

**Mass Intentions this Week - online only.**

We pray for those who died recently, for all with Anniversaries, Birthday Remembrances etc. at this time of the year and all who have gone to God.

# PARISH NEWS

3rd January 2021

*"CHRIST THE KING PARISH — A FAMILY OF FAMILIES"*



**Parish Notices**

**No Public Masses** until end of January due to Covid restrictions.

**All our Masses are on-line** "salthillparish.ie - live web cam" and we hope you will join us in prayer for Anniversaries/Special Intentions etc.

**Weekends** : Vigil Mass Saturdays at 5:30 and Sundays at 9:30 and 11a.m.

**Weekday Mass:** 10 am daily Mon-Sat.

**Church open** for private visits after Mass until dark each day. All Welcome.

**Parish Office** open as usual from Jan 4th 9:30am to 4:30pm (lunch 1-2pm)

Dear Fellow Traveller

There is something every year about Christmas time that calls us back to some of those core values around which we build our lives as individuals and as a society. Memories of happy times are brought to the fore from the hum drum of daily life. Most of the time we are not particularly reflective about life nor do we need to be. We just live it. We get on with work, the family, relationships. The effect of Covid 19 and the current "Stay at home Lockdown" has in many ways forced us to reflect on what life is all about and what are the most important ingredients of it.

For the Christian the essential essence of life is found in the Christmas story. Seeds are sown here, ideas suggested, values enshrined that first transformed those of the ancient world and continue to nourish down the years. Examining the Christmas story we notice: first, that it is peopled not with the high and mighty, but with the modest and lowly. These are not wealthy or powerful people, but working people, ordinary people - shepherds, a carpenter and his wife. The concept of Family and the important part it plays in our lives, comes to the fore. From the start, Christianity affirms the value and the worth of the ordinary and the lowly. All human beings are now cherished because they too are children of God. The wealth that matters is the content of our characters. The status that counts is that we are brothers and sisters of this wonderful baby whose coming changed the world.

We forget how revolutionary the Christmas story was when it was first told. It was first told in a society where people were rigidly separated by social class; where there was slavery; where shepherds were as 'untouchable' as lepers; where many were despised simply through the accident of birth. Starting at the manger, Christianity turned that world upside down. Since time in memorial society has made several attempts to "get life sorted and to start again. Each January we have tentively made new year resolutions and plans.

Salthill Parish is committed to the protection of all children and young people in our Church. See notice boards for contact persons.



Sat	2nd	5:30pm	Denis Byrne (8th A) Richie Kinneen (5th A) Billy Kelly & Decd members of the Kelly family	C.S.
Sun	3rd	9.30am	Willie & Tess Costello (A)	G.J.
		11 am	Joe Conway (1st A) Eoin Masterson (Months Mind) and his mother Mary Lynch Masterson (A)	C.S.
		12.30pm	No Mass at this time during lockdown	.
		6pm	No Mass at this time during lockdown	.
Mon	4th	10 am	Kathleen & Jimmy McNamara (A)	G.J.
Tues	5th	10m	Mary Murphy R.I.P.	G.J.
Wed	6th	10 am	Mary Connaire (1st A) Liam Morris (A) Marie Christine Greene (7th A) Bridie & Sean Savage (A) John & Della Cahill & Gabriel & Dorothy Glynn (Remb) Tony O'Connor (Remb)	MSC
Thurs	7th	10 am	Teresa Scannell (A) Kathleen & Damien Geary (Remb)	C.S.
Fri	8th	10am	Special Intention	C.S.
Sat	9th	10am	Private Intention	

**Masse Intentions Next Weekend include:-**

Sat 9th 5:30pm Phyllis Fahy, Upper Salthill (Months Mind)  
Bernie & Rita Gannon (A)

Sun 10th 9:30am Private Intention (A)

11 am Decd members of the Mc Carthy & Patten families  
Christy O'Connor (Junior) & his son Darren & Deceased family

On the 17th April, 1975, the communist guerrillas of the Khmer Rouge advanced into the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, and declared Year Zero. The past was to be eradicated. Within hours, government officials, Christian clergy, intellectuals, the police - in fact, even people who wore glasses - were rounded up and shot. Year Zero demanded a fresh start. And a fresh start meant the obliteration of the past. The same thing happened with the French Revolution. On the death of the King, the revolutionaries declared the beginning of Year 1. They divided time into units that they took to be rational and natural. There were to be ten days to a week, three weeks to a month, and twelve months to a year. The five days left over at the end became patriotic holidays ! Ordinary days received new names, each dedicated to some aspect of rural life, displacing the saints' days of the Christian calendar. Thus November 22, Saint Cecilia's Day, became the day of the "turnip"; November 25, formerly Saint Catherine's day, became the day of the "pig"; and November 30, Saint Andrew's Day, became the day of the "pick and shovel". The names of the new months were also forced to conform to the natural rhythm of the seasons. That year too the guillotine went into overdrive. 17,000 heads rolled in the interests of reform! Ironically, the chief architect of the 'The Reign of Terror', Robespierre, died in the same manner.

