

*This is my Son,  
the Beloved:  
my favour  
rests on him*

Matthew 3:17

**Mass Times**

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30

Sunday: 9.00, 10.30, 12.00

Weekdays:

10.00 Monday – Friday

7.30 Tuesday only

**Parish Staff**

Fr. Joe McDonald P.P. Tel 6 265 119

Rev, Bill O'Shaughnessy, Deacon

Sr. Anne Marie Moynihan

Parish Sister

Secretary: Moya Doyle Tel 6 265 695

Parish Office: 9.30 - 2.00 Mon to Thu

Email:

[stmatthewsparishcentre@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewsparishcentre@gmail.com)

**Baptism**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month

Preparation meetings for Parents  
and Godparents are held twice  
each month.

Details available in sacristy.

A month's notice is required.

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Mon 10.30 – 4.00

Wed 10.30 – 9.00

Fri 10.30 – 9.00



**Divine Mercy Meeting**

Every Wed Evening @ 8.00

in the Prayer Room

**Parish Centre**

Tea/Coffee & Chat after

10.00 Mass Mon - Fri

**BOOK OF THE WEEK**  
**SIMPLY JESUS**  
**WHO HE WAS, WHAT HE DID, WHY IT MATTERS**  
**TOM WRIGHT**  
**SPCK. 2011 LONDON. Pp 240**

Speaking recently about New Years Resolutions I was saying that I had in fact only one, namely in the year ahead to come to know the person of Jesus of Nazareth more intimately, more deeply. With this in mind I would like to wholeheartedly recommend this book. Few people have managed to make scripture scholarship as accessible. This is an exciting book. If you invest time in this book you will meet Jesus in a fresh way that may well surprise you but as always you will find him ever more attractive.

**FAITH MOMENT**

By revealing himself, God wishes to make each of us capable of responding to him, of knowing and loving him far beyond our own natural human capacity. Faith is the human response to God revealed.

**THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

From 18-25 January, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is held. Here in St. Matthew's the text of the Mass and some of the homilies will reflect this.

**Gospel Readings for the Week**

- Mon 09/01 **Mk 1:14-20** At once they left their nets and followed him.  
Tue 10/01 **Mk 1: 21-28** His teaching made a deep impression on them  
Wed 11/01 **Mk 1: 29-39** That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick.  
Thu 12/01 **Mk 1:40-45** Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him.  
Fri 13/01 **Mk 2:1-12** Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic.... your sins are forgiven.  
Sat 14/01 **Mk 2: 13-17** I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners.

**Mass Intentions**

**6.30 Saturday 7 Jan**

Rory Campbell, Kathleen Gaff  
Anthony Wrenn, Christopher McHugh

**10.30 Sunday 8 Jan**

Maureen Dempsey

**12.00 Sunday 8 Jan**

Maria, Patrick Stokes, John Gunnery



**Recently Funerals  
from St. Matthew's**

Thomas Canavan  
Joe Fleming  
Brian Kavanagh  
Anna Kelly  
Ellie Hynes O'Brien  
Teresa O'Keeffe  
May Rogers  
Cornelius Walsh  
Mary Walsh



*Blessings and Sympathy  
to the Families*

# Rumblings from the Bunker



## WELL HOW DID YOU GET OVER THE CHRISTMAS?

The question, 'Well how did you get over the Christmas?' is a fairly tired question, and usually provokes similarly tired responses. 'Yea, grand, quiet enough'. The reality is probably quite different. Some will have jumped, bopped and danced through it. Some may well have staggered through it, in some form of fog. Others no doubt took refuge under the duvet, and peaked out with various degrees of wishing it gone. I suppose I would like to address a related, though also quite different question. How was the real Christmas for you this year? Did you get it? Or did you miss it? Did the noise drown it out? Did all the food sap your energy? Did you get stranded on the couch? Was even the thought of shuffling as far as the crib too far?

St. Matthew's had a very busy Christmas. Funerals, weddings and baptisms on top of our usual schedule made for a very packed week between Christmas Day and New Years Day. This was great and evidence of a living faith community. We experienced the cycle of life in all its joys and sorrows. However it was very active and noisy and did not give much space for reflection. It's really only in the last few days, as 2016 gasps its last and 2017 squawks its arrival, that I have had time to ask myself how did Christmas 2016 really go? Or did it? Did I get over it? Or under it? And most importantly of all, did I manage to sit with it, or in it, even for a little while? Thankfully the answer is yes, well at least partially. I am happy to say that I sat at the heart of Christmas. Actually I am happy to say I managed to sit in the crib for nearly an hour one day just there in the twilight of 2016. I think you might be surprised when you hear what happened me and indeed some of the characters I met.

