

PARISH OF INISHMAGRATH

Second Sunday of Christmas

3rd January 2021

Fr Tom McManus – 964 8025

Neighbouring Priests: Fr T Mannion 964 3014 - Fr P Casey 916 4143 -

Fr Loughlain Carolan 985 3012

Masses

ALL public Masses are suspended as are Baptisms, First Communion and Confirmations until further notice.

Mass Intentions: The Intentions booked for Masses will be included in Masses said in private on the day requested.

Collection Envelopes: These can be dropped through the letterbox at the Parochial House, thanks. Also please check that you have paid your dues and offertory collections for 2020. The Dues support the priest. The Offertory supports the local church. If paying by cheque, make it payable into the appropriate account:

Dues	Priest's Revenue Account
Offertory - go to either	Tarmon Church Account
	Drumkeerin Church Account
	Creevelea Church Account

If you don't already get envelopes and would like to support your local Parish financially, please contact the Parish Office at the Parochial House, telephone 071 964 8025. Thanks.

Happy New Year!

God's Blessings to All in 2021.

New Year Prayer

Thank You Lord for giving me the brand new year ahead.

Help me live the way I should as each new day I tread.

Give me gently wisdom that I might help a friend, give me strength and courage so a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty, help me fill it with good things each new day filled with joy and happiness it brings.

Amen.

Homily Notes:

Gospel, John 1:1-18

On the first Sunday of 2021 we hear an emphatic message about God's desire in today's Collect to share our lives and to guide us by the way of His love: 'Almighty ever-living God.... Be pleased to fill the world with Your Glory and show Yourself to all peoples by the radiance of Your light.'

The phrase 'all peoples' shows an embrace of welcome and inclusion. No-one is excluded. The three readings today affirm for us that God is not only the Creator of the Universe, an aspect common to many other world religions, but that He is the Father who 'chose us in Him before the foundations of the world. He destined us in love' to become one of us and live among us.

Today's Gospel is a world-changing manifesto. God is being shared, communicated, passed on and embodied in Jesus 'for us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven' as we pray in the Creed.

'In the beginning' is a new start, a new creation, a new kingdom, a New Year. What will 2021 bring, given the pandemic of 2020 that has affected the entire world? The Gospel uses the image of light. 'The Word was the true light that enlightens all people and He was coming into the world.'

Today, we celebrate the God who has 'taken root in a privileged people' as the Book of Wisdom tells us. This same God 'chose us in Christ to live through love in His presence... His free gift to us in the Beloved' as today's Letter to the Ephesians reminds us.

St John frames our story against a word mosaic of an eternal background in today's Gospel. As we read the full life-story of Jesus through 2021, let us be aware that whatever He does and says, like speaking forgiveness to foreign women, restoring sight to a blind man or changing water into wine, the encounter will also happen in our own lives. Today, in Jesus we are brought close to the Father's heart and are blessed with grace and truth, mentioned three times - as the lavish gifts of God to accompany us through 2021.

Fr. John Cullen

Online Masses: To access Masses in Churches around the Diocese, log on to the Diocesan website, www.kilmorediocese.ie and follow the links provided.