

# Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall Parish

Part of the Glasnevin Grouping of Parishes

(Ballygall, Ballymun Rd, Corpus Christi, Glasnevin & Iona Rd)

## Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – 1st January 2023

Parish Website [www.ballygallparish.ie](http://www.ballygallparish.ie) Email [ballygallparish@outlook.com](mailto:ballygallparish@outlook.com)

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

### Parish Team

Fr. Joseph Ryan Co-P.P: Ph 8573776 Fr. Harry Gaynor Co-P.P: Ph 8342248

Fr. Paul St. John PC: Ph 086 2250689

Sacristy/Parish Office: Phone 01 8369291 (Closed this week apart from after 10am Mass)

Mass Intentions Monday 2nd to Sunday 8th January		
Monday	10.00	Susan Murray
Tuesday	10.00	Free
Wednesday	10.00	Free
Thursday	10.00	Colette Conlon
	6.30	Free
Friday	Epiphany of Our Lord	
Friday	10.00	Altar List of the Dead
Saturday	10.00	Free
	6.30	Pascal Murphy. Avis Dunne. Kay Howard. Steve Burns. John, Elizabeth & Ambrose Murray. Anne O Doherty. Edward Ryan. Paddy O'Brien. Margaret Daly.
Sunday 1st January 2023 Happy New Year	10.00	Oliver Pluck
	11.30	Theresa Fitzgerald. Thomas & Eileen Hughes. Geraldine Hogan..

### Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased, Pat Cullen, Frances Nolan & Margaret Curran.

### Christmas 12 Days of Reflection

The Church will open shortly before 10am Mass and remain open throughout each day during the week. You are invited to come and spend some time in quiet prayer before the crib. It has been wonderful to see families spending some time together in the church during this special season.

Mass times during this will be 10am Mass only. **No 7.25am Mass until Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January.**

### Epiphany of the Lord (6<sup>th</sup> January)

On this day through the visit of the wise men from the East, Jesus is made known to all people throughout the world. Jew or Greek, slave or free. May we on the feast day (also Holyday of obligation) continue to make Jesus known throughout our world and in this way the feast of Christmas is never forgotten. The King of kings, born in a stable. Let our gifts be not Gold, frankincense and myrrh but the gift of our faith, love and hope in the future.

### Sacristan Position

Our thanks to our volunteers who have filled the post of Sacristan for over the past year so well and have brought their own gifts into service in the church.

As we go to print the deadline for applications for the position of sacristan is approaching. We will process the applications that are being sent in and will contact those in the near future.



### World Day Of Peace

The 56<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace will be celebrated with a special Mass in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral on **Sunday, January 1, at 11am.**

### Christmas Dues

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the Christmas Offering through the envelopes and 'Tap & Go' machine. Your support is greatly appreciated by not only the priests of the parish but also the priests throughout the diocese including sick and retired priests.

### Blessing for the New Year (From today's First Reading)

**May the Lord bless you and keep you;**

**May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;**

**May the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.**

### A Wish for the New Year

Dear Lord, please give me...

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;

A work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;

A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;

An understanding heart;

A sense of humor;

Time for quiet, silent meditation;

A feeling of the presence of God;

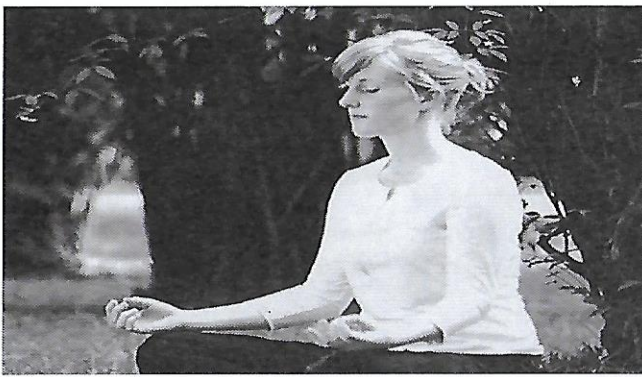
The patience to wait for the coming of these things,

With the wisdom to recognize them when they come. - *Author Unknown*

### Christmas Thank You

A sincere thanks to all those who helped to make the Church so special for Christmas in so many different ways. The church was gleaming, the crib and tree looked fantastic, the decorations elegant and the flowers beautiful. Thanks to choirs, stewards, ministers of the Word & Eucharist, sacristans and all readers along with so many others. The return of so many to the church on the day cannot but bring hope to us here in Ballygall and well done to so many of you for your support not just last weekend but throughout the year. May 2023 help us to look forward with hope and continue the dream of a parish filled with Christ.