I say 'nearly an hour' but in fact it seemed more like ten or fifteen minutes. This type of almost time warp, or as I have experienced it, time-jolt, can often form part of deep prayer. The cynic might ask was 'it not sleep'? Indeed only those who have experienced it, know that not only were they awake but awake in a way that is unmistakable in its crisp clarity. There is no fear here. Actually it is better than that, it is a safe place. Something like being gently held. There is no booming voice or flashing lights but rather a deep stillness. It is not difficult to feel God's presence here.

I suppose the great surprise of my visit to the crib was in the characters I met. I was glad to see Zechariah there. He talked plenty and it occurred to me maybe he was making up for when his speech had been withdrawn. It should be no surprise that his silent period made him think a lot about the power of speech and how we use words. In fact he said he talked less now but thought more about what he said. What he did talk more about now was God's power and most especially God's love. The wife of the innkeeper was back and forward a lot. She seemed very kind. The wives of the shepherds brought bread, cheese and milk. I think most of the blankets came from them. A few times I did not like the feeling I had. A feeling of foreboding, that something bad was going to happen. Gradually I realised this feeling came over me when some of the visitors from the East began to talk about their meeting with Herod. It was frightening to think some of them thought he was charming. Some actually had begun to believe that he really just wanted to come and look, and give praise to Joseph and Mary, and especially the infant Jesus. Sometimes I wondered was Herod near. He must have been very frightened and unfree in himself to get so far down the road of darkness to actually want to kill the baby. I don't know if Simeon and Anna had visited or was it that people just talking about them. Apparently Simeon had waited all his life to see the baby and now in a week or ten days not only would he see him, he would actually hold him in his arms. It's hard to imagine such joy, after a lifetime of waiting, to see and actually be able to hold the child awaited as Messiah and Saviour.

It seemed to me that everybody brought something from gold to the little lamb, from bread and milk to the simple smile and the eyes wide in wonder. My eyes were wide, wide and wet. Never before or since have I been as sure that these were tears of joy and deep gratitude and most definitely wonder. It was around this point that I gave up struggling with the question what could I bring him. I realised that since Jesus had come into the world for me then the best I could do was to present myself to him. And there you have my Christmas grace. Amidst some lovely presents the Christmas spiritual gem is right there. When I am at my lowest ebb, my most empty, my most alone, it is then that I need to unite my helplessness to his presence, the divine presence, God's presence, present in his Son.

### Church Collections

Collection Dates	8 Dec	11 Dec	18 Dec	25 Dec
First Collection	295	955	905	1475
Share Collection	165	N/A	640	1085
Family Offering	-----	1124	378	N/A

### St. Matthew's Church Bethany Support Group

If at any time you feel the need for support or a listening ear after the loss of a loved one we would be glad to help.

**CONTACT PHONE**  
**087 9411628**

### Visit our website

[www.stmatthewsballyfermot.com](http://www.stmatthewsballyfermot.com)

or our Facebook page,

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/st.matthews.ballyfermot/)

[st.matthews.ballyfermot/](http://st.matthews.ballyfermot/)

### WEEKLY ROSARY IN THE PRAYER ROOM

Every Monday in the Prayer Room at 11am. This is an initiative of the Marian Movement.

### Parish Council

New members required  
for Parish Council.

**Fr. Joe would love  
to hear from you.**

### Notices for Newsletter

Notices for inclusion in the Newsletter must be in by 12.30pm on Friday. The Newsletter goes to the printers on the following Tuesday at 1pm.

Notices will be included only if space permits. Please keep them as short as possible.

