

SUNDAY



Tamlaght
O'Crilly

Greenlough

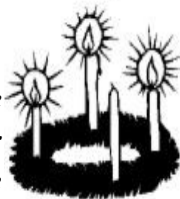
*Third Sunday of Advent
17th December 2017*



Our Joy in Christ

"He (John the Baptist) was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light." We live in a world where we take light for granted - until there is a breakdown in the electricity service! Then we can feel lost and fearful and angry. We also live in a world that we take for granted is in good shape and yet there is so much pain and distress in the lives of people all around us. We don't have to save the world we live in. Our task is to make it possible for Christ to save our world. We do this by being witnesses for the light through the quality of our love radiating out to all we meet. This is done in all kinds of ways through the gentleness of the intimate relationships of marriage and family life. But, as we approach Christmas, we can make a special effort to reach out to those who are in need or living in isolation, especially in our faith community.

Fr. Johnny Doherty, C.Ss.R.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASSSES for the WEEK



Sunday 17th December: 11.00am

Month's Mind Mass for Sarah Henry, RIP

Monday 18th - Thursday 21st: 9.00am Mass

Friday 22nd December: 7.30pm Mass

Anniversary Mass for the McCloy Family, RIP

Saturday: 10am & Vigil 7.30pm; Sunday: 9am & 11.00am

Christmas Mass Times

Sunday 24th - Christmas Eve: 9.00pm (Note Time)

Anniversary Mass for Denise Bradley, RIP

Monday 25th December - Christmas Day

9.00am & 11.00am

DEVOTIONS & PENITENTIAL SERVICE

will take place in the Church this

Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm.



Congratulations to the children and the teachers from St. Mary's PS, Greenlough on a wonderful celebration of the Nativity Story and Carols in the Church last Tuesday night.

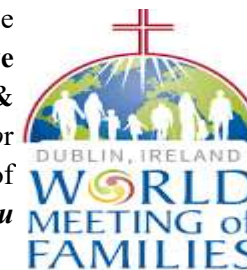


Children's Liturgy: This Sunday 17th December will be the last Children's Liturgy for 2017. It will resume on Sunday 7th January 2018. *A special word of thanks to all the volunteers who help with the Children's Liturgy.*



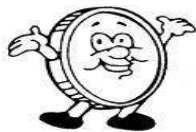
World Meeting of Families 2018 - Parish Events

As part of our involvement in the World Meeting of families next year we will be distributing a **WMOF Icon & New Year Family Resolution sheets** for every family in the parish at the end of Mass this weekend. *We would ask you to take only one Icon per home.*



Website:

www.greenlough.com



Greenlough Parish Collections

3rd December: Weekly/Mthly: £1863.40; B/Fund: £116.

10th December: Weekly: £1178.31; B/Fund: £311.70.

Thank you for your generosity.

PRIEST'S CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Day.

You will find a special envelope in your box.



Citizens Advice - Mid Ulster - Clady Outreach
St. Oliver Plunkett Hall, Wednesday 20th December
from 9am to 12.00 noon (providing free, confidential,
independent & Impartial advice).



Children in Crossfire want to wish everyone a Happy Christmas, and say thank you to all those who have taken an Advent box home with them, or volunteered to give them out. This campaign really does help change and save lives of some of the world's most vulnerable children. If you would like to help us in January with the collection or during next year please call 028 7126 9898 or email: shauna.oneill@childrenincrossfire.org

Trócaire



"In love there is no room for fear, but perfect love drives out fear..." John 4:18.
Trócaire's Christmas Appeal, 'Until Love Conquers Fear', is raising money to support people all over the developing world who face fear every day of their lives - like the fear of not being able to feed their children or the fear of having to flee their homes because of conflict.
Visit www.trocaire.org to find out more about the appeal

Email:

greenloughparish@gmail.com

MASS TIMES

SUNDAYS:

Vigil: 7.30pm

Morning:

9.00am & 11am

WEEKDAYS:

Mon - Thurs:

9.00am

Friday: 7.30pm

Saturday: 10am

First Fridays:

7.30pm

CONFESSIONS

As Announced

BAPTISMS

After 11.00am

Sunday Mass

Telephone No's

Fr. Graham

028 7964 2458

Fr. Harkin

028 2582 1190

Parish Office:

028 2582 1190

St. Mary's PS:

028 2582 1066

St. Mary's

College:

028 2582 1370

Neighbouring

Parishes

Bellaghy

Mgr. Dolan


028 7938 6259

Refurbishment/Extension to St. Mary's Church, Lavey
The Parish of Lavey is pleased to announce that the proposed refurbishment works to the Church are scheduled to commence in March 2018.



