

Your contributions last week to support:

- Your priests - 1st Collection : €710
- Share - 2nd Collection: €625
- Running expenses of the parish (Family Offering / Weekly Envelope - €1,140

Are you playing your part? Family Offering envelopes / Standing Order forms are available through the parish office.

### Thank you

A big thank you to our local Men's Shed for building our new crib and especially to Micheál Duignan and Noel Gorman for all their work over the past few weeks. Unfortunately, due to fire risks churches can no longer have straw in cribs.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The parish office will be closed for Christmas holidays and will reopen on Wednesday, 3rd January 2018.

**The Bible Group** will resume meetings on Monday, January 8th from 7.30pm - 8.30pm in Shalom Parish Centre. All welcome.

### Family Offering Collection

Boxes of envelopes for the Family Offering (Planned Giving) collection for 2018 are available in the parish office if you don't have a collector for your road and would like to start / continue contributing to this collection. The family offering collection helps pay for the day to day running costs of the parish. Alternatively, you can set up a Standing Order/direct debit mandate with your bank to contribute to this collection on a monthly or annual basis. Forms are available in the parish office. Please support your parish if you can. Thank you

### Eucharistic Adoration

There will be **Eucharistic Adoration** next Friday, 29th December after 10am Mass until 3pm. All are welcome to come and spend some of that time in quiet prayer and reflection.

### Christmas Dues

Thank you to everyone who has given in their Christmas dues envelope. Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated. Spare envelopes are available at the back of the church.

### MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

#### St. Mark's Parish

#### **Christmas Eve**

- 6.00pm - Springfield Family Mass
- 7.10pm - Fettercairn Carols
- 7.30pm - Fettercairn Mass of the Lord's Nativity
- 9.00pm - Springfield Mass of the Lord's Nativity

#### **Christmas Day**

- 10.00am - Springfield
- 10.00am - Fettercairn
- 12.30pm - Springfield

#### St. Thomas the Apostle's Parish, Jobstown

#### **Christmas Eve**

- 4.00pm - Jobstown Family Mass
- 8.00pm - Jobstown Mass of the Lord's Nativity

#### **Christmas Day**

- 11.30am - Jobstown

#### St. Aidan's Parish, Brookfield

#### **Christmas Eve**

- 5.30pm - Brookfield Family Mass
- 9.00pm - Brookfield Mass of the Lord's Nativity

#### **Christmas Day**

- 10.30am - Brookfield

### **The Deep End - Born on the Margins**

The situation into which Jesus was born was one of huge stigma with dangerous consequences. God's physical birth into this world was condemned socially; Jesus was marginalised from the moment of his conception. Imagine God choosing to be involved so intimately in this world and in such a shocking way. Even the town of Galilee is problematic for this news, as Galileans were considered by the religious leaders of the time to be 'second-class Jews'. So the fact that God would send his messenger there is controversial in itself. Galilean Jews were considered to be less faithful than others, so it is ironic that in this particular situation Mary's response is the exact opposite. God surprises. God stands with the marginalised. God is present in the most hidden places at times. On the first Sunday of Advent we were invited to 'keep awake'. As we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, what have you noticed this Advent? What has your waiting been like? How have you prepared? Where have you seen God being born around you? In the most unexpected places? In the most marginalised? Is your heart more open to receive a new birth of God again?

*'Quiet me within, clothe my body in peacefulness, that your Word once again may take flesh—this time, within me - as once it did in holy Mary; long Advent days ago.'*

Edward Hays

**Jane Mellett**

### CALCUTTA 2018

Norah Merriman will be making her annual trip to Calcutta on February 4th 2018 to help care for the street children. Norah has been travelling to Calcutta for many years now and the people of St. Mark's parish have been extremely generous during that time. This has enabled many improvements to take place in the Hope Centre in Calcutta. If you would like to give a donation please drop it into the office from January 3rd 2018. Thank you.



**WE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**Nathan Martin who died recently**

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**Mary Meehan**

**John Reardon and deceased members of the Reardon Family**

**Micheál McGee (Birthday Remembrance)**

**Kathleen Kelly**

**Margaret, James and Patrick King**

**Annie Graham**

**Kathleen McDonagh**

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**

**BOOKINGS FOR BAPTISMS:**

Bookings for baptisms take place in the parish office (church porch) Mon to Fri- 10.30am -12.30 pm, tel: 4620777. **Three month's notice is required. Baptisms take place: 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month in St. Mark's Church at 1.30pm.**

**MASS TIMES THIS WEEK**

**St. Mark's Church**

Christmas Mass times on back of newsletter

Tuesday - Friday: 10am

**WEEKEND MASSES**

**St. Mark's Parish Church**

Saturday: Vigil - 6.30pm

Sunday: 12.30pm

1st Sunday of the month: 12.30pm - Family (Children's) Mass

(St. Mark's Youth Choir - 12.30 Mass 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month)

**Church of the Incarnation, Fettercairn**

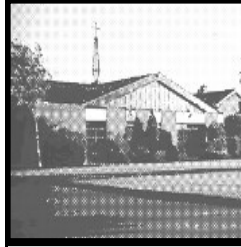
Sunday: 10.00am

Last Sunday of the month: 10am - Family (Children's) Mass

1st Saturday of the month:

Vine Mass (Taize style): 7.00pm

24th December 2017 - Fourth Sunday of Advent



**This Life Will Go By Fast**

Don't fight with people, don't criticise your body so much.

Don't lose sleep over your bills. Look for the person that makes you happy. If you make a mistake, let it go and keep seeking your happiness.

Never stop being a good parent.

Don't worry so much about buying luxuries and comforts for your home, and don't kill yourself trying to leave an inheritance for your family. Those benefits should be earned by each person, so don't dedicate yourself to accumulating money.

Enjoy, travel, enjoy your journeys, see new places, give yourself the pleasures you deserve. Allow dogs to get closer. Don't put away the fine glassware. Utilise the new dinnerware; don't save your favourite perfume, use it to go out with yourself; wear out your favourite sport shoes; repeat your favourite clothes.

So what? That's not bad. Why not now? Why not pray now instead of waiting until before you sleep?

Why not call now? Why not forgive now?

We wait so long for Christmas; for Friday; for Reunions; for another year; for when I have money; for love to come; when everything is perfect... look...

Every thing perfect doesn't exist. Human beings can't accomplish this because it simply was not intended to be completed here. Here is an opportunity to learn. So, take this challenge that is life and do it now... Love more, forgive more, embrace more, love more intensely and leave the rest in God's hands. Amen.

**- Pope Francis**

**Fr. Pat McKinley**  
68 Maplewood Rd.  
Tel. 451 3109

**Fr. Jimmy McPartland**  
Brookfield

**Rev. Bill O'Shaughnessy**  
70 Maplewood Rd.  
Tel. 4590746

**Parish Office**  
Monday to Friday  
10.30 - 12.30pm  
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**Duty Phone**  
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(emergencies only,  
when above contacts  
are unavailable)

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