Send notices to the Parish Centre at [stmatthewsparishcentre@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewsparishcentre@gmail.com) or phone 626 56 95

### THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

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### PARISH SHOP

**Cards, Calendars,  
Candles**

and much more  
available at the shop  
in the Parish Centre

### Sacristy

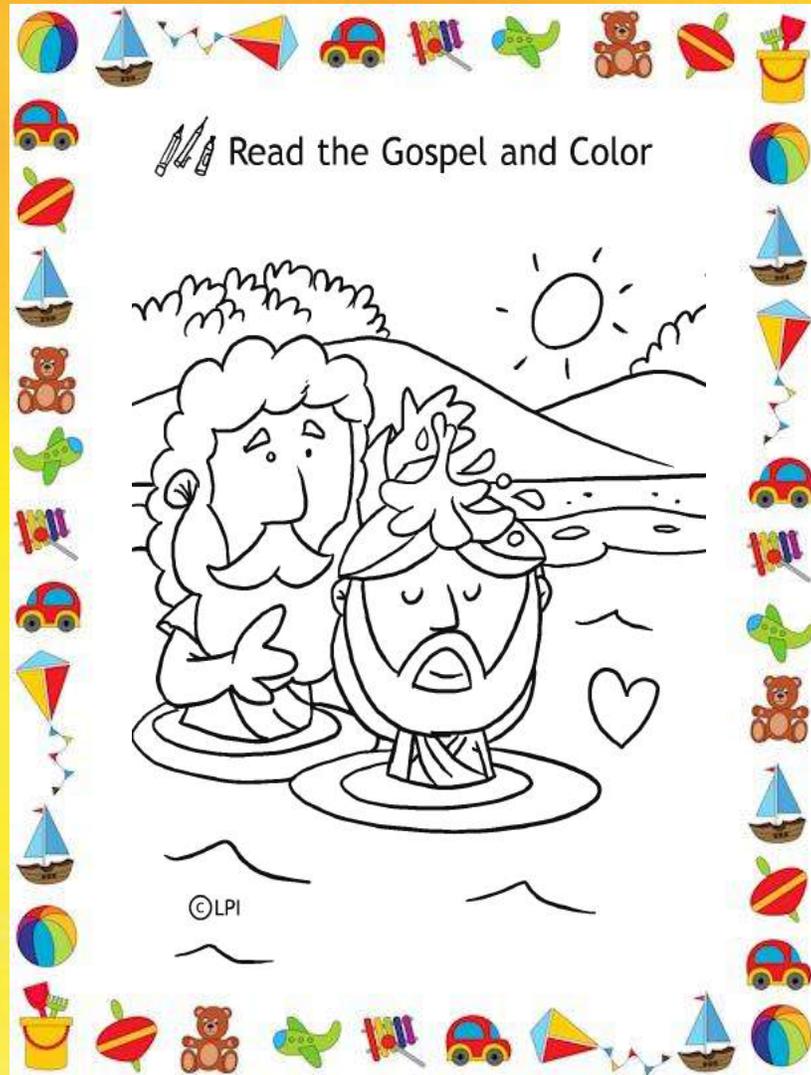
Masses, Baptisms Arranged,  
Certs Obtained

immediately **AFTER**

Mass

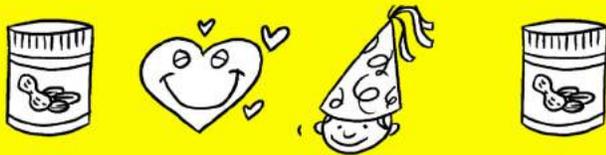
**(Mon – Fri)**

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



## Puzzle

Circle the picture that is the **same** as the **first** one. Then color in all the pictures.



## Sharing the Gospel

After you were baptized, the Holy Spirit came to help you do great things for God. Forgive someone who really hurts you. Invite someone who is usually left out to your party. Take care of the sick. Feed those without food. Do these things. They show that you love God above all and your neighbor as yourself. Then God will say to you, "I love this child of mine and am very pleased with you."

## Prayer

Lord, I love you and want to do what you ask of me.

## Mission for the Week

I will pray for all people who are not baptized..

# Mary Queen Of Angels

## Special Visitors to MQA

This month the boys in MQA were very lucky to get a surprise visit from Dublin player David Byrne and the Sam Maguire cup. Lots of the boys in our school play GAA and would love to play for Dublin when they get older.



## Library Visit

Boys in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class visited the library to see a play called Stor. The play is set both in modern Ireland and during the Easter Rising of 1916. The boys thought it was very funny and that the actors were very talented.



## Successful Me Programme

The boys in 4<sup>th</sup> class are currently working with groups of students from Ballyfermot College. Each week the boys do a different activity with the students.

For more updates on the school please  
check our website

<http://www.maryqueenofangels2.ie/>

# News from St. John's



Attendance challenge winners went ice skating.



Our 6th Yr. LCAs raised €170 for Homeless People by doing a sponsored walk.

