



## Prayer Corner

### New Year Prayer

God, thank you for a new year.  
May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate.  
We know that you are always ready to forgive us.  
Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires.

Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do.

Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

Anybody who did not receive a box of envelopes for the collections for 2017 please contact Orla or Fr. Anthony

### Parish Dedication

It is intended to have our parish dedicated to the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary next weekend. We are all encouraged to consecrate our homes and all who live there asking for protection, peace and healing. The Alliance of the Two Hearts Lay Apostolate is involved in the work of Enthroning the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart in homes. Some members will address us at all the Masses next weekend.

*Happy New Year*  
**2017**

This week in the Irish Catholic

## The Irish Catholic

### Pope: persecuted Christians witness to truth of faith

Pope Francis has urged Catholics to remember their fellow believers who suffer daily persecution because of their faith. Speaking on St Stephen's Day – the feastday of the first Christian martyr – the Pope said: “when we read the history of the early centuries, here in Rome, we read about so much cruelty to Christians. It's happening today too, in even greater numbers.”

“I'll tell you something,” the Pope told pilgrims gathered in St Peter's Square, “the number of martyrs today is greater than in the early centuries”.

“Even today the Church, to render witness to the light and the truth, is beset in various places by hard persecutions, up to the supreme test of martyrdom,” he said. Today, the conventional estimate is that of the world's 2.3 billion Christians, some 200 million of them are exposed to the risk of physical assault, arrest, imprisonment, torture and even death for reasons related to their faith.

### Don't lose hope in God's goodness

The opening chapter of St Luke's Gospel mentions the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elisabeth, and the birth of Jesus is recorded in the following chapter. Both events are commemorated in the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. Why, one may wonder, are they referred to as ‘mysteries’ rather than, say, facts or truths?

In referring to specific aspects of Jesus' life as ‘mysteries’, the Church, rather than seeking to ‘mystify’ people, may simply have wished to divert attention from the blindingly obvious, so as to draw attention to a hidden meaning present in the life of Jesus.

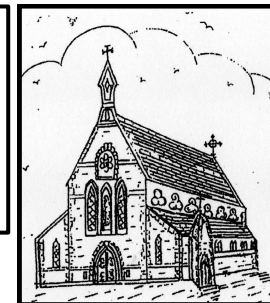
When the Church talks about a mystery, it is not talking about puzzles or conundrums that have to be solved. Rather, the Church is alerting us to the presence and action of God in our world, and reminding us, if we needed reminding, that what is most important in our religion is not what we do about our salvation or about God, but what God does for us.

For more see [www.irishcatholic.ie/](http://www.irishcatholic.ie/)

# Carrigtwohill Parish Newsletter

[www.carrigtwohillparish.ie](http://www.carrigtwohillparish.ie)

1st. January 2017 - Mary, Mother of God



### TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Num. 6: 22-27  
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm; 66  
Second Reading: Gal. 4: 4-7  
Gospel: Lk. 2: 16-21

“As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.”



### Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels

If you're anything like me, you sometimes have to make a deliberate effort to slow down. Life can be so busy that sometimes there is little time left to think. Even our downtime can be full of activities and noise, whether we're into sports; video games; sitting down with a good book, movie or box set; or networking on social media.

It can sometimes be difficult to remember the last time we sat down by ourselves in a quiet room.

In today's Gospel, Mary stands in contrast to the shepherds who hurried and talked and spread the word and praised God. Of course, there is a time for these things, and the excitement of the shepherds is palpable – they had found their Saviour. No doubt Mary and Joseph shared in their joyful enthusiasm. But when things quietened down again, we are told that Mary ‘treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart’.

Mary sets a good example for us, taking time to meditate on all that is happening. As we start a new year afresh, we could do a lot worse than take Mary as our model. In our hectic world, we need to take time to sit quietly, to treasure and ponder, and to allow ourselves to delve deep into the mysteries of life.

Triona Doherty

### New Year Wishes

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;  
A work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;  
A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;  
An understanding heart;  
A sense of humour;  
Time for quiet, silent meditation;  
A feeling of the presence of God;  
The patience to wait for the coming of these things,  
With the wisdom to recognize them when they come.

## Parish Contacts

### Parish Priest ~

Canon Anthony O'Brien,  
Parochial House, Station Road,  
Tel: 4883236, 087 6834193  
Email aob79@icloud.com

### Curate - Fr. Jim Greene,

Presbytery, 4 Carrig Downs  
Tel: 4853925, 085 8471249

**In Residence** - Msgr. Denis Reidy  
Teach an tSagairt, Carrigwohill.

### Parish Website ~

www.carrigwohillparish.ie

### Parish Email ~

office@carrigwohillparish.ie

### Parish Office ~

**Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays - 9.00am to 1.00pm.**  
**Phone - Orla at 4533806**

## Mass Times

**Sunday - 6.00pm, (Sat. Eve.)**

**- 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30pm.**

### Weekdays

Monday - 10.00am. Only.

