



# Happy Christmas to all our Parishioners





#### Christmas Day

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Merry Christmas! Jesus is born! Today we rejoice that this new life, this infant God, has come to be "the light of the human race." He is here to shine in the darkness of our sin and sadness, to bring joy and peace in place of sorrow. We celebrate this day with all the energy we have because we know that Christmas truly means good news!

Many of us have topped our trees with a bright star that helps to light up our homes, especially at night time. These stars should be more than just plastic decorations, however! They should also shine as reminders to us of the Star of Bethlehem that announced the coming of Christ. What better way to welcome the Light of the World than with that magnificent star?

And just as the Magi found their way to Jesus by following the light of that star, so we too have a heavenly guide to follow: Jesus himself! We have his words and teachings recorded for us in Scripture, his actions and directives preserved through the Tradition of the Church, and the guidance of his Spirit to assist us along the way. And all of these GIFTS are ours because of Christmas! Because the "Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

As we exchange gifts with our loved ones on this special day, may we remember all of these wonderful things we have already received. And may we strive to give to our family and friends not only the treasures that come in boxes and bags, but also a share in the greatest gifts of God: forgiveness, mercy and the unconditional love that brings joy enough to last the whole year through.

# Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Sat Evening: 7pm Robert Mark & Andrew Bergin (A), Patrick Campbell (A), Christopher Judge (A)< Susie Cahalan (B.R.), Esther & Nan Kavanagh (A), Ned & John Hanlon (A), Anne Byrne & Christy Colgan (A), Richard Morrin (M.M.), Darren Griffin & Dec. members of the Griffin & Kavanagh Families, Baby Elliot,

Sun: 9.30am

Sun: 11.30am Harry Hatton (A & B.R.)

**Christmas Eve:** 5.30pm Children's Mass

7pm Choir Mass

Christmas Morning 10.30am Please note only one Mass!

All Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning will be offered for all our Parishioners and the Christmas Mass Intentions that come through our Parish Shop.

Tues: 10am Wed: 10am Thurs: 10am

Fri: 10am Harry Hatton (A & B.R.)

#### **Contact Details**

**Fr. Joe Jones (Moderator) 1** 01 848 5262

☑ joe@bonnybrookparish.ie

**Parish Sisters:** 

Sr. Irene Dunne Sr. Margo Delaney PARISH OFFICE ☐ irene@bonnybrookparish.ie ☐ margo@bonnybrookparish.ie

**2** 01 848 5262

(The above number is transferred to a mobile phone outside of office hours.)

☑ office@bonnybrookparish.ie

#### **Opening Hours**

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas Period and will re-open on Monday, 8th January 2018. If you require anything in the office during this time please call the number above and we will be happy to assist.

**Website:** www.bonnybrookparish.ie **Facebook:** Bonnybrook Parish.

Parish Pastoral Council: chairperson@bonnybrookparish.ie

#### **Mass Times**

Sunday Vigil: (Saturday Evening) 7.00pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 11.30am Monday - Friday: 9.30am Saturday morning: No Mass

#### **BAPTISMS**

Second Saturday of each month at 12.00pm Fourth Sunday of each month at 12.30pm



THANK YOU to the members of our Finance Committee and to our Parish Pastoral Council and to the many people who continue to work hard for the good of our community and our parish.

We simply could not provide the services we do without each of you playing a very active role. Thank you and God bless you all.



Parents, when coming to our Church please be aware of our Child Protection Guidelines that remind us that children should be accompanied at all times throughout their time in Church.

If your child wants to use the bathroom facilities at the entrance of our Church - PLEASE ACCOMPANY THEM.

Everyone is welcome in our Parish, especially our children so do help us to help you to ensure that they are safe at all times.

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#### **COLLECTIONS FOR 17TH DEC 2017**

COMMON FUND €507

SHARE €355

FAMILY OFFERING €706 (ONE WEEK)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

### WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

#### **QUESTION:**

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

#### **ANSWER:**

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

Don't look back,
You're not going that way!

A people who walked in darkness have seen a great light! Today is born our saviour, Jesus Christ. As the image of the invisible God, he is the light that illumines the paths of our lives. He alone shows us how to be truly human and teaches us that humanity is blessed with the very presence of God. Fully human and fully divine, Jesus shows us how to order our relationships—our relationship with God, others, ourselves, and the world in which we live. Today he calls us to peace once again and to live with justice, mercy, and compassion on our lips and in our actions.

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