

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph no doubt experienced many of the same joys and struggles as any family. Over the Christmas season our hearts and minds have been drawn to the importance in all of our lives of family, friends and neighbours. Amidst the happiness of the seasonal visits, celebrations and good wishes, we also feel the loss at this time of the year of those who are no longer with us.

I write to you today to ask your assistance in raising awareness and promoting the option of Fostering in our homes and parishes. Foster carers are ordinary people who make an extraordinary difference to the lives of those children and young people who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to live with their birth families.

Mary and Joseph searched for somewhere safe and warm to have their child, and although there was no room for them, a kindly innkeeper pointed them to the stable where Jesus was born. Foster carers generously open their hearts and their homes on a daily basis to provide care, support and love to children in need. Unfortunately, there are times when there are no available spaces left for foster care placements. That is why I'm encouraging you today to reach out and support HSC NI Foster Care and to help find new families who may have some space and time in their lives to come forward and consider fostering.

There are many struggles and challenges which lead to children and young people requiring foster care: sometimes material poverty and hardship; or parental struggles due to relationship difficulties or addictions.

On the weekend of the 14th and 28th January 2024, staff from HSC NI Foster Care will be making themselves available around Mass time in some of the churches of our parishes and, indeed, at churches across Northern Ireland. If your parish is one of those selected, I encourage you to welcome the HSC fostering staff involved and engage with them to find out more information for yourselves or someone you feel may be interested or simply curious to know more about fostering. Remember, if you do have a chat with our visitors, you are not committing to anything. Perhaps you, or someone you know, has been thinking about becoming a foster carer; this may be the time to put that thought into action.

I invite you also to pray for those who are foster carers and that more people will step forward to generously consider this option, in order to give a child, the possibility of a brighter future.

Should your Church not be one of those chosen in the initial phase of this initiative I ask that you still consider promoting and praying for Fostering during the month of January.

A very happy New Year to you.

With every blessing and kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

+ Eamon Martin

Most Rev Eamon Martin
Apostolic Administrator



Clonduff Parish Newsletter

Sunday 31st December 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



The child grew, filled with wisdom. Luke 2: 22-40



Fr Charlie Byrne PP & Rev. Deacon Gerry McBrien

The Principal, Staff and Pupils of St Mark's High School, Warrenpoint, cordially invite Primary 7 pupils and their parents to **OPEN DAY**

on Saturday 13th January 2024 from 9.00am-12.00pm.

Principal's Address 11.15am.

Fr C Byrne Tel (028) 40630306 or 07764941606 or email clonduffparish@dromorediocese.org or cbyrne26@icloud.com

ANNIVERSARIES: BALLYMAGHERY, BALLYGORIAN & CABRA

Sat 30 th Dec 6.00pm	Sheila Brannigan, Castlewellan Road
BALLYMAGHERY:	Lorraine Grant, St Patricks Park
Sun 31 st Dec 9.00am	CABRA:
Sun 31 st Dec 11.30am	BALLYMAGHERY: Pat Bradley, Leitrim Road
Mon 1 st Jan 7.00pm	St Mary's, Rathfriland:
Mon 1 st Jan 10.00am	BALLYMAGHERY:
Tues 2 nd Jan 9.00am	BALLYMAGHERY:
Wed 3 rd Jan 9.00am	BALLYGORIAN:
Thur 4 th Jan 9.00am	Prayer Service
Fri 5 th Jan 9.30am	St Mary's Rathfriland:
Fri 5 th Jan 7.30pm	Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord
CABRA:	Stephen, Catherine & Mary McAleavey, & Deceased Family, Stang Arthur & Kathleen Gribben, BallyKeel Bronagh Ann Gibney, Seaforde
Sat 6 th Jan 9.30am	St Mary's Rathfriland: The Epiphany of the Lord
Sat 6 th Jan 10.30am	BALLYMAGHERY: The Epiphany of the Lord
Sat 6 th Jan 6.00pm	Kathleen McGinn, Kilkeel Road
BALLYMAGHERY:	Elizabeth & Edward Mackin & Johnny McAlinden, Letalian Road
	Eddie Gribben Gribben, Castlewellan Road
	Ella Trainor, Carquillan
Sun 7 th Jan 9.00am	CABRA:
Sun 7 th Jan 11.30am	Una McGinn, Kilkeel Road
BALLYMAGHERY:	Lily McAleenan, Yellow Road
	Mick Devlin, Clonduff Road

Easter Pilgrimage to Medjugorje for 7 nights from Saturday the 30th of March to Saturday the 6th of April, Pilgrimage includes Flights to and from Dublin to Split Bus transfers. Half board accommodation. Local guide for the week. Travel insurance. Extra excursions of surrounding areas such as the Kravica Waterfalls and Mostar with it's world famous bridge, these are optional and will incur a small fee. Gift vouchers available. Priced at £695 pps. Contact Jerome Lynch on 07739092399

BINGO EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT 9.00PM IN INF HALL

Adoration in Ballygorian has resumed and now changed to Thursdays 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Adoration will take place every Tuesday evening at 8.00pm with the Rosary being recited in Ballymaghery. All are welcome.



PARISH OF CLONDUFF

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER 2023

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

(Sunday Readings Cycle B – Weekday Readings Cycle 2)

You can now book your Anniversaries, Baptisms, Weddings or any other enquires by contacting the Parish Office Monday & Friday 9am – 3pm (028) 30850270 or leaving a message on answering machine or

Email: clonduffparish@dromorediocese.org

Baptism Arrangements

First Sunday of the Month Ballymaghery 12.30pm
Third Sunday of the Month Cabra 12.30pm

Thanks for your generous support £3,655.18

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC105046

Diocese of Dromore Safeguarding of Children, young people and vulnerable adults: Dromore Designated Person Patricia Carville 07789917741. A copy of the Dromore Diocese "Safeguarding Policy and Procedures" is available for reference in the Parish Rooms.

Eucharistic Ministers Ballymaghery

Sat 30 th Dec 6pm: Martin Farnon	Sat 6 th Jan 6pm: Mary Murray
Sun 31 st Dec 11.30am: Marian Brannigan	Sun 7 th Jan 11.30am: PJ Quinn
Readers	
Sat 30 th Dec 6pm: Sinead & Ciara McPolin	Sat 6 th Jan 6pm: Lishin & Derarca O'Hare
Sun 31 st Dec 11.30am: Sr Erin Murray	Sun 7 th Jan 11.30am: Geraldine Smith



Chapel cleaners for Ballymaghery in January are Geraldine Grant, Marina Murray, Marian Brannigan and Susan McAleenan

Set dancing classes in Hilltown. Everyone welcome - beginners, learners and the more experienced. INF Hall, running weekly on Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9pm. Cost £5

CABRA READERS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Sun 31 st Dec 9.00am: Eoghan McAlinden	Sun 31 st Dec 9.00am: Brian McAlinden
Sun 7 th Jan 9.00am: Angela Gribben	Sun 7 th Jan 9.00am: Anne O'Hare