Tues. - Thurs. - 7.30am & 10.00am.

Friday - 8.30am., 10.30am., 7.30pm.

Saturday - 10.00am. & 6.00pm.

**Rosary** Mon. to Sat. after 10am. Mass,  
Sunday 10.10am.

### Confession

Saturday - after 10.00am Mass until 10.45.  
- after 6.00pm Mass until 7.00pm.

## Monday

No Mass on this Monday night..

### Christian Meditation - Next Meeting

Wed. 4th. January in the Sacristy at 6.30pm.  
For information contact - 087 6380388

**Legion of Mary** - Meet in the Sacristy  
on Tuesdays at 7.30pm.

## 6th. January - The Epiphany of the Lord

### Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

8.30am	Denis Hyland	
10.30am	Marion Joy	G Jenkinson Butler
7.30pm	Rebecca Crawford	Sean Barrett

### Ministers of the Word.

8.30am	Geraldine Conroy
10.30am	Patricia O'Brien
7.30pm	Eileen Lyons

## Weekend 7th. - 8th. January

### Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm	John Ronan	Mary Harte
8.30am	Brendan Coleman	
10.30am	James Roche	Jim O'Brien
	Mary Barry	
12.30pm	Marie Menzies	Aine Barry
	Bernie Carroll	

### Ministers of the Word.

6.00pm	Colette McCarthy
8.30am	Liz Hyland
10.30am	Kathleen Harte-O'Brien
12.30pm	Netta Brown

## The Epiphany of the Lord

Friday the 6th of January is the Feast of The Epiphany, a Holyday of Obligation and also the first Friday of the month. Masses at 8.30am, 10.30am and 7.30pm.

## Christmas Offerings

Canon Anthony and Fr. Greene wish to thank all those who contributed to the Christmas offerings, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

## Thank You

Hope you all enjoyed Christmas 2016. Many thanks to all who prepared for and attended our Christmas Ceremonies. May God bless each of us, our families, our parish, and all in any kind of need during 2017.

## Community Page

## Carrigwohill Seniors

### Next Dance

**Sunday 8th. Jan.**

Midleton Park Hotel  
7.30 to 11.30pm.

Teas served at 7.30pm.

**Music by Pat and Frank.**

We would welcome all those over 50 to join us for an enjoyable night of dancing.



## GAA Christmas Draw Winners

Tommy Murphy c/o Cousins - €500

Bernie Condron, Cul Ard - €100

Alice Fouhy - €100

Josephine Cotter - €100

Valery Savage - €100

Stephanie Allen - €100

Pat Butler - €100

Mick McCarthy c/o Sean - €100

Michael Ryan, Ballyadam - €100

Gerry, Paul, Mick, Triona - €100

Claire Greene - €100

## The sympathy of the Parish Community

is extended to the family and friends of -

**John McSweeney**

who died during the past week.

**May he rest in peace.**

## Community Alert - ID Log Book

Booklet now available to record details of your valuables, in case of robbery.

The Booklets cost €5 & are available from-  
Anna Fitzgerald phone 086 1042632

## Pope's Intentions for January 2017 Christian Unity

That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore the ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

## The Broken Truth

A wonderful children's book, Old Turtle and the Broken Truth, [1] tells a story of how the world came to be so fragmented when it is meant to be whole and how we might put it back together again. I invite you to read this tale as a child might, with wonder and imagination.

One night, in a far-away land that "is somehow not so far away," a truth falls from the stars. As it falls, it breaks into two pieces; one piece blazes off through the sky and the other falls straight to the ground. One day, a man stumbles upon the gravity-drawn truth and finds carved on it the words, "You are loved." It makes him feel good, so he keeps it and shares it with the people in his tribe. The thing sparkles and makes the people who have it feel warm and happy. It becomes their most prized possession, and they call it "The Truth." Those who have the truth grow afraid of those who don't have it, who are different. And those who don't have it covet it. Soon people are fighting wars over the small truth, trying to capture it for themselves.

A little girl who is troubled by the growing violence, greed, and destruction in her once-peaceful world goes on a journey—through the Mountains of Imagining, the River of Wondering Why, and the Forest of Finding Out—to speak with Old Turtle, the wise counsellor.

Old Turtle tells her that the Truth is broken and missing a piece, a piece that shot off in the night sky so long ago. Together they search for it and, when they find it, the little girl puts the jagged piece in her pocket and returns to her people. She tries to explain, but no one will listen or understand.

Finally, a raven flies the broken truth to the top of a tower, where the other piece has been ensconced for safety, and the re-joined pieces shine their full message: "You are loved / and so are they." And the people begin to comprehend. And the earth begins to heal.