As such, we will be pleased to receive expressions of interest from **Main Contractors, Mechanical Sub-contractors and Electrical Sub-contractors** who would wish to be considered for inclusion on the tender list of those contractors who will be asked to tender for works. Please email: info@mparchitects.net if you wish to be considered. **Closing Date: Friday 12th January 2018.**

We also intend to provide a directory to the tendering contractors of local businesses and sub-contractors involved in the various building trades. Could those who wish to be included in the directory please forward their details by email to info@mparchitects.net

Greenlough GAC. Lotto, 11/12 - 1, 5, 22, 25. No Winner. £25: Roisin Madden,  Online & Anne Bradley, Lisnamuck. Jackpot now £2550.

As we near Christmas and the end of the year we would again like to thank all those who give up their time to run the club lotto and collect the tickets. Also thanks to all those who support the club by playing the lotto, one of our main sources of income, without which the club would struggle.

Christmas Newsletter Deadline

Please send all notices in writing or email as soon as possible this week and no later than 1.00pm Tuesday. No Newsletter Sunday 31st December.



World Meeting of Families 2018

Introduction to the Icon of the Holy Family

Pope Francis encourages families to look at or 'gaze' at the icon of the Holy Family. Why? The word 'icon' means an image. But it is more than a picture or photograph.

When we read the bible with reverence we are not just reading words, we are already praying. It is the same with an icon.

When we look on it with reverence - when we 'gaze' on it - we are praying.

God is speaking to us through the images and we are responding.

If you would like your family to spend a little time with the icon here are three simple steps.

- 1. When you get home from Christmas Mass or at another moment that suits gather the family for a few minutes.**
- 2. Pass around the icon that you received at the Christmas Mass and offer the explanation (below).**
- 3. After you have finished this ask one family member to read the family prayer with the icon.**

Explanation of the Holy Family Icon

The angels on the outside - This icon of the Holy Family is shaped a bit like a house **with a double door**. On the outside of each door there is an angel. **Michael on the left, Gabriel on the right**. We remember the prayer from our childhood. *'O angel of God, my guardian dear.'* Angels represent God's desire to protect us, our home and our family. When we pray to the angels we pray for God's protection. The words at the bottom of the door mean **'The Joy of Love'** - the message to us from Pope Francis about family.

The Holy Family at the centre - When we open up the doors we see in the centre the **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph gathered around the table**. They are sharing a meal and celebrating the Passover, a Jewish religious festival remembering God's goodness. Like all families they had experiences of joys and sorrows. They were once refugees in another country, fleeing the violence of King Herod. This image of the Holy Family is very similar in form to another icon - one of the **Blessed Trinity**. This reminds us that God is like a family, and that family is the place where the love of God is experienced through the love we have for one another.

Family stories from the gospels at either side - On either side of the Holy Family there are images from the Gospels, **showing Jesus' care for marriage and his deep compassion for those living with the burdens of family life**. The image on the left depicts a story from the gospel of St Mark, Jesus brings back to life the daughter of a man called Jarius. The image on the right is from the wedding feast at Cana, a story from St. John's gospel. Here Jesus reaches out to the newly married couple in a moment of need.

*For more detailed information on the icon go into the Amoris.ie site and follow the links to the icon through the **Popular Moments**.*

Our Family New Year's Resolutions for 2018

New Year's Eve or New Year's Day - families talking (for just 30 minutes).
An opportunity to look back together on the year gone by and look forward to the year ahead.

* Here are five easy steps for having a family chat that can result in up to three New Year's resolution that the whole family can commit to for the year ahead. * Use this moment to foster communications and make decisions that build family life. * Gather the family around the table or any place where you can talk to each other. * One person leads the conversation by asking the questions below - give about 5-6 minutes to each question. Ensure every person in the family has a chance to speak.

STEP 1. *Looking back on 2017* - is there a family moment that I remember?
• A fun moment... • A lovely moment... • A sad moment... • A moment I'll never forget!

STEP 2. *Looking forward to 2018* - what would I love for us as a family? • Something we might do... • Something we might stop doing...

STEP 3. *Is there anything in what Pope Francis says here about families that strikes me?* • Always remember to say please, thanks and sorry - doing this in the good times helps in the bad times • If anyone has a success let's all celebrate - if anyone is in trouble let's all help • We all need our own space - let's respect that for each other • Practice forgiving - let's be slow to judge one another • Listen to one another's stories - especially across the generations • The family that prays together stays together

STEP 4 . *In light of what we have all chatted about is there one resolution I'd love us to make for the coming year?*
• Can we make our suggestions? • Can we list these?

STEP 5. *From all we have heard which resolutions can we all sign up to?*
• Can we write these up in simple, concrete language on our family New Year's Resolutions sheet?

* • ***Where will we place the sheet that we can all see it in our house?***

**Keep the resolutions concrete, so that you will know whether they are done or not. Keep them realistic so that you have a good chance of success. An example of a concrete, realistic resolution might be - We will celebrate each birthday in 2018 by having a meal together during the week of that birthday.*

Our Family New Year's Resolutions for 2018

Hope bids us live fully in the present, giving our all to the life of the family, for the best way to prepare a solid future is to live well in the present. Pope Francis - Joy of Love (219)

As a family we all agree to the following:

1.

2.

3.

Signed by:

Date: