

St. Matthew's
Ballyfermot



PARISH NEWSLETTER

1 Jan 2017

Solemnity of Mary The Mother of God



Bring this home with you.

Read it.

Take a copy for someone else.



Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful
 Joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, O come ye
 to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold him
 Born the King of angels:

O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 Christ the Lord!

Adeste Fideles
 Laeti triumphantes
 Venite, Venite in Bethlehem
 Natum videte, Regem Angelorum;
 Venite adoremus,
 venite adoremus,
 venite adoremus, Dominum!

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night,
 All is calm, all is bright;
 Round yon virgin, mother and
 child.

Holy Infant so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace,
 Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night,
 Shepherds quake at the sight:
 Glories stream from heaven afar,
 Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia:
 Christ the Saviour is born,
 Christ the Saviour is born

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger,
 no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus
 Laid down his sweet head;
 The stars, in the bright sky
 looked down where he lay,
 The little Lord Jesus
 asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus;
 I ask thee to stay
 Close by me forever,
 and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children
 in thy tender care,
 And fit us for heaven,
 to live with thee there.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
 Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply
 Echo still their joyous strains:

Glor....ri-a in excelsis Deo!
 Glor....ri-a in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
 Him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come adore on bended knee
 Christ, the Lord,
 the newborn King.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King!
 Peace on earth and mercy mild
 God and sinners, reconciled"
 Joyful, all ye nations rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies
 With the angelic host proclaim:
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
 Hark! The herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heaven adored,
 Christ the everlasting Lord,
 Late in time behold Him come,
 Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
 Hail the incarnate Deity!
 Pleased as man with man to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel
 Hark! The herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King!"

The First Noel

The First Noel, the angels did say
 was to certain poor shepherds
 in fields as they lay.
 In fields where they lay
 keeping their sheep
 On a cold winter's night
 that was so deep.
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
 Born is the King of Israel!



Rumblings from the Bunker



WHATS ANOTHER YEAR?

The topics of discussion for the last few days of any year are so predictable. The weight we have put on over Christmas, the ongoing battle with the cigarettes, the decision to go to bed earlier and get up earlier, maybe we could get fitter, walk more, maybe even run, spend less, save more. Before we know it we are into the realm of resolution. The R word! Even people who make up their mind, that's it, never again will they make a New Year's resolution, find, come the 28th or 29th of December, it is very difficult not to think about what they might do differently in the coming twelve months.

Apart from the preoccupation with resolutions, the media will be taken up with either looking back or looking ahead. We will be presented with endless reviews of 2016. All sorts of celebrities will be asked for their own personal highs and lows of last year. In addition to this there will be many questions regarding the New Year. These questions will sooner or later take the form of speculation, as in people being asked for their predictions for 2017. Now a lot of this is pretty harmless and is very useful 'media- filler' at what can be a slack time of year for news. However there is a very real sense in which all this looking back and forward is a complete waste of time. This is particularly true from a spiritual perspective.

It might be useful to just very briefly to take a look at the end of another year and the beginning of a new year, but to do so through a spiritual lens. Let's have a glance at 2016.

Is there much debris? Did you blow up any emotional bridges? Should you have blown up some of these bridges?

Let's decode that. What precisely does that mean?

Well did you slam the door on anybody? Not necessarily physically but metaphorically. Is there anybody you gave up on? Is there any row outstanding? Are you waiting on her ringing, or him calling with you? Is there any company that you keep, or relationship that you are in, that is toxic to your soul? There are many reasons not to leave the debris of 2016 lying there to fester and get worse....

SOUL HEALTH WARNING!!! It is not a good idea to leave the mess of last year piling up on the sidewalk of life. This has the nasty habit of causing problems later, either this side of the tomb or the other side. Since we are speaking of our spiritual life believe it or not there is nothing more toxic for our souls than resentment or lack of forgiveness. The ultimate Spa Treatment for your Soul is Confession, the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Maybe the main concern of 2016 is not actually damage done and more like, all that was not done!! The good news is you still have time, admittedly we do not know how much time, but the chances are, since you are reading this, that you have some. The likelihood is, if you choose, you have time to build a few bridges.

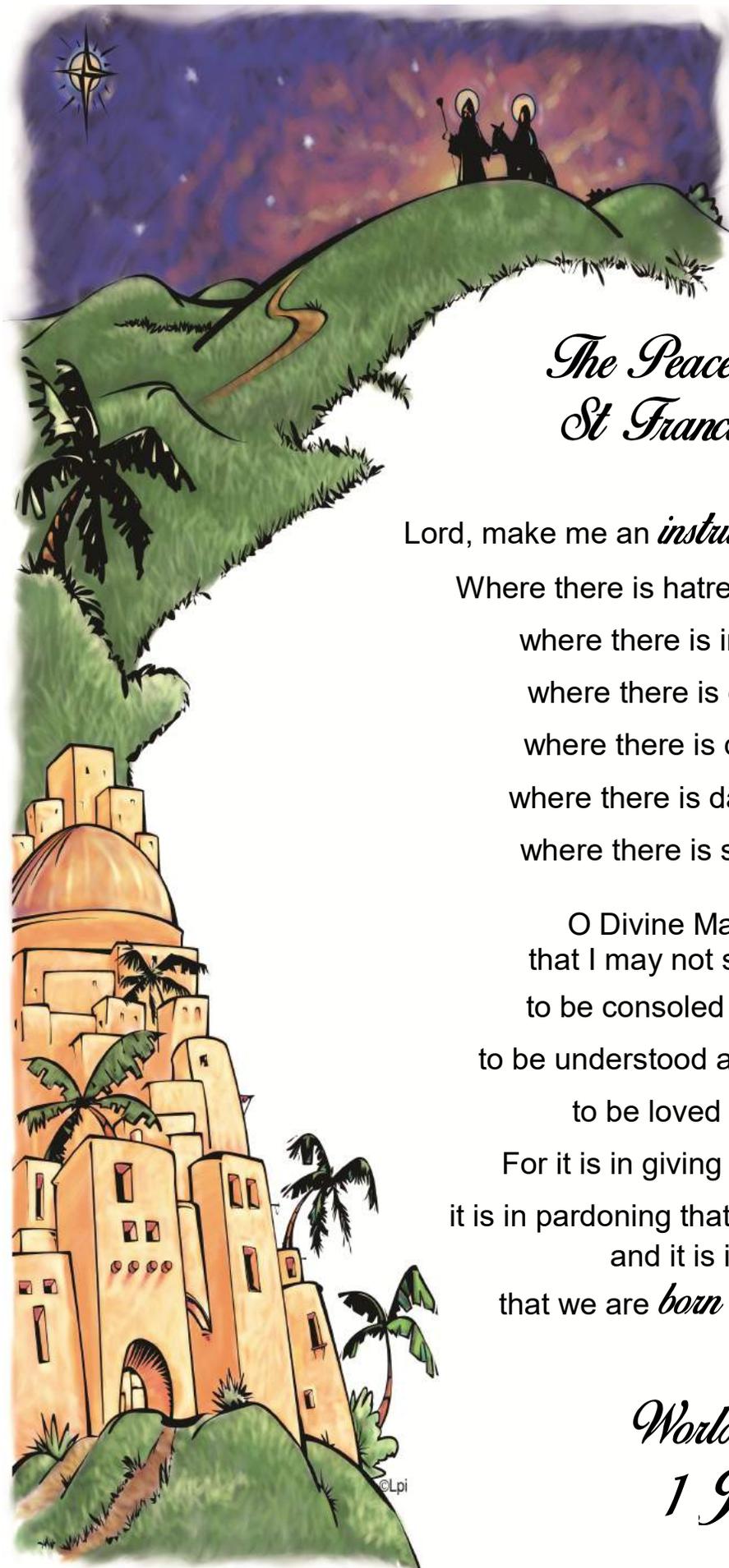
Enough of that! Let's keep the spiritual lens on and have a quick glance at 2017.

It is very interesting to note whether your starting point is more dread and foreboding or enthusiasm and excitement. This may in fact reveal something about the state of your spiritual health. If, when you think of the New Year, you have fear and gloom, then it tells you, you are spiritually unwell, or at the very least that you could be in better spiritual shape. Fear is the opposite of freedom and is not what the Lord wants for you. Dread and gloom are enemies of one of the most important Christian virtues namely, hope. Let's at least start 2017 well. Let's start 2017 with a few spiritual press-ups! Let's begin with hope and confidence. Let's circle the wagons. If God is for us who can be against. Let's rally the troops, starting with the guardian angels. Let's immerse ourselves in the Holy Family. Lest steep ourselves in the Holy Spirit! Who is our patron saint? Who is our favourite Saint? Do we allow Mary, the Mother of Jesus, to take us by the hand?

If for a moment to play the resolution game, but to do so with the spiritual lens on what might 2017 benefit from... Drink more water, more fresh air. Read a few lines of the Gospel every day, maybe before going to bed. Read a psalm a week. Make friends with the Guardian Angel. Weekly Rosary. Read a spiritual book, there's one recommended every week in this newsletter. Befriend silence. Make a novena, or even a pilgrimage. Choose a priest you can talk to, for a chat, confession or both. Some of the EWTN stuff is good, as is some of Spirit Radio's. Form a lectio Divina group. Get a spiritual director. Do the Stations of the Cross on a Friday. Make a point of coming to St. Matthew's at 7.30 pm on the First Friday of every month. Try and talk to somebody who loves Jesus.

2017 is going to be bright, brilliant and beautiful. Let's make up our mind now to grab it as the gift, that it is, and with God's grace make it the best yet! I PRAY THAT 2017 MAY BE FILLED WITH MANY OF GOD'S GIFTS FOR YOU AND ALL WHOM YOU LOVE, AND BY THE END OF 2017, MAY YOU KNOW JESUS AND HIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR YOU BETTER THAN EVER.

**Happy New Year!!
J MC DONALD. 10.12.16**



The Peace Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

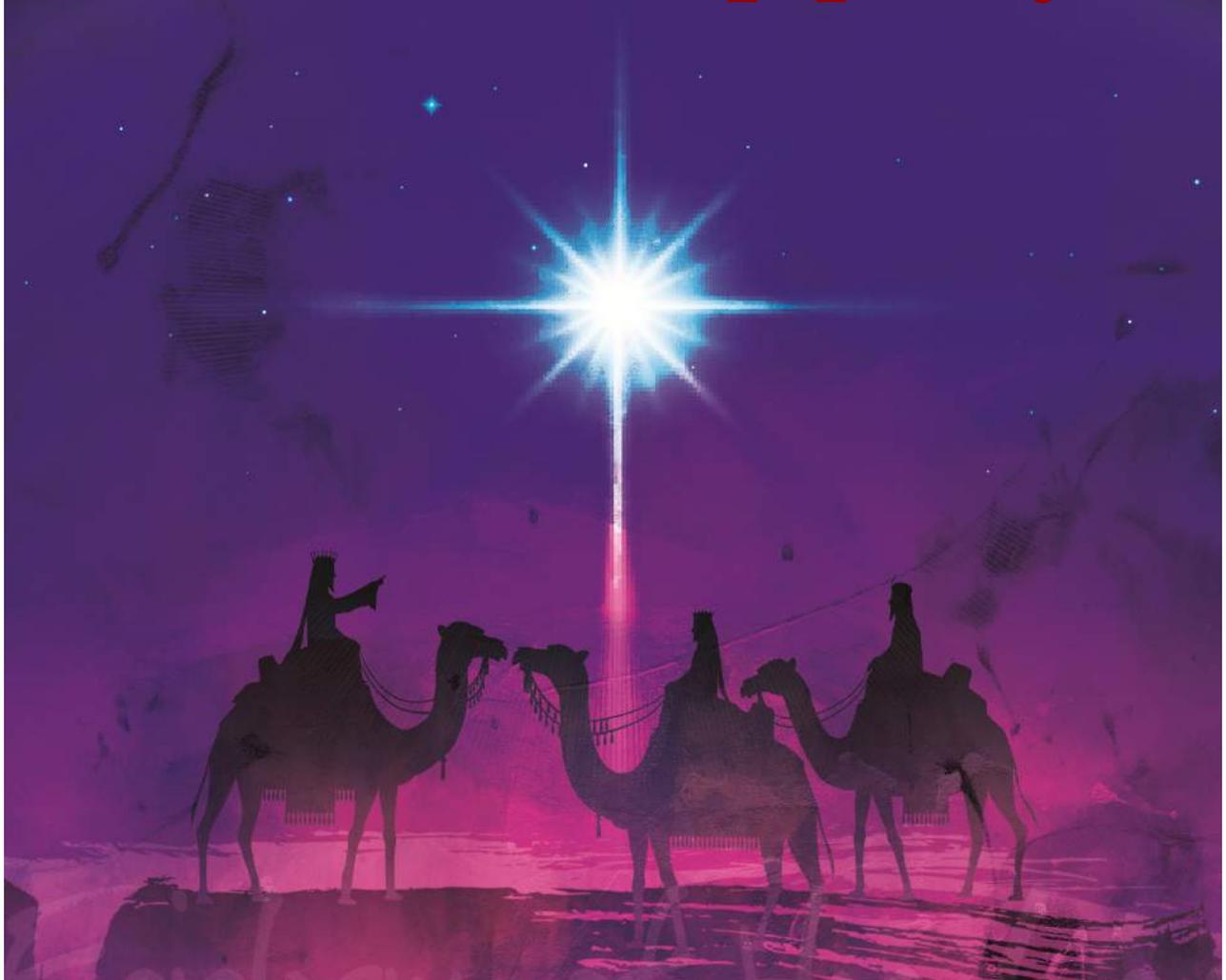
Lord, make me an *instrument of your peace*,
Where there is hatred, let me sow *love*;
where there is injury, *pardon*;
where there is doubt, *faith*;
where there is despair, *hope*;
where there is darkness, *light*;
where there is sadness, *joy*;

