



The Parish of Mungret ✚ Crecora ✚ Raheen

CHRISTMAS DAY

25th December, 2016

If you were to put together a guest list for the birth of the Messiah 2000 years ago one might expect political leaders like Caesar Augustus and religious leaders such as the chief priests and the Pharisees to be included. Yet for Luke, the shepherds are some of the first to welcome Jesus into this world and are the first 'preachers' of the Good News. Many would find it completely shocking that Shepherds would be included. It was a disreputable trade and shepherds were considered 'unclean' because of their profession. At first they were terrified, but the angels reassured them: 'do not be afraid'. The response of the shepherds was immediate: 'let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing which has taken place'.

The poor, the marginalised, the outcast will be the first to experience the abundance of God's hospitality through Jesus and the shepherds come in their name. We are told that people were amazed by the shepherds and their words. Their journey didn't end in Bethlehem, for them it was perhaps only the beginning as they returned 'glorifying and praising God'. We are invited to Bethlehem today, to open up our hearts to the one who has come to bring hope and joy. And we return, like the shepherds, 'glorifying and praising God for all they have seen and heard'. We must allow that love to penetrate our hearts and celebrate with our family and friends the joy that lives amongst us. And when we have finished celebrating we remember that the real work of Christmas begins once again:

*'When the song of the angels is stilled. When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and princes are home. When the shepherds are back with
their flocks.*

*The work of Christmas begins; to find the lost; to heal the broken; to feed the
hungry; to release the prisoner; to rebuild the nations; to bring peace among
people; to make music in the heart.'* Howard Thurman.

Jane Mellet - Intercom

Contact:

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Mary Egan, Parish Secretary • 061 210869 • 10am - 4pm



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TIMES OF MASSES IN THE PARISH

Raheen: Vigil 6 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. & 12.30 pm. Mon 11 am. Tue to Fri 10 a.m.. **Eucharistic Adoration:**

Fri. 10.30 a.m.–10p.m.

Crecora: Sunday 10 a.m. Tue. Wed. Thurs. 9.15 a.m. **Eucharistic Adoration:** Thursday to 12 noon & 6p.m–10 p.m.

Mungret: Sunday 11.30 a.m. Wed. Friday 9.30 a.m. Sat. 11.30 am **Eucharistic Adoration:** Wed (10am–12 noon).

Mass Times & Intentions 24/25th Dec

Raheen:

6.30 p.m. Pro Populo
11 a.m. Pat Butler (Anniv)
12.30 pm Robert Dinneen (Anniv)

Crecora:

Sat. 8.15 Christmas Eve.
Sun 25th Pray for Pat Butler (A)
10 a.m. John & Kathleen Donnellan (Anniv)
Dan & Elizabeth Kearney (Anniv)

Mungret:

7.30 p.m. Christmas Eve
11.30 a.m. Christmas Mass

Week ahead: 26th to 30th December.

Raheen:

Monday 11 a.m. Pat O'Dea. (Anniv)
Tuesday: 10 a.m. Pro Populo
Wed 10am Brian Boland (2nd Anniv)
Thurs: 10am Séan & Mary Doran (Anniv)
Friday: 10am

Mass Intentions 31st. Dec/1st Jan

Raheen:

6p.m. James & Bridged Tuohy (Anniv)
11 a.m. Noreen Hannan (1st Anniv) &
son Paul Anniv around this time.
12.30 p.m. John Driver (Anniv)

Crecora: Josephine Fitzgerald.

Mass times: St. Stephen's Day 26th Dec.

RAHEEN: 11 a.m.

Eucharistic Ministers Rota: Raheen

Christmas Rota is available in the Sacristy. Garda Vetting Form and Volunteer Form also included which have to be filled up and returned to the Parish Office.

Rosminian Missions: Fr. Emilian

would like to thank parishioners for their generosity and warm welcome he received when he spoke at Masses the weekend 12th/13th November. The total collection from the parish was €6,880.

CRECORA GOAL MILE: takes place again this year on Christmas Day at 12 noon. The one mile route from the GAA pitch to the Community Centre and back is very manageable and will offer participants a chance to have run, a leisurely jog or a chat with the neighbours while supporting a very worthy cause. Contributions are purely voluntary and may be placed in the collection buckets provided. All money raised will go to GOAL's overseas projects in war-torn and famine-ravaged areas around the world. So please schedule your festivities to have a spare hour from about 11:45 onwards. Parking available in the GAA pitch car-park.

Thank you Santa: The children, their parents and teachers of Corpus Christi School Moyross, would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all Parishioners who were so generous in giving wonderful support to the Santa Letter Programme again this year. The delight on the faces of the children when opening their parcels was a wonderful sight. We wish to acknowledge the hard work done by Marian and her team, Niamh, Clodagh & Jilly. All your hard work was very much appreciated.

Christmas Prayer to the Holy Family. In preparing for the World Meeting of Families in Ireland in August 2018, Pope Francis has invited families here in Ireland and across the world to reflect on the event theme, *The Gospel of the Family: Joy to the World*, by focusing particularly on his recent Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia)*. To mark the beginning of this reflection, and as part of an international initiative promoted by the Dicastery of Laity, the Family and Life of the Holy See, this Christmas every parish around the country is being invited to raise awareness of the prayer to the Holy Family at the end of *The Joy of Love*. Please take home a prayer card for your Family available at the Crib. All the material provided to you free of charge, thanks to the generous support of Aid to the Church in Need (Ireland).

Christmas Dues: Envelopes have been distributed in the parish. If you did not receive an envelope, and would like one, there are some available at the back of the church. We thank all parishioners who have already returned their Dues envelope. It is very much appreciated.

Diocesan Pastoral Plan. We invite you to take a copy of the four page newspaper on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, available at the door. Take it home for Christmas and enjoy reading.

Nollaig Shona dár leitheorí go léir.