

Reflection:

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son to earth as a baby so many years ago. Thank you that He paid the punishment for my sins by dying on the cross. And thank you that He rose again to prove that death was truly defeated. I place my trust in You to be my Savior. Guide me through the dark times of my life and give me courage to live for you. Amen

Sunday 27th December, 2015

St Mary's

Sat 26th 7.30 Nora & Terence McTernan AM
 Thurs 31st 7.30 Padriag O'Hara & Dec
 Fri 1st 1.00 Wedding
 Sat 2nd Jan 7.30 Mary Brigid Mc Gowan AM
(Holy Hour every Sunday 3-4pm)

St Therese's

Sun 27th 11.30 Seamus & Margaret Walsh AM
 12.30 Christening
 Sun 3rd 11.30 Frank & Margaret Taaffe AM
 Mon 4th 7.30 Mary Gallagher 1st AM
 Tues 5th 10.00
 Wed 6th 11.30 Paddy Joe McGoldrick AM

St Michael's

Sun 27th 10.00 Vincent Hannon 2nd AM
 Sun 3rd 10.00
 Wed 6th 10.00
 Sun 10th 10.00 John Hannon AM
(Holy Hour every Tuesday 6-7pm)

**Fr Vincent Connaughton**

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January	Liturgy	Collectors	Alter Society
St. Mary's	Jason McKenny	Tommy Hamilton & Michael Gallagher	Christina McTernan & Mary Morrison
St. Therese's	Seamus & Shane McTiernan	Francis Taaffe & Pat McKeon	
St. Michael's	Mary Gallagher	Hubert McHugh & Jimmy McPadden	Christina Byrne & Maria O'Brien