Not that I don't see the appeal of the fresh start. Many have a new shiny Diary. Its blank pages suggest a brighter future, full of promise and potential and organisation. All our pasts are a mixture of good and bad and much "grey" in between. We can dream of a new beginning for themselves, a beginning free from the chaos of their past. But the problem with this dream of a better future "*is that you have to take yourself with you*". In other words, there is no escaping yourself, even in the fresh start. Or to switch back to the language of theology, *even the resurrected Jesus bears the marks of his crucifixion*. Which is why it makes no sense to me to buy a brighter future with the cheap grace of forgetting or eradicating our past - however painful or compromising it has been. I don't see how blowing up statues to past dictators or renaming hospital wards, is the right way to deal with the sins of our colonial Masters or the excesses of our ecclesiastical predecessors. Of course fresh starts are possible - often desirable - but not if they pretend some radical discontinuity with our past. There is no magical short cut to becoming a new and better person. For what the philosopher George Santayana said about history is also true of human improvement generally: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" ! We are our Past and we need to remember it, we live in the Present and we look to the Future with hope.

So we struggle on into the New Year bringing ourselves warts and all with us with a renewed sense of hope and optimism . We do so knowing that God is already there, and will always be there for us to see us through. There is good stuff in all of us. God doesn't make "Gluggers". Life is for living ; - Go for it !

Have a good week  
G.J

## THANK YOU:

There are many groups and individuals (some of them out of the public eye) working in this parish! First of all we thank our Parish Team (the Engine room) — Frank Keane, Parish Co-ordinator; Yvonne and Rhona in the Parish Office, Sr Breege, Parish Sister. They help 'to keep the show on the road'. Thanks also to all our volunteers involved in the Church, in the Sacristy, involved with Liturgy, the Key holders, Cleaners, Florists, Laundry, our Readers, Ministers of the Eucharist. our Ushers, our Finance people, our collectors. Our parish is alive with music and we appreciate the wonderful work of our Music Director — Jackie Lillis, our Organists, Nora, Sharon and Martin, our cantors and musicians and (now silent) choirs . Our Altar Servers and those who look after them. Vital also to Parish life are the staff in our schools, our maintenance workers, those involved in Pastoral Care and Caring organisations. We especially thank you the parishioners for your very generous support through thick and thin. Covid 19 has "knobbed" some parish activities and made heavy demands in other areas. We have much to be proud of and thankful for, but Please God the end is sight with the on-coming of the vaccine and we can get on with shaping a new and better reality, holding on to what is good from the past and reshaping a new and better future.

Thank you again for all your goodness.

Happy New Year to One and all  
G.J.

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**Special Thanks** to all who support the parish by way of direct donations to the Parish Office or via the bank with direct debits via the bank etc. Due to Covid 19 the traditional methods of raising finance are very much curtailed. Your continued support and encouragement is very much appreciated.

**Charity Donations** For St Vincent de Paul and Trocaire etc. Can be dropped in to the Parish Office at any time. Simply mark the designated Charity on the front of the envelope and we will pass them on. Thank you to all who have donated.

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**MASS TIMES**

**ON-LINE ONLY**

**WEEKENDS**

Saturday: 5:30pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 9:30am, 11am,

**WEEKDAYS:**

Mon —Sat.: 10am.

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**The Parish Office:**

Hours: Mon-Fri: 9:30—1pm

2pm —4.30pm

Yvonne Thornton [Mon-Wed]

Rhona Bolger [Thurs-Fri]

Phone: (091) 523413

E-mail:

Salthill@parishes.galwaydiocese.ie

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**Parish Co-Ordinator:**

Frank Keane.

**Parish Sister:** Sr Breege Ruane

**Music Director:** Jackie Lillis.

**Priests of the Parish:**

Fr. Gerry Jennings 523 413

Fr Charlie Sweeney MSC

523413