

Sunday 26th December 2021

Parish Newsletter

Reflection: The angels' song, points out that, barely noticed though this birth may have been, it was the moment for which God's people had waited for so long. The prophet Isaiah made clear that when the moment arrived in which God intervened in the world, it would be recognized because of two things: God's glory would be seen and there would be peace on earth. This is exactly what the angels proclaimed when they sang to the shepherds: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' In other words, the long awaited moment had come, the world had changed forever - even if it didn't feel any different. It is worth holding on to this truth through the seemingly never ending dark times of the pandemic we are in. In happier, less stressful times, it is easy to imagine that we know that the world changed for the better with Jesus' birth because of the joy we feel or the justice we see around us. At happier times we can might feel the joy of Christmas.

But it is worth remembering that at the time of Jesus for most people nothing seemed to have changed. The world appeared as dark and as hopeless as it always had. At the heart of the Christmas story lies the truth that it might have looked that way to most people but as the angels revealed to the shepherds or as the star revealed to the magi, how things seemed was not how they were.

Hope had stirred. Love had been born. Immanuel – God with us – was in the midst of them. The world had changed forever, even if they couldn't see it. This year let us hold fast to this with every fibre of our being – how things seem is not how they are. There is hope and love in abundance and God still is with us through it all, whether it feels that way or not.



THE ANGELS' SONG AND THE SHEPHERDS' VISIT

The Priest's of the Parish wish each one of you a happy, peaceful and blessed New Year.

There are 2022 Calendars at the back of the Church, all are welcome to take one.



Split the Pot



Congratulations to **Brenda**,
c/o Dolores Gallagher the winner of last weekend's draw (19th Dec).
Draw envelopes are available at the back of the church.

The draw will continue over the Christmas / New Year . We are grateful for your continued support of the draw throughout the year.

Church Notices

We would ask all visitors to the Cathedral during the holidays to be vigilant and keep personal items with you at all times.

The Parish Office will re-open Tuesday 4th January.

Weekly Envelope Boxes can be collected from the Sacristy.

Baptisms take place on Saturday at 3.30pm or

4.30pm, Parish Office can be contacted at 061 414624 to make a booking.

Confessions take place after the 10am Mass on Saturday's.



Mass times

Sunday 26th December (St Stephen's Day)

Feast of the Holy Family

Mass 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon & 7pm

Monday 27th - Friday 31st December

Mass 10am

No Evening Mass

Saturday 1st January

Mass times resume as normal



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