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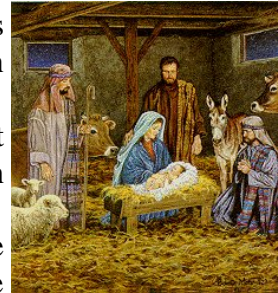
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**December 27<sup>th</sup> – January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
The Holy Family.**

“His mother stored up all these things in her heart.” One of the lovely things about a new young family is the excitement of recording every movement and sound of the newly born baby. Countless photographs are taken and produced on every occasion. Reports are sent around to family members and anyone else who will listen. This is the picture we have of Mary today as she marvelled at her newborn son Jesus. And this is where real holiness is found. We name Jesus, Mary and Joseph the Holy Family, not because they were pious but because of the great love that filled their hearts and their home. That is the challenge for every home and family. With the pressures of life the wonder of each person can be lost. The pressure of this feast is to get our priorities right, to put our love first and in this way make Jesus present.

## Mary, the Mother of God.

For so many people the picture they have of God is someone very powerful and to be feared. But when you look into the crib, there is nothing there to suggest power or to instil fear. Like all babies at birth the CHILD is a helpless little mass of human needs.



Like all those other Christians all over the world on Christmas morning we have visited the crib and gazed at the central figure there, the newborn baby. But then our eyes wandered. Where is the mother of this child? Yes, there she is right beside him. Like all babies, all the needs of that baby are met by the woman in the crib, his mother. She is the strong one but like in all mothers this does not show itself. Rather, it is gentleness and love that shows. She was drink and food and shelter and warmth for the CHILD but above all she was love. The basic need of the CHILD that night was love and his mother didn't fail him. On his entry into a cold uncaring world he found what he needed most - a mother's love.

Who would have guessed that God would have come into His world in such a gentle way? A little baby, lying in a manger. Like all babies, so vulnerable! And this is God, the creator, the almighty, the all-knowing. There is nothing about that scene to frighten us. Quite the opposite; we are touched by the tenderness of it. Every decent fibre of our being reaches out to a baby, and our first impulse is to love it. No one can see God as he is in heaven. But there he is now in the crib dressed in flesh like you and me.

Who made Him accessible to us? It was Mary who had become His mother. She gave her Child everything that enabled Him to live among us as one of ourselves. That human nature he had acquired He got from His mother. The sinews, the muscles, the bones, the blood, everything that made up the Body of Jesus was donated by His mother. But not only the physical parts of Jesus were given by His mother; His human character, that compassion and tenderness He showed when He spoke about the mother hen and her chicks, the numerous miracles He worked for ailing humanity all had their human origins in His mother.

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

### **Weekly Masses**

#### **Special Remembrance**

**Mon. 28th Dec. 2009 to Sun. 3rd Jan. 2010**

Mass at 10.00 each morning, Monday to Friday, is offered for all those whose names are on the list of Mass intentions. If you wish to have someone mentioned specifically - for an anniversary, a recent death, an illness - please leave the name at the Reception Office.

In the Novena Masses on Saturday at 8.00 and 10.00 we remember especially all those who have sent in petitions and those attending the Novena.

Mon. 10 am: Helen & Pat McKenna R.I.P.

Tues. 10 am: Thomas, Margaret & John Bane RIP

Wed. 10 am: Patrick Cooney Snr. & Jnr. R.I.P.

Deceased members of the Cooney Family R.I.P.

Thur. 10 am: Vincent Doherty R.I.P.

John & Nora Cannon R.I.P.

Fri. 10 am: Brian Ward R.I.P.

#### **Feast Days**

##### **of the coming week.**

**Mon:** The Holy Innocents

**Fri:** Mary, Mother of God

#### **Please note:**

Mon. 28th Dec. until Mon. Jan. 18th:

**NO** 8.00 am. weekday Masses, Monday to Friday.

Sat. 2nd Jan: Novena Masses as usual.  
8 & 10 am.

The Monastery Reception will be closed until Monday, January 4th, 2010.

If you wish to contact us during that time please phone 086-8440619

#### **Coming soon!!!**

Mass and blessing of St. Dominic's Well on Tuesday & Wednesday 5th & 6th January 2010, at 11 a.m. each day.

### **THE SICK**

Please pray for  
Fr. Brian Foley,  
Fr. Seán Mullin,  
Sharon Prendergast,  
Michelle O'Donnell,  
Patricia Kelly.

#### **A New Year Prayer**

Holy Father,

God of our yesterdays,

our today, and our tomorrows.

We praise You for Your

unequaled greatness.

Thank You for the year behind

us and for the year ahead.

Help us in Your new year,

Father, to fret less and laugh

more.

To teach our children to laugh by laughing with them.

To teach others to love by loving them.

Knowing, when Love came to the stable in Bethlehem, He came for us.

So that Love could be with us, and we could know You.

That we could share Love with others.

Help us, Father, to hear Your love song in every sunrise,

in the chirping of sparrows in our backyards,

in the stories of our old folks,

and the fantasies of our children.

Help us to stop and listen to

Your love songs,

so that we may know You better and better.

We rejoice in the world You loved into being.

Thank You for another new year and for new chances every day.

### **When you thought I wasn't looking**

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learnt that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make my favourite cake for me, and I learnt that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you at prayer, and I knew that there is a God I could always talk to, and I learnt to trust in him.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learnt that we all have to look out for each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you take care of our home and everyone in it, and I learnt that loving brings joy but involves sacrifice.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good. And I learnt that I would have to be responsible when I grew up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learnt that sometimes things hurt, but it's alright to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking I learnt most of life's lessons that I needed to know to be a good and loving person when I grew up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I looked at you and I wanted to say: "Thank you for all the things I see when you think I am not looking."

