

Baptism

We welcome to the Christian Community:
John Denis O'Donovan Fleming

Rest in Peace

We pray for the repose of the souls of:
Michael Murphy, Reacarrigeen
Cora Lee, Gullane

Gospel Reflections for Advent with Sr. Magdalene will continue on Tuesday December 20th after 10am Mass in the Parish Centre.

Ministers of the Eucharist will bring Holy Communion to the sick and housebound on Christmas morning. If you know anybody who would like to avail of this, please give their name, address and a contact number into the sacristy.

Christmas envelopes are available in the church. The offerings go to support the priests of the parish and we thank you for your generosity.

To prepare for the World Meeting of Families in August 2018 the Diocese will be offering a programme of preparation leading up to this event. To begin our parish will be distributing prayer cards over the Christmas period to encourage families to pray together the special prayer for this event.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

A Penitential Service in preparation for Christmas will be held in the Parish Church on Monday 19th December at 7.30pm.

Confessions in the Parish Church on Christmas Eve at 12noon.

Masses on Christmas Eve will be at 10am, Vigil Mass at 7.30pm and 11pm (Midnight Mass) in the Parish Church.

Masses on Christmas Day will be at 8.30am, 10.30am and 12 noon (Children's Mass) in the Parish Church.

Mass on Christmas Day in Darrara at 10am.

CLONAKILTY PARISH NEWSLETTER

Church of the Immaculate Conception

Clonakilty

&

Sacred Heart Church, Darrara

Priest on Duty: 087-6828076

Sacristy: 8834441

Urgent Calls: 086-8760608

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

18th December 2016

First Reading: (Isaiah 7:10-14) This reading foretells the birth of a very special child – a child who will be called Emmanuel, that is, God-with-us.

Second Reading: (Romans 1:1-7) These opening lines from Paul's letter to the Romans draw attention to the human and divine 'roots' of Jesus.

Gospel: (Matthew 1:18-25) This shows how the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled in Jesus.

Reflection

Joseph is described in St Matthew's Gospel today as "a man of honour". What a dilemma it must have been for him to discover that Mary, to whom he was engaged, was with child and how he was going to deal with the news. As he made the honourable decision to divorce her informally an angel appeared to him in a dream.

The words "Do not be afraid" were the same with which the Angel Gabriel greeted Mary at the Annunciation. Both Mary and Joseph put their Faith in God and did what was asked of them, no matter how perplexing much of it must have been.

The imminent birth of Jesus at the time of the arduous journey to Bethlehem for the census registration had to have been a cause of great concern for them both. But, the name which the angel told Joseph that the baby was to be called "Emmanuel – God is with us" strengthened their belief.

As we prepare for Christmas, no matter what we are going through now or whatever the future may bring, let us try not to be afraid and to remember that God is with us. May we also recognise Him in others.