### Words, Gaze and Thoughts

While vocal prayer uses spoken words to speak to God, and contemplative prayer is a 'loving gaze', Christian meditation (also called 'mental prayer') uses our interior thoughts to bring us into a loving relation with the Holy Trinity. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* summaries it thus:

*"Meditation is above all a quest. The mind seeks to understand the why and how of the Christian life, in order to adhere and respond to what the Lord is asking. The required attentiveness is difficult to sustain. We are usually helped by books ... the Sacred Scriptures, particularly the Gospels, holy icons, liturgical texts of the day or season, writings of the spiritual fathers, works of spirituality, the great book of creation, and that of history, the page on which the 'today' of God is written."*  
(CCC#2705)

The *Catechism* further reminds us that,

*"Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion and desire."*  
(CCC#2708)

Various spiritual practices have been developed to help us engage in this type of prayer, including *lectio divina* and the *Meditation on the Mysteries of the Rosary*.

### The Inner Heart

Lest we forget, Mary pondered all these things in her heart. In biblical language 'the heart' means a place of encounter, the still place of convergence and unity of oneself with God.

As we ponder the mysteries of Christ's earthly life we are prompted to a conversion of heart and a strengthening of our will to follow Christ. We are further drawn into a moment of contemplation where no words are needed, no thoughts pondered; simply a loving gaze at and from the One who is Love. ■

### Summary

*The practice of meditation can be found in many world religions, and even in those of no religion at all.*

*Meditation is a method of deepening our relationship with Christ.*

*Christian meditation uses our interior concepts and images.*

### Question

*How many types of prayer do you practice?*

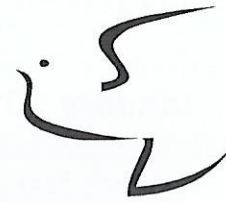
### Prayer

*May I ponder all the moments of revelation that I have had in my life.*



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Vol.45; No.6; Mary, Mother of God, Year A; 1 Jan 2023; Readings: Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 66, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21; Next Week: .Baptism in the Trinity  
Sun 1 Jan Mary, Mother of God :  
Mon 2 Jan Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen : Tue 3 Jan Weekday; Holy Name; St Munchin :  
Wed 4 Jan Weekday : Thu 5 Jan Charles of St Andrew : Fri 6 Jan Epiphany : Sat 7 Jan St Raymond of Penyafort : Sun 8 Jan Baptism of Jesus.



# SUNDAY LETTER

Series: Spirituality; Mary, Mother of God, Year A; 1 Jan 2023



*"Mary treasured these things, and pondered them in her heart."  
(Lk2:19)*

*The New Year provides ample time for us to reminisce, to ponder the things of the past year, and to look forward to the future. St Luke shares the story of how Mary, too, treasured all her experiences, and pondered them in her heart.*

*At the very core of this treasure-trove of memories was the conception and birth of her son, Jesus, the saviour, the One announced by the Angel Gabriel. She had memories of the Annunciation, the love of St Joseph, of long journeys, empty stables, the birth of Jesus and visits from the shepherds. All these were stored, and all were pondered.*

## MEDITATION

We describe the act of 'pondering' as 'meditation', a practice rooted in Hebrew and Greek culture. In the Hebrew scriptures, it comes from the word *Hagah* which has the sense of profound longing for something – literally, to 'sigh' for it. The ancient Greeks used the word *Meleta* to describe the practice of thinking deeply about something.

### Christian Meditation

Although the practice of meditation can be found in many world religions and in the lives of those of no religion at all, for us, there is a uniquely Christian dimension. Meditation is not an act of introspection; rather, it is a method of prayer (alongside vocal prayer and contemplation). Meditation is a technique for encountering and deepening our relationship with Christ.