



## St. Nicholas' Parish News

Sunday 30th December 2018  
Feast of the Holy Family

[www.saintnicholasparish.ie](http://www.saintnicholasparish.ie)  
E-mail: [stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com)



**Fr. Derek Leonard P.P.**

087 6261287

**Fr. John O'Byrne**

085 7491268

**Fr Sean Harmon**

087 9870284

**Salesian Sisters:**

061 348510

### Mass times:

**St Munchin's College**

9.45am. Mon, Tues & Wed.

**St Nicholas, Westbury**

7.00pm — Thursday

### Weekends:

**St Nicholas 7.00pm — Sat.**

10.30 am — Sunday

**St Munchin's College**

12 noon — Sunday

### PARISH NEWSLETTER



Please feel free to take home a copy of this news-letter. A neighbour or friend who does not attend

church in our parish might also welcome it. If you decide otherwise, please leave it on the table at the Exit on your way out. Thank you.

We also encourage groups to avail of it to promote upcoming events, letting know of someone who needs prayers etc.

Items for the newsletter to be in to:

John... 085 7406822

Maura. 086 0429952

by Wednesday please.

E-mail:

[Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com)

### Feastdays—January

Mon 31 Dec —St. Sylvester

Tues 1 - Mary Mother of God

Thurs 3 - St. Munchin

Sun 6 - The Feast of the Epiphany

### THE DEEP END: When Jesus was small

In primary school we used to sing a song about Jesus' childhood. I don't recall the exact words, but the chorus went something like this:

Jesus was a happy child  
When he was small like me  
He used to laugh and run around  
And sometimes climb a tree  
Running here, running there  
Having fun like you and me.

There was a verse about his mother bringing him to school on his first day. The aim was clearly to remind us that Jesus was a real child who did all the things that other children do. In theological terms, it impressed on our young minds the humanity of Jesus, even as we heard the stories of the healings and miracles that expressed his divinity.

This hymn came to mind as I reflected on today's Gospel. The story of the finding in the Temple is the only one we have from Jesus' childhood, so it takes on greater significance. It is both an ordinary and extraordinary family story, highlighting a typical family incident while also setting the scene for Jesus' future mission. What parent hasn't felt the panic of discovering their child is missing, and then been overcome with relief when they were found? But the story ends with the realisation that Jesus is far from ordinary. His parents don't understand his cryptic reference to 'my Father's affairs', but Mary stores up 'all these things' in her heart, accepting the mysterious workings of God.

We are left, with Mary and Joseph, to ponder who this child really is.

Tríona Doherty  
Email [trionad@gmail.com](mailto:trionad@gmail.com)

## The Holy Family

The Holy Family refers to Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Church asks us to remember this family in a special manner on the first Sunday after Christmas, the Feast of the Holy Family. Mary and Joseph cooperated with God's plan for the world. They were invited and they said 'yes' to playing their part in the birth and rearing of Jesus, the Son of God. We often think of Jesus as divine and a wondrous miracle worker. This is true, but it is important to remember that he was also human - a baby and then a boy. Like other children, he had to learn to walk, to sleep through the night, to share his toys, to say his prayers, to make up his mind and to forgive others. He learned these things, and more besides, from Mary and Joseph. We celebrate and honour the Holy Family because they give us an example of how to respond to God's love and how to share that love with one another.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate  
the splendor of true love;  
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
grant that our families too  
may be places of communion and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel  
and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may families never again experience  
violence, rejection and division;  
may all who have been hurt or scandalized  
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
make us once more mindful  
of the sacredness and inviolability of the  
family,  
and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
graciously hear our prayer.

Amen.

Pope Francis *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love)



**Parish Office Opening hours.** Tues 2pm—4pm.  
Thurs 9.30am—12.30. for anyone who may need to book Masses get certificates or any other church related enquiries. Entrance to the office is through the Adoration Chapel opposite the priest's house. Phone: 341300

### Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel is open from 9.30am to 6.00pm each day. We encourage you to come along for a quiet moment of prayer.



**Thank You** to the students of Scoil Ide school for creating the "Names of Jesus " tree. This reminds us of the many titles of Jesus such as Good Shepherd, Friend of Sinners, Carpenter's Son, Lamb of God etc and helps us put Christ back into Christmas.

**A big thanks** to our local Scout Troop for creating our crib this year.

All donations to the crib will go to the St Vincent de Paul Society

The St Nicholas Conference of SVP would like to **sincerely thank** everyone who contributed to this years Christmas Appeal. Your generosity in both the collection and the giving tree was overwhelming and the people we help are extremely grateful. We would also like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



### Normal Mass times resume

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(NB There will NOT be Mass in St. Nicholas on Monday 31st December)

### True story

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from house to house knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them. As they continued to get "no room" answers, a little voice called from the back

"YOU SHOULD HAVE BOOKED!" bringing the house down.



### Remembering those who are Sick

Let us continue to pray for those who are ill at this time, those preparing for and awaiting results of tests, those in hospital. Continue to pray for Maurice, Ailish R, Pat, Annette, Aidan, Gabriel, Jim, Kathleen, Garrett, Helen, Philip, Tony, John, Brian, Muirinn, Ken, Orla, Ciara, Paddy, Michael, Vera Ailish, Frank, Ger, Mary, Fiona and Scarlett.

Lord Jesus, you are the true friend of all those who suffer anguish and pain in spirit, mind or body. Please share with them now the gift of your consoling love.

If you know of anybody needing prayers etc, please let John/Maura know by E-mail: [stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com) or Tel. John.085 7406822 Maura. 086 0429952

### Thanks

As we come to the end of 2017 it is appropriate that we give thanks.

We thank God for the year that has past:

- For the good times
- For the challenging times
- For those we loved who have gone to their eternal reward
- For the days we thought no one cared and someone knocked on our door to say hello
- For the quiet moments we had alone with God
- For the joys our children brought us
- For our parents
- For our teachers
- For our leaders in faith.

Take a little time to pray in thanks. **Thank God**

### New Year Wishes

This New Year, may your right hand always be stretched out in friendship, never in want.

· May this New Year bring newly found prosperity, love, happiness and delight in your life.

· · May the dawning of this New Year, fill your heart with new hopes, open up new horizons and bring for you

promises of brighter tomorrows.

· As the new year blossoms, may the journey of your life be fragrant with new opportunities, your days be bright with new hopes and your heart be happy with love!



Happy  
NEW YEAR