

**It will be necessary to BOOK/RESERVE seats for 11.30am Christmas Day Mass. Please ring Maureen on 018554078 or Mobile phone 0892718659 or Fr. Brendan 087 9117575. Not necessary to book other Masses**

**Christmas Eve  
Thus 24th Dec**

**11.00am Daily Mass  
5.30pm Vigil Christmas Mass  
8.00pm Vigil Christmas Mass**

**Christmas Day  
Fri 25th Dec**

**9.00am Christmas Day Mass  
10.00am Christmas Day Mass  
Adoration and Rosary  
11.30am Christmas Day Mass**

<b>Saturday 26th Dec. St. Stephen Day:</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
<b>Saturday 26th Dec. Vigil Mass</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>
<b>Sunday 27th Dec. St. John Evangelist:</b>	<b>11.30am</b>
<b>Monday 28th Dec. Holy Innocents:</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
<b>Tuesday 29th Dec.&amp; Wednesday 30th</b>	<b>11.00am</b>

**News Years Eve  
Thurs 31st Dec**

**11.00am Daily Mass  
11.00pm –12.00am Eucharistic Adoration  
12.00am Midnight New Year's Mass**

**News Years Day  
Fri 1st Jan**

**11.00am Mass, Feast of Mary the Holy  
Mother of God & World Day of Peace**

### **CONFESSION TIMES IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS**

**The Sacrament of Confession will be available before and after all Masses during the Christmas Season. Jesus awaits for us to go to Him (not the Priest), in the Confessional, simply to hear us say; "I'm Sorry" - with a contrite and humble heart & a promise to change, so we are ready for Heaven someday.**

### **BE HAPPY AND REJOICE IF YOU'VE BEEN TO CONFESSION!**

The season of Advent is a time to repent for our sins. It is also a time of Joyful expectation and preparation for the Christmas Feast, and the expectation of the Second Coming of Christ. Every year, up until the 17th December, the Mass Readings focus on warning us to be found ready in prayer and holiness for the Day of Judgement. In today's Gospel (Jn 1:6-8,19-28), John the Baptist reminds us that while he is the *Voice crying in the wilderness*, the Words he cries out, are that of God, warning us to *straighten* out our lives and give Way to Joy in our hearts for the coming of the Lord. After the 17th December, the Mass Readings begin to inform us of the humble Birth of Jesus by the Virgin Mary, in a Stable. Today, St. Paul says that *God expects* us to celebrate Christmas, by practicing our faith, through humble means and to express *sorrow* for our sins in confession, and to be happy and at peace in prayer (1 Thes 5:16-24).

### **BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART**

The official Latin term for today is called, *Gaudete Sunday, which means Rejoice Sunday*( Philippians 4:4-5) The Mass Vestments in Advent are purple, symbolising repentance and penance, but God suspends our sorrow today, in order for us to contemplate on the Joy of the Good News of Promised Redemption for His obedient children. The Priest today wears a Rose/Violet coloured Vestment indicating a sense of Joy. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, wore a Crown when she appeared in Knock, on the gable wall of the Church of John the Baptist. On her Crown was a Rose. It **symbolises Joy and Hope in the Resurrection, and also Love and Purity of Heart.**

### **MARY, GATE OF HEAVEN**

In Rome, Pope Francis blessed sculptured Roses (on Laetare Sunday), for the purpose of presenting them to Basilicas and Shrines around the world. After Pope St. John Paul II presented a Golden *Rose of Joy and Hope* to the People of Ireland, at Knock in 1979. He said that **the Rose represents Christ, (who is Joy and Purity of Heart,) in the shining Splendour of His Majesty, the "flower sprung from the root of Jesse."** Mary is the cause of our Joy, because without her, we would have no Christ or the Church or the open Gates to Heaven. The Magnificat responsorial psalm today honours Mary.

### **JOSEPH, PATRON SAINT OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**

Pope Francis has dedicated the Year 2021 to St Joseph, the Patron Saint of the Universal Church. We see St. Joseph deep in prayer at Knock, in his continual role, in the work of our redemption. He sees that the Church has yet to be what Our Lady already is. His prayer is that the Church itself may grow in the likeness of his spouse **and Rejoice and be Happy** (Phil 4:4), with the enlightened realisation of its final destiny. He is silently praying that the Church (us), will finally attain that fulfilment of holiness, purity and perfection, in order to grow in the likeness of Mary. And in turn, to grow into the full likeness and image of the spotless Lamb. We are not fit to undo the sandals of God, but if found worthy to enter Heaven, it will be because we untied the knots of our sins in Confession before His Second Coming as Judge. Fr Brendan