

# Mallow and Mourneabbey Parish Newsletter

Sunday 10th January 2021

## FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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

**LEVEL 5 RESTRICTIONS** REMAIN IN EFFECT, SO ALL MASSES ARE ONLINE FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH ONLY: - AT THE USUAL SUNDAY AND DAILY MASS TIMES

### ONLINE MASSES FOR THIS COMING WEEK:

**SUNDAY 3RD JANUARY**

**8.30 AM AND 11.00 AM**

**MONDAY TO SATURDAY**

**MASS AT 10.00 AM**

PLEASE NOTE

NO CONFESSIONS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

WE ENCOURAGE YOUR DAILY ATTENDANCE AT MASS ONLINE AND TO MAKE A FREQUENT ACT OF CONTRITION AND ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION IN THESE EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES IN LIEU OF CONFESSION

AND RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE DISPENSATION FROM THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS ON SUNDAYS AND HOLYDAYS STILL APPLIES

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING

LOOK UP [WWW.GOV.IE](http://WWW.GOV.IE) FOR LATEST GUIDELINES ON RELIGIOUS SERVICES



### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

### Parish Office, Mallow

The Parish Office will be closed until further notice.

If you wish to have Mass cards signed please call to the priest on duty. The priest on duty for the coming week is Fr McCarthy

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** will take place this Sunday at St Mary's Church **online** at 7.30 pm and on weeknights from Monday to Friday from 7.30pm to 8.30 pm **online only**. **St Mary's and the Church of the Resurrection will remain open daily for private prayer: note that churches will close at 6.00 pm**





## The end and a beginning

The birthday of Christ marked the beginning of the season of Christmas and now this Sunday the Baptism of Christ brings an end to the season.

For each of us our physical birth to our mother and father begins a close relationship of dependency, of nurturing and love as well as membership of a family and taking our rightful place in the family home.

Baptism is a spiritual rebirth, we belong to Mother Church and are nurtured by the sacraments, and we are at home in the Church with our spiritual kinship to our brothers and sisters. St Augustine said "he will not have God for his Father who would not have the Church for his mother."

Our obligations and responsibilities towards the other members of our own human family are mirrored by the relationship and responsibilities to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

But baptism involves so much more. Through the waters of Baptism we are washed clean of Original Sin and made a new creation. It is through the threefold washing of water our closer relationship to God begins and it is only the beginning of a journey to Him. We can remind ourselves often of our great dignity and calling through Baptism, by utilising each of the letters of **BAPTISM** to help us to realise the implications of the Sacrament.

**B is for Beloved.** God the Father describes Jesus at His Baptism as His 'beloved' Son. We too are beloved of the Father through our Baptism. This is an unfathomable mystery that God takes the initiative to love us who are so undeserving. Sometimes we wonder what a woman might 'see' in a man she loves, and vice-versa. They may seem to us to be ill-matched, but through the lens of love they see themselves as 'made for each other.' It remains a mystery. There are no real satisfactory human comparisons to God's love for us. God's Love has no reasons 'why' but it is worth reflecting on His generous Love for you and me.

**A is for Adopted** as sons and daughters of God the Father. This is a spiritual adoption. Adoption has legal implications, giving the adopted person the same legal rights of inheritance as biological children. Through baptism we are adopted by God as His children, and become brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ and of one another and are given the 'right' to the inheritance of heaven, something which is again God's loving initiative. Every man is therefore my brother in Christ, and every woman I can call my sister. If only I would begin to treat them accordingly and as they deserve!

**P is for People** of God – on a pilgrimage through the wilderness of life. We are no longer individuals, isolated, rudderless, without meaning or identity. We truly 'belong to each other' and are called, in the words of Pope St John Paul II, to build 'a civilisation of love'. We have a collective identity. We are a people.

**T is for Temples** of the Holy Spirit, called and commanded to keep the temple of our bodies undefiled, by sin. True self-love respects the body of oneself, as well as therefore treating the bodies of others with dignity. We do great harm to ourselves by sin, and if we involve another in a sin, do great harm to them also.

This should give us pause for thought, to meditate often on our true worth and value, as well as by implication, the worth of others for their bodily and spiritual integrity.

**I is for Intercessors** for one another – we ought to take seriously the invitation to pray for one another and to believe that our prayers can and will be heard even if they are answered in ways and at times that we do not expect. I wonder if I have always taken this call to intercession seriously enough and if I have had the requisite faith to believe in it.

**S is for Sanctified** and called to be a saint, and able to receive the other Sacraments. Without Baptism, the other sacraments have no meaning and no value if we have not first been baptised. The Church has always taken great care to record the event of a baptism. The sacrament changes us interiorly and invisibly to make us holy and acceptable in God's sight. We are to take seriously the baptismal call to holiness. Persevering prayer is the key to holiness.

**M is for Members** of the Body of Christ, members of the Church and on a Mission. We have a collective purpose, calling and vocation by word, and by example to lead others closer to God. We cannot keep to ourselves the 'secret' of Christ, what He means to us, and what He does for us. We should desire this happiness for others. As Pope John Paul II said 'those who have come into genuine contact with Christ cannot keep him for themselves, they must proclaim Him'. Membership of the Church should make us consider seriously becoming members of an apostolic or missionary organisation, concerned with spiritual and charitable works for our neighbour. We prove we are Christians by our love, especially for those whose need is greater than our own.

So let us remember who and what we are as baptised Catholics:

**Beloved-Adopted-People-Temples-Intercessors-Sanctified-Members**



COVID-19/ CORONAVIRUS  
SUPPORTLINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

**0818 222 024**

TO VOLUNTEER YOUR HELP, VISIT

**www.alone.ie**

## Priests of our Parish:

**Msgr. Anthony O'Brien, P.P., V.G. 087 6834193.**

**Fr. James Greene, C.C. 085 8471249.**

**Fr. Andrew Carvill, C.C. 022 51606.**

**Fr. John McCarthy, C.C. 086 8212101.**

**Sick Calls:- Please call 022 21251**

**PARISH WEBSITE [www.mallowparish.ie](http://www.mallowparish.ie)**

**Watch Masses live from St. Mary's Church  
by logging on to [churchservices.tv/mallow](http://churchservices.tv/mallow)**