

ST PATRICK'S AND ST BRIGID'S GLENARIFFE



25th December 2022



Although the civil regulations may have relaxed the church regulations remain unchanged due to the return of Covid in the community. To help limit the spread of the virus face coverings should be worn during mass. Hands should be sanitized on entry to the church. Please follow the one-way system.

WEEKDAY MASSES No Mass until NEW YEAR'S Eve at 7.00pm
Christmas Day Mass 10am

As Christmas Time comes around once again I would like to express my gratitude to everyone as we come to the end of another year... Sincere thanks to all who have worked for the parish community: the Finance Committee, The St Vincent de Paul, the Altar Society, the Church Cleaners, the Spred workers, the Altar Servers, the Ministers of the Word, the Ministers of the Eucharist, the Children's Liturgy Leaders, the Collectors and Counters of the parish collections and the caretaker of parish property; Paula my housekeeper and most especially Paddy who keep a close eye on the church. Thanks to all who worked for any of the parish activities both spiritual and social during 2022 Thanks to The Choir and to all who decorated the Church for Our Savior's Birth and for every occasion throughout the year. Well done to the pupils of St Patrick's PS for the wonderful Christmas Concert in the Church, last Monday evening. We are very grateful and proud of our Catholic Schools – proud of our children and grateful for the dedication of our Catholic teachers in all of the schools which serve our children and young people.

DECEASED: Mary O'Kane Garron Rd, Hugh McNeill, Torr Rd Funeral Monday at noon.
ANNIVERSARIES: Paddy Murray, Charles Black, (Foriff)

I wish you and your families a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.
Nollaig Shona agus bliain nua Shona. Fr Davy.

Donal Neary SJ
Gospel Reflections

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God made flesh

In a country church there was a whitewashed wall - maybe you heard this story, but like the Christmas story it's a good one. As people came in, they bowed to the wall or blessed themselves passing it. People wondered why, as there was no picture on the wall. At a time of repainting the church, the whitewash and a few layers of paint were removed and a fresco of the nativity was found. The ritual had remained when the reason was forgotten.

There are many customs and visuals of Christmas, houses are lit up with stars, reindeer, and baubles - everything to celebrate that the divine mixed with the human in an intense way, the family of heaven and earth joined, when light and hope shone on the world. Some reminders are more direct than others. Others may be a bit like the fresco - still there and yet we wonder why. Let's stop saying put Christ back into Christmas, say rather find Christ in all of Christmas.

In every face you see this day, think of the face of God. We often pray that the face of God may shine on us, when we are brought face to face with God we will be face to face with immense and enduring love. We long for this now and forever.

People long for justice, for peace. People long for just enough in life like street children of Calcutta and children all over the world, and we long for reconciliation. Christmas is also a reminder of them. Not alone of God's immense love for all, but for the immense and enduring torture as God suffers still today in us all. The cross is in the crib, reminding us of the future of this child.

Also - enjoy all the reminders of Christmas. Let everything secular about Christmas remind us of its holy meaning. Every light you see, every red nosed reindeer, every cracker and bit of pudding, every bit of love under a mistletoe, in them all see, and be aware of Christ in everything of these next few days; and be glad of the face of Christ made human for us this night.