

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King,
who rules heaven and earth forever.

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us....Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father,
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer; you are seated
at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Numbers 6:22-27

A reading from the Book of Numbers
The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
May the Lord uncover his face to you
and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name
on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL Ps 66:

R. O God, be gracious and bless us.
1. God, be gracious and bless us

- and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. [R]
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. [R]
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. [R]

SECOND READING Galatians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born a subject of the Law,
to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us
to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons
is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our
hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father,' and it is
this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any
more; and if God has made you son, then he has
made you heir.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various
different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the
prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken
to us through his Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2:16-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found
Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.
When they saw the child they repeated what they had
been told about him, and everyone who heard it was
astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for
Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered
them in her heart. And the shepherds went back
glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and
seen; it was exactly as they had been told.
When the eighth day came and the child was to be
circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the
name the angel had given him before his conception.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

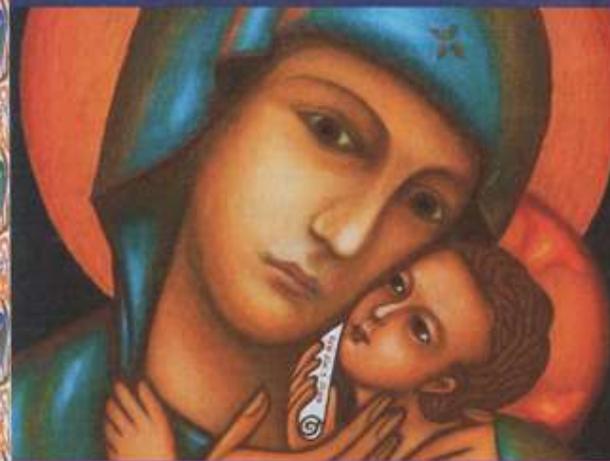
NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
All bow for following three lines:
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,



focus on sunday

From the moment she was told she was to be the mother
of God, Mary accepted God's plan for her with willingness
and humility. May we learn to respond to God in this way.



and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life, who proceeds from the
Father and the Son, who with the Father
and the Son is adored and glorified, who
has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,
May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands for the praise and
glory of his name, for our good and
the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in your kindness begin
all good things and bring them to
fulfilment, grant to us, who find joy
in the Solemnity of the holy Mother
of God, that, just as we glory in
the beginnings of your grace,
so one day we may rejoice in its
completion.
Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday, today, and for ever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have received this heavenly
Sacrament with joy, O Lord: grant,
we pray, that it may lead us to
eternal life, for we rejoice to
proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin
Mary Mother of your Son and
Mother of the Church.
Through Christ our Lord.



Mary is presented at Christmas as the one who
pondered. She heard much that puzzled her. In the
message of the shepherds, gifts of the Magi, and maybe
the odd conversation with Joseph when they wondered
about their child and what would happen him.

Her pondering led to wondering. It must have tried her faith but never
left her without faith. She is a model of faith for today when faith ponders
many questions.

Pope Francis says: 'In this quest to seek and find God in all things there
is still an area of uncertainty. There must be. If one has the answers to
all the questions—that is the proof that God is not with him or her. Our
life is not given to us like an opera libretto, in which all is written down;
but it means going, walking, doing, searching, seeing.' (Interview 2013).

We can question much about God but it is best if it leads us to wondering
about him. The person who can wonder never gets tired of life and knows
that in wondering together we find life for the mind and soul.

We find nourishment for ourselves in our capacity to wonder and be
amazed. Christmas can do this for us. Family memories, gathering with
friends, Christmas prayer can open us to new love and new faith. If we
can do this for a day, can we do it for the year?

Come to birth Lord Jesus and help me to enjoy wonder and
amazement at your coming.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor, Sacred Heart Messenger.

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St. Paul's Parish Ayrfield



Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God
1st January 2017

Mass Times

Saturday : 6 pm Vigil
Sundays : 10:30 am & 12 noon
Weekdays : Mon. – Fri. 10:00 am
Mon. 7:30 pm Sat. 11:00 am

Contact: Co-Parish Priest Fr. Paddy Boyle 086 1011 415
Co-Parish Priest Fr. Gerry Corcoran (Moderator) 01 847 9822
Team Assistant Fr. Tom Colreavy (Retired) 01 848 4836
Parish Office 8160984 Sacristy 8160981
www.stpaulsparishayrfield.com Email : parishofficeayrfield@eircom.net

We remember at Mass and in our prayers those who have gone before us

Sunday 1st 10 :30am

Brian & Ann Hardiman
47th Wedding Anniversary

Sunday 1st 12:00 noon

John & Violet Byrne
Remembrance

May they rest in peace

Monday 2nd January is a Bank Holiday, morning mass will be at **10:00am** and there will be **no evening mass.**

Outdoor Collections will be taken up on Tuesday evening, due to the bank holiday weekend.

Christmas Dues

Sincere thanks to all who have subscribed to our Christmas Dues. Envelopes can be placed in the boxes provided in the church or given to your outdoor collector.

Friday 6th January is The Feast of The Epiphany of the Lord and a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass at **10:00am**
Vigil mass **Thursday 5th at 7:30pm**

St Paul's Junior & Senior Schools

Our Schools re-open on Monday 9th January. We wish all the children well in the coming year.

Sacrament of Baptism

The following babies were welcomed into the faith community of our parish during December.

Jayden Chukyemeka Kwukeme
Amelia Rose Roche
Finn Patrick O'Murchaha
Tyler Byrne
Finn Boyle
Fallon Shirley Boyle
Kallum Aiden Boyle
Nathaniel James Vender

We wish all our parishioners a very Happy, Holy and Peaceful New Year.

Thought for the day: The Octave Day of Christmas

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God
The LORD bless you and keep you!

The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

Mary was a young girl living in Nazareth in Galilee. Whatever hopes and aspirations she had for herself and her life were changed in a remarkable way when God sent the angel Gabriel to ask her to be the mother of His Son. Mary was faced with a choice.

And with a profound faith the trust in God she chose to say Yes to God 'let it be done unto me, according to your word.' Mary the Mother of Jesus the Son God and her Son. Through Mary, because of Mary, 'the Word was made flesh and lived among us.'

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

You Shall Be My Witnesses

You Shall Be My Witnesses is the Parish Preparation Programme for Confirmation. For those of you who have volunteered to be Leaders in the programme we say a big thank you. This programme will give you the opportunity to get more actively involved with your child's preparation for Confirmation.

The following are the important dates for your diary.

The first two meetings will be facilitated by Rosemary Lavelle, who will explain the course to you. These will take place in Clonliffe College on **Wednesday 12th** and **Wednesday 19th of January** from **7:30pm – 9:30pm**. You will be picked up from the church car park at **7pm** on both nights.

The programme for the children will take place in the Pastoral Centre over four weeks, on the following dates.

- **Monday 20th February 2017 8:00pm – 9:00pm**
- **Monday 27th February 2017 8:00pm – 9:00pm**
- **Monday 6th March 2017 8:00pm – 9:00pm**
- **Monday 13th March 2017 8:00pm – 9:00pm**

We are very grateful to Paula & Lee Redmond who will be co-ordinating the programme this year. If you have any queries regarding the programme you may contact them at 086 159 8292

Notice to Coeliacs: *If you have been advised to abstain from Gluten, please contact the Priest before Mass so that we can try to accommodate your requirements.*