O Divine Master, grant
that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to *console*;
to be understood as to *understand*;
to be loved as to *love*.

For it is in giving that *we receive*;
it is in pardoning that *we are pardoned*;
and it is in dying
that we are *born to eternal life*.

*World Day of Peace
1 January 2017*

Feast of the Epiphany



Epiphany of the Lord

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Friday 6th January 2017

Book of the Week
PSALMING THE NEW TESTAMENT
DESMOND O' DONNELL AND MAUREEN MOHEN
VERITAS 2000 DUBLIN. Pp 215

If you are not familiar with the Psalms, which have been called the Prayer Book of Jesus, or you would like to become more familiar with them, then this book is a must. There are different ways of using this book, which are very helpfully discussed at the beginning. Whatever way you choose, I know you, and most specifically your prayer life, will be greatly enriched. I like the fact that the psalms are introduced to us under dozens of themes that we will find attractive, and perhaps more importantly, as vehicles in which to immerse the joys and sorrows of life into the presence of God. Beautiful book.



FAITH MOMENT

To be human is to search for God. Throughout history, to the present moment, religious beliefs and practices express the human search for God.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Gospel Readings for the Week

- Mon 2/1 Jn 1: 19-28 A voice that cries in the wilderness
- Tue 3/1 Jn 1:29-34 The Holy Name of Jesus
I have seen and I am the witness
- Wed 4/1 Jn 1:35-42 We have found the Messiah
- Thu 5/1 Jn 1:43-51 St. Charles of St. Andrew, priest.
You are the Son of God.
- Fri 6/1 Mt 2:1-12 The Epiphany of the Lord.
Falling to their knees they did him homage
- Sat 7/1 Mt 4:12-17 From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message,
'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'



Mass Times

New Year's Eve

6.30 Vigil Mass
 11.30 Special Mass for New Year



Sunday Jan 1

9.00, 10.30, 12.00

Weekdays

Mon—Thu 10.00
 Tue 7.30pm

Friday 6 Jan

Feast of the Epiphany

Thu: 6.30 Vigil Mass
 Fri 6: 10.30, 12.00



**Eucharistic Adoration
 And Divine Mercy
 Meetings**



Resume from
 Friday 6 January





A Picture for You to Colour

 Word Search

Circle these words from today's Gospel in the puzzle

MARY
JOSEPH
BABY

SHEPHERDS
JESUS
ANGEL

LISTENED
WONDERFUL
NAMED

B	N	J	D	N	B	M	A	W	G	C
F	A	N	U	E	O	R	I	O	K	T
S	M	Y	L	I	S	T	E	N	E	D
L	E	H	A	M	H	F	J	D	V	O
P	D	A	N	G	E	L	P	E	S	F
I	L	R	B	V	P	Y	A	R	U	C
J	O	S	E	P	H	A	G	F	N	B
D	H	Y	W	T	E	K	W	U	J	M
W	G	K	O	T	R	C	S	L	H	A
E	I	M	R	C	D	U	P	E	D	R
A	J	E	S	U	S	L	B	A	B	Y