

Every person, in the depths of his or her heart, is called to seek God: we all have that restlessness and our job is not to snuff out that restlessness, but to allow it to grow because it is that restlessness that seeks God; and, with His own grace, [we] can find Him. We can make this prayer of Saint Anselm (1033-1109) our own: “Lord, teach me to seek you, and reveal yourself to me as I seek, because I can neither seek you if you do not teach me how, nor find you unless you reveal yourself. Let me seek you in desiring you; let me desire you in seeking you; let me find you in loving you; let me love you in finding you.”

– Pope Francis

General Audience (22 December 2021)





The Nativity of Our Lord

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

At the Mass during the Day

**A child is born for us,
and a son is given to us;
his sceptre of power rests
upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called
Messenger of great counsel.**

In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus
Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy
Spirit be with you all.

And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brethren (brothers and
sisters), let us acknowledge
our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to
celebrate the sacred mysteries.

**A brief pause for silence
follows.**

Then all recite together:

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and
sisters, that I have greatly
sinned,
in my thoughts and in my
words, in what I have
done
and in what I have failed to do,**

**And, striking their breast,
they say: through my fault,
through my fault, through
my most grievous fault;**

**Then they continue:
therefore I ask blessed Mary
ever-Virgin, all the Angels and
Saints, and you, my brothers
and sisters, to pray for me to the
Lord our God.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good
will. We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great
glory, Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
Father, you take away the sins of the
world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the
world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy
One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most
High, Jesus Christ,**

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH (Nicene Creed)

I believe in one
God, the Father
almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus
Christ, the Only Begotten Son
of God, born of the Father
before all ages. God from God,
Light from Light, true God
from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the
Father; through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell;

GOSPEL (Lk 2:1-14)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Today a saviour has been born to you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census — the first — took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born.

She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION REFLECTION

Spelling out the meaning of Christmas:

C stands for Christ. If we leave him out of Christmas

it is like celebrating a wedding without the groom.

H stands for the hope he gives us — | hope of a life without end. -

R stands for the revolution he began: turning hate to love, war to peace. and everyone into everyone's neighbour.

I stands for Israel, the land where he was born. But it also stands for me, for Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem. but it would all be in vain unless he is born in me.

S stands for the salvation he brought: those who lived in darkness saw a great light.

T stands for thanks — thanks to the Father for the gift of his Son

The best way to say thanks is to make room for him in our hearts.

M stands for Mary who brought him to birth. She will help to bring him to birth in us also.

A stands for the angels who at his birth sang: 'Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth'. It was the sweetest music ever heard on earth.

S stands for the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem. Now Christ is the star we follow.

His light will guide us through the night until the sun of eternal day dawns upon us

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week		
Monday 26th December	Dunsh 10am	Kathleen Jordan
Tuesday 27th December	Dunsh 10am	Ruby & Patrick Mannion & Stephen Law
Wednesday 28th December	Dunsh 10am	William & Kathleen Murphy & Dec'd Members. Amini Tomy Madamackal
Friday 30th December	Dunsh 10am	Kate, Thomas and John Kyne
Saturday 31st December	Vigil 7pm	Martin Mulvaney
Sunday 1st January	Dunsh 9am	Anne, George & John Tugwell
Sunday 1st January	Dunsh 12noon	Maria Kealy-Johnson M. M.

No Mass in Culmullen Church this week.
Masses for New Years Eve and New Years Day, as on Saturday/Sunday

Parish Collections

Baskets: €1,226 Development: €524 Shrines: €391.

Thank You.

Should you like to make a contribution?

IBAN number is IE06BOFI 903437 41478561

Offering Day

Christmas is the Principal offering day for the support of priests of your Parish

We Remember in Prayer

The soul of **Joe Mahon**, Leshamnstown
and **Kathleen O'Brien**, Warrenstown.

May they rest in peace

Christmas Blessing

Fr Seán & Fr Joe Pray the Blessings of Christmas time.
We ask the Lord to bless everyone, mindful of those
who may be ill or alone at this time, those who are
unable to travel home for Christmas,
those who are bereaved and all of our Parishioners.



Happy Christmas
Nollaig Shona
Buon Natale
Wesołych Świąt

