  
Second Reading: Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Gospel: Lk 2:41-52

#### Mary, The Holy Mother of God

First Reading: Nm 6:22-27; Psalm: Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8;  
Second Reading: Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21



### FAMILY OFFERING & COLLECTIONS AT THE WEEKEND MASSES

We thank all those parishioners who support the running of the parish through the Parish Family Offering fund. As the newsletters have been pre-printed, we will publish the amounts of the Christmas Collections in mid-January.

AS YOU CELEBRATE THE GLORY OF  
THIS MIRACULOUS SEASON, MAY  
YOUR HOME BE FILLED WITH LOVE,  
PEACE, AND JOY. MAY THESE  
BLESSINGS FOLLOW YOU  
THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR.

### CHRISTMAS DUES

The Christmas Dues together with the First Collection at Mass and the Easter Dues goes to support myself, Fr. Bibin and the sick & retired Priests of the Diocese. We sincerely appreciate your generosity to this collection. There is a financial benefit to the Parish as your Dues contributions can be included in your Family Offering for the Tax Reclaim Scheme. Thank you again for your generosity and for all your support at Christmas and throughout the year.

Fr. Paul & Fr. Bibin.

### EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



Mon: 10.30 am - 11.30 am

Wed: 6.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Fri: 10.30 am - 5.45pm

Sat: 10.30am - 11.30am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place every Sunday for Advent from 4pm—5pm. Can you stay 1 hour with me? We encourage new people to come & join us.

### CALENDARS

Church Art Calendars for 2019 are available from Legion of Mary members in main porch after weekend Masses.

### THE ROSARY

Honour the Mother of God & begin the New Year with the Rosary. Let us help you get started by having the Rosary Statue in your home. Just leave your contact details with a member of the Legion of Mary in main porch after Saturday evening or Sunday morning Masses and suitable arrangements will be made for you.

'LIKE' Legion of Mary Brackenstown Swords



### EPIPHANY GIFTS

You are invited to bring along any unwanted/unneeded Christmas gifts until 6th January. These gifts will then be passed onto Alice Leahy's Trust, a day-care facility for the homeless based in the Iveagh Trust Buildings. The kind of things that are useful are: chocolates, sweets, scented candles, toiletries, scarves, gloves etc.

Please bring your items to the crib in the Church and the Pastoral Council will pass them on. Thank you.



The Parish Calendar for 2019 is available from the back of the Church, from the Legion shop or from the Parish Office.

