



St. Joseph's Church O'Connell Avenue, Limerick

Church Notices, Sunday 28th December 2025

First Week of Christmas

Mass Times and Intentions

Day	Time	Name
Sun. Dec. 28 th	10.30am	Noel O'Halloran (6 th anniversary); Anne & Dan Delaney; Phyllis & Owen McDonagh
	12.30pm	Bernie & Frank Flavin (3 rd anniversary); Jim O'Riordan; Paddy Horan (4 th anniversary); Cyril & Jackie Frawley
Mon Dec. 29 th	10.30am	Catherine McNamara (10 th anniversary); Noel O'Halloran (birthday remembrance))
Tue. Dec. 30 th	10.30am	Joe Troy (7 th anniversary)
Wed. Dec. 31 st	10.30am	Michael Holmes, Breege Cosgrave & Eilish Cunningham.
<u>2026</u> Thur. Jan. 1 st	10.30am	Intentions of Clergy
Fri. Jan. 2 nd	10.30am	Intentions of Clergy
Sun. Jan. 4 th	10.30am	Paul McDonough (1 st anniversary); Michael Galvin (anniversary)
	12.30pm	Andrew Hickey (anniversary); Michael & Mary Meskill (anniversaries); Ann Neville (9 th anniversary) John Driver (anniversary)

RECENTLY DECEASED

We extend our sympathy to her family, and pray for the repose of the soul of **Brigid (Bridie) Flanagan (née Constable)**, Vizes Court, Little St. Joseph Street (formerly of O'Malley Park, and Basingstoke, U.K.) whose Requiem Mass was celebrated here last Monday, 22nd December. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

GROW MENTAL HEALTH

GROW Mental Health is a registered Charity with over 55 years' experience supporting people in personal growth and recovery. Its peer-support service, operating in Ireland since 1969, is a testament to the vital role that other people play in the recovery of the individual. The GROW programme is a roadmap to mental health and wellbeing and is implemented through friendly community-based peer support groups. The benefits of attending Peer Support Groups is that the person leading the meeting has experienced their own mental health challenges – **you can connect and identify with them more easily**. By hearing their recovery story and understanding the steps they took on their journey – **gives hope and empowerment**. You too can do the same. There has been research carried out that demonstrates the benefits of peer led recovery models. GROW in Limerick can be found at 33 Henry Street (V94 HPP9) and Croom Family Resource Centre, Croom Mills, Church Road (V35 E306) Contact Celia 086-1526966 or visit the website www.grow.ie

LINGER IN CONTEMPLATION AT THE MANGER WITH THE HOLY FAMILY

Always on the Sunday after Christmas we keep the feast of the Holy Family. In this feast, the church, I think, simply wants our Christmas adoration, our meditation, to linger. The church wants simply to hold us there, to keep us, in mind and heart, close to the newborn Christ and to his Blessed Mother, to Joseph too.

The feast of the Holy Family is a feast of meditation. Not rushing on, not quitting Christmas too soon, the feast of the Holy Family draws our attention again and perhaps more deeply into the mystery of the Incarnation, into the beauty and truth of Christ's advent and birth.

But what is the object of our meditation? It is, of course, the living and present mystery of the incarnate Christ presented to the world liturgically in the word of God and in the Eucharist. Our prayer, our worship, our willingness to listen to the Scripture: all of it together draws us into the mystery of Christ.

That's why going to Mass, praying your rosary, reading the Bible and more, are all important, because these things act upon the soul in concert; they conspire to show us the real Christ who comes to us only in mystery.

Yes, Jesus is descended from patriarchs and kings, but now magi from the East come to worship him. That is, through Jesus all Gentiles, all the nations, will be drawn to God, fulfilling God's promise to Abraham (Gn 15:5).

But back to the Holy Family. All this talk about Moses and Gentiles and salvation history should not tempt us to forget salvation's intimate beginning in the womb of the Virgin, in the small cloister of the crèche, and in the littleness of a family. And here we come to what I call the reflected truth of this feast, that is, truth reflected from the Holy Family upon us, revealing a truth about our families — the truth that they are holy too.

And what does this mean but that the Holy Family reveals the purpose of the family as such, all families? That is, we learn in this feast that the family is meant to be a sanctuary of love meant to foster life. And more, we learn that life, born and raised within the family, may also become life in Christ. If, that is, we seek to allow the grace of God to make our families holy families too.

Which brings us back to why I called this feast a feast of meditation. For maybe that's why the church wants us to continue a few days longer to meditate on the beauty of Christmas, so that we might begin to practice the virtues we contemplate, the lowliness of the blessed and the dutifulness of St. Joseph, and then to see Christ born again. This time in our own homes.

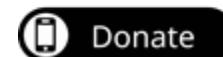
Extracted from article by Father Joshua J. Whitfield on osvnews.com (27/12/25)

To read the full article visit <https://bit.ly/4aAKLJO>

*Waste time with your children, so that they can
realise, that love is always free.*

Pope Francis

Contact Details:	Canon Derek Leonard	087-6261287
	St Joseph's Church (V94 NR29)	(061)313401
Email:	stjosephsparishlk@eircom.net	
Website:	stjosephsparish.ie	
facebook:	St Joseph's Parish Limerick	



*Simply scan with your
camera phone and
donate to St. Joseph's
Thank You*