

God's People Our Parish

St. James and St Hugh, Kilbeggan and Rahugh

Saturday Vigil 7.30 p.m. Kilbeggan Sunday 9.30 a.m. Rahugh and 11 a.m. Kilbeggan

Monday to Friday 9.30 a.m. Saturday 10 a.m. Friday 7.30 p.m. Rahugh

Fr. Brendan, Harbour Rd. 057 9332155 087 2618353

Confessions Saturday 10.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

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<https://www.kilbegganparish.ie>

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
Mt.11: 28-30



Make love your aim
1 Cor 14:1

I wish all our Parishioners at home and away a blessed New Year. May you know the love and presence of Jesus in your lives, and the care of Mary Our Mother.



**20
23**

JANUARY

For educators: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

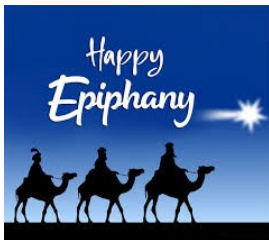
Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

7.30 p.m. John, Annie and Frank Keoghan
Richard Keoghan
Dolores Heffernan

9.30 a.m. Margaret Egan and deceased family

11a.m. Peter and Annie Jo Mc Loughlin
Michael and Rose Cummins
Sheila and Kathleen Spillane

Holy Mary, Mother of God, and our Mother, please pray for us!



Epiphany of the Lord

Thursday 7.30 p.m.

Friday 9.30 a.m. (Rahugh)

11 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord

7.30 p.m. Stephen Kelly

9.30 a.m.

11 a.m. Marie Coffey

Bernie and Dill Ward and Martin Ward

Please pray for the repose of Gerald Cooney who died during the week. May he rest in peace.

Plate: €3,267; Renovation Fund: €1,490; Offerings: €10,000.



Thanks to all who are so generous.

I will bring Holy Communion to the sick and the housebound this week.

Charity Shop will close until the end of January. Thanks to all who have supported the shop. It has made a great difference to many people's lives by helping them with clothing, household goods and items for Christmas. The income from the shop has helped our Renovation Fund. Thanks to the ladies in the shop for their wonderful work.



God with us



Before imparting his "Urbi et Orbi blessing ("to the city and the world"), the Pope gave his Christmas message underscoring the joy this day brings when we "turn our gaze to Bethlehem," and the "Lord comes to the world in a stable and is laid in a manger for animals" since there was no room at the inn when Mary was to give birth. "The true light, which enlightens everyone was coming into the world," he recalled from today's Gospel.

See the sign God has given us

The Pope encouraged everyone to contemplate the true message of Christmas and rise above "the hue and din" of this time when the focus can be more on the festivities and gifts, hardening our hearts, rather than focusing on the great event of the Son of God born for us.

The birth of peace

To follow Jesus means doing away with the burdens that can weigh on us and become obstacles, the Pope went on to say, and they can include greed, pride, thirst for power, hypocrisy, problems of old as they are of today that "exclude us from the grace of Christmas" and "block the entrance to the path of peace." The Pope lamented that a result of this reality is that the "icy winds of war" still hurt humanity today.

Concrete help to suffering : Looking at our world today, the Pope called on everyone to "see the faces of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters" who are experiencing darkness and cold this year, many faraway from home due to ten months of war devastation.

Hunger for peace: The Pope decried today's grave "famine of peace" in other parts of the world of what he termed this "third world war." He recalled the people of Syria, still suffering from a years old conflict that has fallen into the background, and those living in the Holy Land where violence and casualties have increased in recent months. He prayed that in this land that witnessed the Lord's birth there may be renewed dialogue and efforts to build mutual trust between Israelis and Palestinians.

The Pope remembered the people of Lebanon and encouraged the international community to give the country a hand in its struggle for survival. "May the light of Christ illumine the region of the Sahel," so that peaceful coexistence between peoples may take root again over the conflicts in the region. The Pope then prayed for a lasting truce in Yemen, reconciliation in Myanmar and Iran, and an end to all bloodshed.

Turning to the Americas, the Pope mentioned in particular the people of Haiti, who have been suffering for many years, and he prayed that political authorities and all people of good will throughout the continents work together to overcome social and political tensions.

Food for peace: Recalling how Bethlehem means "house of bread," the Pope called on us to remember children who go hungry today while so much food is wasted and resources are spent instead on weapons. He pointed out how the war in Ukraine has worsened the reality of world hunger, especially in Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, facing widespread famine. He lamented how wars can use food as a weapon by making distribution difficult to people already suffering.

Solidarity to all :As Jesus came into a world marked by indifference and hostility, the Pope said today also we see the same with how foreigners and the poor face rejection today. He called on everyone to find room in their hearts for displaced persons and refugees who "knock at our door in search of some comfort, warmth and food."

Open hearts :In conclusion, the Pope explained how Bethlehem "shows us the simplicity of God, who reveals himself not to the wise and the intelligent but to the little ones, to those with a pure and open heart ," and that may we, like the shepherds, be "amazed by the unthinkable event of God who becomes man for our salvation." God, the source of all good, makes himself poor in Jesus and asks "as alms our own poor humanity."

The Parish Pastoral Assembly had its first meeting. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, January 10th at 7.30 p.m. in The Parish Centre.

Our **Annual St Stephens Day Fun Run/Walk** was a great success again this year. Thanks to everyone who took part in the event and also a huge thanks to everyone who helped out on the day to stage the event, far too many to mention individually! As like other all proceeds raised on the day are for Children's Health Foundation at Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children at Crumlin, total raised to date is **€6,943**.

Happy New Year. D. Smith.