St. James’ Church St. Hugh’s Church

Vigil 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. Sunday 9.30 a.m.

Monday to Friday 9.30 a.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. Friday 8 p.m.

Confessions on Saturday after 10 a.m. Mass, before the Vigil Mass *and* after Mass in Rahugh Friday evening.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Kilbeggan after 9.30 a.m. Mass on Monday until 12 noon.

Rahugh on Friday from 7 – 9 p.m. with Mass at 8 p.m.

Fr. Brendan, Harbour Rd., 057 9332155

[info@kilbegganparish.ie](mailto:info@kilbegganparish.ie) [www.kilbegganparish.ie](http://www.kilbegganparish.ie)

Feast of the Holy Family Sunday

8 p.m. John and Annie Keoghan

9.30 a.m.

11.00 a.m.

Monday 10 a.m. Bridget, Joseph and Arthur O’Rourke, and Luke Bracken.

MORNING WEEKDAY MASS 10 A.M. EACH DAY IN ST. JAMES’S

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*Second Sunday of Christmas*

8 p.m. Michael Creevy First Anniversary

9.30 a.m. Margaret Egan and deceased family

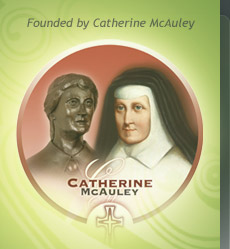
11 a.m. Agnes and Joe Guilfoyle months memory.

Kevin Davey, Nuala Williams, Bernie and Dill Word, Martin Ward.

C:\Users\Brendan\Music\Pictures\1KUDO\CONTENT\WORDART\01\WA_069.TIFMary Cassins, wife if James Cassins, Lowertown. May she rest in peace.

Youth Liturgy Group meets in The Parish Centre every Friday from 6.30 – 8 p.m. p.m.. They organise Saturday Evening Mass for 20 -30 minutes and they spend the rest of the time having fun and sport. All teenagers are welcome to come along.

*“The book Mullingar Time Goes By, by Matt Nolan is now on sale in The Cathedral Shop and other book shops in Mullingar. Profits from the book go to North Westmeath Hospice.”*

 The Sisters of Mercy wish all the parishioners of Kilbeggan and Rahugh a very blessed Christmas and New Year.  A triduum of Masses will be offered for your intentions.



Bingo every Tuesday night 8.30 p.m. in Kilbeggan Parish Centre. All are welcome. We have €1,100 in cash prizes each night.

Trócaire'Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.' Hebrews 13:16. Trócaire Christmas gifts are now on sale and can make a life-changing difference to families in some of the world's poorest countries. Log on to [trocaire.org/gifts](http://trocaire.org/gifts)

There is a pilgrimage being organized to Medugorje for the week of 15th to 21st of September 2016, contact Pat  Kidney on 0863192399 or Luke McNamee on 087 91131182y

Christmas shines the light of God’s mercy

*A message from Most Reverend Michael Smith, Bishop of Meath*

As I write these few words, I am conscious of one of the headlines I heard on the radio news this morning. It told that a record number of people would pass through Dublin airport during these days.  Many of the tens of thousands of people who left our shores for other lands are coming home to be with their families for the celebration of Christmas. Families reuniting are among the happier stories over these days.  It mirrors what St Luke tells us in the Gospel, that a census brought Joseph and Mary “home” to Bethlehem at the time of Christ’s birth.   Christmas and homecoming go hand in hand.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah is read at Mass on Christmas night. It tells us that the Jewish people never lost their hope and expectation of a Saviour who would unite the family of God’s chosen people. The Jewish people had long wandered far from home.  Sadly we have witnessed in this past year the tragedy of forced migration and all its consequent suffering. Who would have thought that, despite all our claims of progress, we would see migrants flee again from the Middle East and North Africa, children washed up on the southern shores of Europe, carnage in the streets of Paris, as well as countless Christians murdered in their native lands because of their faith in Christ?  It’s with chilling reality that Pope Francis has spoken of a third world war taking place in the ‘bits and pieces’ of human suffering and oppression.

This Christmas, I hope we can learn something from what the Scriptures tell us about the migration of the Jewish people.  At various times, the people lost their way.  Yet never once did God abandon His people or refuse them His mercy.  Through the prophets, God’s word was always spoken. And never was God’s word more eloquent than on the night our Saviour – “the Word made flesh” – was born.

The birth of Jesus points to a hope that reaches beyond ourselves, reaches into the heart of God. This is not simply an emotional or sentimental matter.  It reminds us that every human life is touched by God.  Every human life, whatever one’s nationality or race or creed, is graced by God. God desires to pitch His tent among us.  We glimpse the merciful love of God most vividly as He lays on the manger, surrounded by those who heard the voice of God and believed.

Today I opened the Holy Door in the Cathedral as part of our celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy.  Pope Francis invites us to open the door to the mercy of God and to become beacons of God’s mercy in the world around us. Our response in faith to the suffering of humanity we have seen these past 12 months is to reach out to offer the gift of God’s mercy and compassion to others.  There is no other way.  Peace can only be born when we respect the God-given dignity of every human person.

Unless we shine the light of God’s mercy, even the crib is a darker place.  But when we pray and gaze upon the crib with eyes of faith, then we see what is truly at the heart of Christmas.  Here is God, in the form of a child, who never abandons His people.  He was born for us 2000 years ago and, what is more, He is born again in our lives each day when we open the door to His mercy.

I hope that the families who are reunited this Christmas time will enjoy the warmth and love they so desire.  And I pray that, in the year ahead, our faith will remind us that the darkness of human suffering need not go unchallenged.  God’s mercy at work in us has the power to shine a light of compassion and peace for all who suffer – but He needs us to put it into practice.

Plate:  €983,  Christmas Offerings:  €730, Patron: €70, Lenten: €50, Easter: €50, November: €250 List of the Dead: €70,  Church Renovation Fund:  envelopes: €670. Visitors collection box: €15.

Thanks to all who are so generous.