

## **Second Sunday of Christmas      5 January 2020**

**John 1:1-18**

1. John opens his Gospel with a profound reflection on the meaning of creation, of life and of Jesus. Remember when you had a special awareness of the gift of life that filled you with gratitude to God for creation, and the beauty and wonder of the world: 'All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being.'

2. We often listen to a reading from the gospels. Sometimes it goes in one ear and out the other. Then there are occasions when it made us feel more alive, times when it helped us see the way ahead, like a light that shines in the darkness. Recall when the gospel gave you hope in the midst of anxiety or sadness and helped you to see what action would be most lifegiving for you and for others

3. Bring to mind people who have had a prophetic voice in the world – speaking the truth for the world to hear, as a witness to testify to the light. Some of these may have been public figures. Others were ordinary people who have helped you see the 'light' by the witness of their own lives and words.

4. 'No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son of God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him know.' Jesus came to us to teach us about God and put a human face on God for us. For the people of his day, and for us, that was a mission of getting us to think again about how we see God, and to believe in a God of love. Recall how the life and ministry of Jesus have changed your picture of God.

*John Byrne OSA*

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## **The Epiphany of the Lord      6 January 2020**

The wisdom shown by the wise men is not unlimited. Evidently, they are men of good will, yet they represent the quintessentially modern phenomenon of believing without belonging. Indeed, the wise men bear a striking similarity to those who 'practice their faith at Christmas time', then disappear as quickly as they have appeared. They have been drawn, intrigued, fascinated, but they have not been captivated. Their mysterious and short-lived presence in the Gospel story offers us both a consolation and a challenge. Jesus Christ is for all. He is not the lord of the virtuous, the pious, the observant, the practicing, but the Lord of all. It is consoling indeed to reflect that God's providence and love for every human person simply does not admit to being tied down by all-too-human distinctions such as practicing or non-practicing, member or non-member. God is a lover, not a lawyer, and admission to the manger is free.

On a more challenging note, the wise men remind us that departure from the manger is also free, and that having encountered the Lord, we are at liberty to return to a life that is untouched by his presence. It is, in fact, the adult Christ that wins men and women: the Christ who spoke and healed and suffered and died, the Christ who overcame death. The best that the crib can do is revive our nostalgia, sharpen our longing for a real encounter with the risen Lord. But we remain free to pursue this encounter or not to do so; the Lord invites but never imposes.

*Fr. Chris Hayden.*

## **RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH**

### **NEWSLETTER**

**St. Brigid's  
Talbotstown**

**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**St. Patrick's  
Rathvilly**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**The Assumption  
Tynock**

Pray for Una Brennan, Rathvilly and Ed O'Connell, Kevin Barry Road who were interred in St. Patrick's Cemetery recently and also Charlie Brophy, Mooncoin and formerly Kiltegan who was interred in Tynaclash Cemetery.

### **ANNIVERSARY MASSES**

**Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 p.m.**

Peter Smith, 6 St. Patrick's Park

Eileen Balfe, Rahill

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 p.m.**

William Smith, Monavothé

Mollie Lawlor, St. Patrick's Park

Liam Lawlor, Phelan Street

Patrick & Mary McNevin, Raheendaw

Rita Hanly, Clondalkin

Kate & Jack Lawlor, Phelan Street

### **MASS TIMES THIS WEEK**

**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January – Holy Day of Obligation – The Epiphany of the Lord**

Church of the Assumption, Tynock – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

St. Patrick's Church, Rathvilly – Mass at 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday – Communion Service at 9.30 a.m.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION will resume on Thurs & Fri, 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> January.**

**WEEKEND COLLECTIONS – Sat/Sun, 28/29 December, 2019**

Offertory Collection €247.35. Envelope Collection €690.80. Many thanks.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas Station and Christmas Collection for the Priests of the Parish.

**SUNDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

We invite all families who had a Baptism during 2019 to come to the 11.00 a.m.

Mass where there will be a Special Blessing for their Child. Parents can collect their child's Baptismal Certificate after Mass.

**ANNUAL TABLE QUIZ – Christian Unity Week**

Annual Table Quiz in aid of our two Churches – St. Patrick's and St. Mary's will take place in the Harp Lounge on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 8.30 p.m.

**The Irish Catholic Newspaper is available each week at a cost of €2.**

