



St. Joseph's Church
O'Connell Avenue, Limerick
Church Notices, Sunday 15th December 2024

Third Week of Advent

Mass Times and Intentions

Day	Time	Name
Sun Dec. 15 th	10.30am	Deceased members of the Duhan & Nancy O'Brien family
	12.30pm	John Byrne (9 th anniv.) & Anne Byrne (18 th anniv.); Margaret Cronin (1 st anniversary); Michael Lee & his daughter Madeline; Gerry Moore (1 st anniversary); Michael Doherty (5 th anniversary) & remembering his daughter Maura Fitzpatrick
Mon. Dec. 16 th	10.30am	Mary & Michael O'Connor (anniversaries)
Tue. Dec. 17 th	10.30am	Scoil Mháthair Dé Christmas Mass
Wed. Dec. 18 th	10.30am	James O'Connor (1 st anniversary)
Thur. Dec. 19 th	10.30am	Margaret Scanlon; George McGill; James Byrne (56 th anniversary)
Fri. Dec. 20 th	10.30am	Intentions of clergy
Sat. Dec. 21 st	10.30am	Nora Noonan (2 nd anniversary); Dermot Walsh (1 st anniversary)
Sun Dec. 22 nd	10.30am	Kathleen Ryan (anniversary)
	12.30pm	John & Esther Galvin, & Con Galvin; Kathleen Ryan (anniv.) & Maeve Walsh (1 st anniv.); John & Breda English, & Mick English; Trudy Kiely (3 rd anniversary)

NEWLY BAPTISED

We welcome into our Christian Community **Lucy Clementine McCarthy** daughter of Wiktor and Samuel. We pray that the Holy Family watch over and guide them and all of those whom we welcome into this Christian community.

HOSTED BY ST SAVIOUR'S DOMINICAN CHURCH

Invitation: Join us for our Pastoral Unit (Croí Clann Naofa) **Christmas Healing and Reconciliation Service** at St Saviour's Dominican Church **next Thurs. 19th Dec. from 7pm to 8pm.** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a led holy hour with music, Benediction and Confessions. **Sat. 21st Dec:** Christmas Carols at the Crescent Shopping Centre from 2pm to 4pm and confessions will be available in the Oratory during this time.

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS HERE AT ST JOSEPH'S

As you can see, the decorating of our church for Christmas is well underway, but everything comes at a cost! We would be delighted and appreciative to receive sponsorship for part of our Christmas decorations or a donation towards these expenses; please contact Fr Liam or Úna. **Oh! I almost forgot the Poinsettias. Please leave your Poinsettia pot/s in front of the crib.** Our Christmas Mass schedule is Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 7pm and Christmas Day Masses at 10.30am and 12.30pm.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Specially prepared Christmas cards featuring internal and external views of our church are available at €5 per pack of 6 assorted cards.
 Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are available at €5 per card.

HOW ST. PAULA CHANGED BETHLEHEM

The year after her husband died, Paula, a wealthy Roman, set out on pilgrimage in the Holy Land. Traveling in her sizable retinue were her daughter and her confessor, St. Jerome. In a letter written after St. Paula's death, Jerome described her first visit to the manger. "She came to Bethlehem and entered into the cave where the Saviour was born. Here, when she looked upon the inn made sacred by the virgin and the stall where 'the ox knew his owner and the ass his master's crib,' and where the words of the same prophet had been fulfilled 'Blessed is he that sows beside the waters where the ox and the ass trample the seed under their feet': when she looked upon these things I say, she protested in my hearing that she could behold with the eyes of faith the infant Lord wrapped in swaddling clothes and crying in the manger, the wise men worshipping Him, the star shining overhead, the virgin mother, the attentive foster-father, the shepherds coming by night to see the word that had come to pass and thus even then to consecrate those opening phrases of the evangelist John, 'In the beginning was the word and the word was made flesh.'" Her spiritual ecstasy invites us to approach the manger with the same faith and wonder. As we gaze upon the familiar Nativity scene, can we see with the eyes of faith what Paula saw?

Transforming Bethlehem into a spiritual hub: Paula decided to remain in Bethlehem. Her work transformed Bethlehem into a thriving spiritual centre, bankrupting herself in the process. She established monasteries (one for women, which she ran, and one for men, led by St. Jerome) and a hostel for pilgrims. She became a master of Scripture, in part thanks to Jerome's instruction, and was renowned for her asceticism. In fact, it is thanks to St. Paula that St. Jerome's translation of the Bible, the Latin Vulgate, became widespread. Paula's efforts remind us that our own resources — material and spiritual alike — can be used to build up the Kingdom of God.

Let us pray, *May the splendour of your glory dawn in our hearts, we pray, almighty God, that all shadows of the night may be scattered and we may be shown to be children of light by the advent of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

by Father Patrick Briscoe (https://www.oursundayvisitor.com/the-widow-who-forever-changed-bethlehem/?utm_email=Omeda)

POPE FRANCIS ON X

Dec 14: [#Advent](#) is a time of grace to free ourselves from the false belief that we are self-sufficient, to confess our sins and welcome God's pardon, and to ask forgiveness from those we have offended.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.



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

Contact Details:	Fr. Liam Enright	087-7415603
Parish Clerk & Sacristan:	Úna McCarthy	(061)313401
Office times:	Thursday to Monday	10am to 1pm
Email: stjosephsparishk@eircom.net	Website: stjosephsparish.ie	