



The Parish of Mungret ✚ Crecora ✚ Raheen

Fourth Sunday of Advent.

18th December, 2016

While Luke focuses on the birth of Jesus from Mary's point of view, Matthew's Gospel tells the story from Joseph's. Joseph must have been extremely confused when he learned of Mary's pregnancy. He plans to quietly 'dismiss' her so as not to put her in danger. Mary's options were bleak without Joseph; her fate is very much in his hands. He is immediately obedient and says yes to his call. Joseph welcomes Mary and gives this child the name he is instructed: Jesus.

We hear very little about Joseph in the Gospels and he is sometimes a forgotten figure in the Jesus story, yet his decision to follow God's call is hugely important as he fulfills his promise to protect Mary from danger. Joseph's 'yes' to God sets him on a dangerous path. He must protect his family and this will mean later leaving their homeland, becoming refugees fleeing the terror of Herod.

Each time God speaks to Joseph, it is through his dreams. The Word of God which comes to Joseph gives him a new meaning and a new mission in life. Today, can you reflect on how God speaks to you? In what ways do you hear God's word? And when you hear God's word, what is your response? When you have said 'yes', where has that led you?

Today we can pray for those who are faced with tough decisions and who must choose the more difficult path. It requires strength and bravery.
Jane Mellett – Intercom.

Christmas Arrangements 2016.

Christmas Eve: 24th December.

RAHEEN: 6.30 p.m. (Family Mass)

MUNGRET: 7.30 p.m.

CRECORA: 8.15 p.m.

RAHEEN: 9.00 p.m.

Christmas Day – 25th December.

RAHEEN: 11 a.m. 12.30 p.m.

MUNGRET: 11.30 a.m.

CRECORA: 10.00 a.m.

St. Stephen's Day – 26th December.

RAHEEN: 11 a.m.

Confessions: Rite of Reconciliation with Individual Confessions
Raheen Church on Monday 19th December at 7.30 p.m.

Confessions on Christmas Eve:

RAHEEN: 12.00 noon to 1 p.m.

MUNGRET: 12 noon to 12.30 p.m.

CRECORA: 11.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

Contact:

Fr. John O'Shea P.P. The Presbytery, Raheen • 087 9708282
Fr. Richard Davern, Ballyduane, Clarina • 087-2977500 • 061 353529
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 to Friday 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

Mass Intentions 17/18th December.

Raheen:

6.00 p.m. Michael Meagher (1st Anniv)

11 a.m. Anne O'Connor (Anniv)

12.30 pm Bill Cussen (Anniv)

Crecora:

10 a.m. Breda O'Dea (Anniv)

Joe Mangan.

Mungret:

Week ahead: 19th to 23rd. December.

Raheen:

Monday Pro Populo (Mass for the People)

Tuesday: Malcolm O'Brien (Recent)

Wed: Michael Ryan (Anniv)

Thurs:

Friday: Tim Treacy Snr. (Anniv)

Mass Intentions 24th/25th December:

Raheen:

11 a.m. Pat Butler (Anniv)

12.30 p.m. Robert Dineen (Anniv)

Crecora: 25th December.

John & Kathleen Donnellan (Anniv)

Dan & Elizabeth Kearney.

Rite of Reconciliation with Individual

Confession—Raheen Church – Monday next - 19th Dec, at 7.30p.m.

Mungret Church: Choir practice for Christmas Eve Mass takes place on Thursdays 15th and 22nd at 7pm in the church. New members welcome.

Mungret Church: There will be no Mass at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday next Christmas Eve.

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.

The Adare Live Crib – depicting the Nativity scene in Bethlehem – takes place this Sunday **18th December** from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Santa Letter Programme 2016 All parcels to be returned to Raheen Church after Masses this weekend. If you are unable to return your parcel this weekend please contact Marian on 086-3929367 beforehand.

Pastoral Council Meeting December 13th: There was general agreement that the recent Carol Service was a tremendous success. The Pastoral Council are very grateful to all who participated. A special word of thanks to Fr Richie who instigated the idea of having a Carol Service. The meeting was informed that the parish has now two child safeguarding representatives; Cida Silva and John Bulfin. A report from a recent meeting of the Baptismal team was read to the PC meeting. The Council complemented the team on their work, in engaging with parents in preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism. The Parish would like to form panel of cantors/musicians who would be willing to be involved in our liturgies. Training will be provided. Anybody who has musical talent and wishes to volunteer can give their names to the parish office or to Fr John or Fr Richie.

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 will be available in the GAA pitch car-park.

Don't be lonely this Christmas: Senior Help Line, Ireland's only national listening service for older people, will be open every day over Christmas and the New Year from 10 am to 10 pm. We are here if you are on your own, feeling isolated, worried or would like someone to talk to. LoCall 1850 440 444, no call costs more than 30 cents. All calls completely confidential.

Prayer Bouquets: It has come to our attention that there are 'prayer bouquets' available for purchase in several retail outlets throughout Limerick city and county. These bouquets are sold under various categories, sympathy, exam, open, etc. The cards have been stamped with one individual's name, undertaking to pray for your specific intention. We would encourage you to be mindful that these are not Mass Cards as no mass is being offered for your intention. We would also like to make it very clear that the sale of these cards has no association whatever with the Diocese of Limerick.

The Mid West Simon Community reaches out to people who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless or experiencing housing difficulties in Limerick. Please support their annual €2 Christmas Appeal. To make your donation please TEXT KEYS to 50300 to donate €2.