Sunday 27th December 2015

1. **Bishops' Christmas Message** - 2015 was a significant year for the diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois with the rededication of St Mel's Cathedral. At the ceremony in May 2015 Bishop Colm expressed his hope that the cathedral will be "a place where all will feel welcome, especially those who come with heavy hearts and those searching for answers to questions for which the world has no solutions". Since then many thousands of people visited St Mel's to marvel at the beautiful work of restoration and also to pray and to find peace. We are now in the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy; an initiative of Pope Francis. It provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our understanding of God's abundant mercy and also on how we are merciful to those around us. Mercy can build up our hope and can contribute to that all important quality of peace. May our reflection on, and our experience of mercy be the beginning of greater hope and peace in the coming year. I wish you and your family members at home and abroad a happy Christmas and a peaceful 2016.
2. **Third Age – Senior Helpline** – 'Do you need someone to talk to? Senior Help Line is a confidential listening service for older people provided by trained older volunteers for the price of a local call anywhere in Ireland, LoCall 1850 440 444. Senior help line is open every day of the year, including Christmas Day, from 10am to 10pm. Older people call because they feel lonely and want some company in their day. Callers have financial, family and health concerns. A small number are experiencing elder abuse. Some feel depressed and need support to carry on. Senior help line's trained older volunteers offer a friendly, listening and non-judgemental ear to callers. So don't be alone with your problem. Lifting the phone lessens the loneliness. We are there. LoCall **1850 440 444**
3. **Auction/Raffle** – Fr. Vincent would like to express his thanks to all who donated all kinds of wonderful items to the auction and raffle held in the Club House last Sunday night. Thanks to all who came and supported the night and special thanks to the wonderful hard work of the committee. Thanks to the staff and management of the Club House, along with the auctioneers who sold off everything on the night. Above all thanks to you the people from within and outside the parish who have supported our recent parish fundraising events of 2015. The amount collected so far for the Strictly Come Dancing is approx €40,000, and the amount collected at the auction/raffle & John Hogan night has come to €
4. **The Clever Elves Table Quiz** - Dromahair Ladies together with Mens Football Clubs are hosting a Table Quiz in The Blue Devon on Monday 28th December at 9.30pm sharp. Proceeds are going towards new Training Pitch. Raffle on the night plus we are auctioning a signed Henry Shefflin 2014 Club All Ireland Jersey. Your support would be gratefully appreciated.
5. **Dromahair's Operation Transformation 2016** - Dromahair Ladies together with Mens Football Clubs are hosting Dromahair's Operation Transformation. Sue McGowan is going to lead The Operation Transformation 6 weeks programme. Operation Transformation starts with a National Walk (Open to everyone) on Sunday 10th January 2016 at 1pm followed by a 6 week programme. Registration for the 6 week programme will take place before the walk at 12.30pm. This is a great opportunity after the Christmas Festivities to change your life in six weeks, get rid of unwanted pounds, regain your fitness and have some fun in the process. This is open to both male and female. So why not make this your New Years Resolution. Please check Naomh Padraig Dromahair or St Patricks Gaa Dromahair facebook pages for more details.
6. **First Friday/Thursday Calls for Jan 2016** – will take place on Thurs 31st Dec in Ballintogher and on Fri 1st Jan in Killavoggy/Ballinagar.
7. **Wed 6th Jan is Feast of the Epiphany** – it is a holy day of obligation. Masses are as follows: 10am St. Michael's; 11.30 St. Therese's; 7.30 St. Mary's.
1. **Advent 2015 (Cycle C)** – Fr. Vincent would like to do a Holy Hour each week during Advent in each of our church's. Pope Francis has declared that beginning in December that the year ahead will be a year of mercy. The Advent programme is as follows –
 - Thurs 31st Dec – New Year's Eve Mass – 7.30 in St. Mary's
 - Fri 1st Jan 2016 – Wedding St. Mary's 1pm
8. **Ushers for January in St. Mary's/St. Michael's** - Martin Paul McGoldrick, Martin Kelly, Anne Kelly & Brendan McPadden.
9. **Words of Thanks** – A sincere word of thanks to everyone who were involved in the lovely Christmas ceremonies in St. Mary's, St. Michael's and St. Therese's. Thanks to our Liturgy Group, all the choirs, sacristans, collectors, readers, ministers of the Eucharist, commentaries, cleaners, flower arrangements/Christmas Decor of our churches, setting up the cribs, and all who came to our ceremonies. Thanks to you the people of the parish for your wonderful financial support in all of the various collections in 2015. I sincerely thank you all for that support for our parish funds and the dues collections. Thanks to all the kids from our schools for their lovely involvement in our Christmas Masses. Well done!
10. **New Year of 2016** – Moving forward is a powerful thing for everyone. Every year brings it's ups and downs to many families and people. There are the joys and sadness, the successes and the failings but we still move on to a new springtime in our lives. The year ahead we pray will bring much needed peace to our world. May there be love, respect and more kindness and good will among all people. 2016 is the year of mercy, we pray for compassion, mercy and forgiveness as our Holy Father Pope Francis has recently announced. May the Holy doors of our Cathedrals show and open the way of faith, light and healing to all, and may we go forward in this year in a more beautiful way than ever before. May we always bring Jesus of the Christmas crib into our hearts, homes and communities as we are about to embark another new year and especially 2016. Happy New Year to everyone in the parish, and all those who are away from home.
11. **The Breffni ICA Ladies** are sending out a massive THANK YOU to all who sponsored/supported/sold our recent raffle cards for Acquired Brain Injury and Breffni ICA. It was once again very successful. The winners were:
 1. Anna O'Connor Kerins. Food hamper sponsored by Breffni ICA.
 2. Eileen Maguire. Ladies pampering hamper sponsored by Breffni ICA.
 3. John Harkin. Gents pampering hamper sponsored by Breffni ICA.
 4. Barbara McLoughlin. Bottle of baileys sponsored by Maureen Maguire.
 5. Sean Foley. Bottle of wine sponsored by Maura O'Hara.
 6. Angela McLoughlin. Box of biscuits sponsored by Kathleen Kelly.We thank you all sincerely for your continued support. See local press for presentation to Teresa O'Boyle, manager, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (Sligo branch).