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fundamental nucleus of our society, where we first learn how to live together and relate to each other with mutual love and respect.

The new year brings a sense of renewal, a chance to reflect on who we are as people of faith and how we might become better followers of Christ. We sincerely hope that our Assembly will go ahead in May and that it will offer all of us an opportunity to *“Shape the future with Hope”*.

The lessons of the past year highlighted our global interconnectedness and solidarity, our belief in the sanctity of life and respect for the dignity of every human person. We learned that showing our love for one another, friend or stranger, can be as simple as wearing a mask. The inconvenience of such practice is far outweighed by the opportunity to show our regard for the wellbeing of one another.

The Feast of Mary, the Mother of God ushers the start of the new year. This is a perfect time to invoke the loving intercession and maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary to help us join together in mutual resolution to live the Gospel values of faith, hope and charity, as well as to grow in our commitment as responsible stewards of God’s gift of creation and to pursue the common good. May God bless us with the peace, joy and hope 2022 brings. Happy New Year to all of you and thank you for your continued support, encouragement and above all your prayers. May almighty God bless and keep all of you.

Fathers Joseph, Tony, Michael and James.

Gospel: John. 1:1-18

“The Word was made flesh, and lived among us”.

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

New Year message 2022.

I pray that these words find a place in your hearts to dispel the frustrations, sufferings, grief and loneliness of those who have lost loved ones due to the coronavirus pandemic. Christmas is a great reminder of God’s infinite love for us in the incarnation of Jesus. Born as our Saviour, he came to bring light, joy and peace to the world! This message of God’s constant and caring presence is reflected in the inspiring acts of frontline and other essential workers the past two years. Their sacrifice and heroism have been a source of courage and perseverance during months of hardships, uncertainties and other challenges. The arrival of the COVID-19 vaccines has been a blessing of renewed hope and a much-awaited answer to people’s prayers and aspirations of getting back to our normal life.

The outlook for the new year is bright, but depends on us to make it a reality. It allows us to turn the page of time and history to brace ourselves for what better things it offers us. One good thing the pandemic taught us is that we are all in this together, and the best answer to its disastrous effect is our unity and solidarity. Pope Francis said recently in the backdrop of a divided and polarised world, that *“a crisis can be overcome by the antibodies of solidarity.”* This was the central message in his recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, – the call to global fraternity and social friendship, that all people will live together as a family, as brothers and sisters to one another, treating each other with dignity and equality.

Furthermore, in his message for 2021 World Day of Peace, Our Holy Father promotes a culture of care as a path to peace, urging us against the prevailing culture of indifference to the sufferings of others, of waste, of hatred and confrontation, to practice the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church. Let this culture of care start in the family, the

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Monday, 03rd January. The Holy Name of Jesus.
8.00am: No Mass (*Bank Holiday*)
10.00am: Zuzana Tomkova and Michael Tomko (A)

Tuesday, 04th January.
8.00am: Deceased members of the Bohan family
10.00am: Teresa Mulderry. (A)

Wednesday, 05th January. St Charles of St. Andrew.
8.00am: No Intention.
10.00am: Andrew Doyle. (1st A).

Thursday, 06th January. The Epiphany of the Lord.
7.30pm (*Vigil*) Special Intention.
8.00am: Special Intention
10.00am: Margaret & Denis Kelly. (A)
1pm No Intention.
6.00pm John & Anna Connolly and children Marie & Tony. (A).

Friday, 07th January. 1st Friday. St Raymond of Penafort.
8.00am: Martin Collum (Birthday remembrance)
10.00am: Longford Retired Teachers.
7.30pm Special Intention.

Saturday, 8th January
8.00am: All the souls in Purgatory.
10.00am: Kevin Donoher. (A).

Sunday, 09th January. The Baptism of the Lord.
7.30pm (*Vigil*): Hubert Flanagan (1st A)
8.00am: No Intention.
10.00am: Kathleen (Kitty)Barden & dec. family members.
11.30am: *Shared*: Maura and Thomas O'Brien & dec family members.
1.00pm: Molly & Noel Mc Geeney. (A)
6.00pm: Bridgie & Mel Sexton. (A).

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank each one of you most sincerely for your continued generous contributions to our weekly collections. The amount received in the Offertory Collection for Christmas day was €8,255.00, and for Sunday 26th was € 2,540.00. **CHRISTMAS DUES** in support of the priests of the parish are now due and may be handed in at any time.

REST IN PEACE: Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the souls of: Francis Curran, Farneyhoogan and Helen Quinn, 'Sonas' Battery Road, whose funerals took place during the week. May they rest in peace.

MASS IN ST. ANNE'S CHURCH, CURRY: Mass will be celebrated in St. Anne's Church, Curry on this and every Thursday evening at 7.30pm.

BAPTISM: With joy, we welcomed Nicola Krupczynska, Penelope Marie Connellan, Ellie Marie Diffley and Ruadhán Michael Ciarán Jennings into the Christian Community.

FEAST OF EPIPHANY: Thursday is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Mass on Wednesday Vigil at 7.30pm, Thursday at 8am, 10am, 1pm and 6pm Thursday evening.

FIRST FRIDAY: Friday 7th is the First Friday of the month. Calls to those sick at home, restricted or housebound will be made by the priest. If you would like to receive Holy Communion in your home for the First Friday, please contact the Presbytery 3346465.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD: Sunday next 9th January is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We are inviting families who had a child Baptised in the Parish in 2021 to come to the 10am Mass and receive a special blessing as we honour the Baptism of the Lord.

FAREWELL TO BISHOP FRANCIS DUFFY: This weekend, as a Parish and as a Diocese, we bid farewell to Bishop Francis having served faithfully and generously as Bishop of the Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois for the past 8 years. He has also been a great support to us here in the Parish where he has been readily available to assist at all of our religious celebrations and almost every Sunday to celebrate the Sunday Mass with and for us. The Archdiocese of Tuam will present a great challenge for him, but he would not have been chosen if they didn't have full and complete confidence in his strong work ethic, his boundless energy, his spiritual leadership and his many gifts that he has as a shepherd to the people. He will now undertake this very significant role in the Archdiocese of Tuam, that will also involve additional responsibility for the other dioceses within the Archdiocese. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide, bless and direct him as he takes on greater responsibilities, and let him be assured of our continued support through our prayers and Masses offered here in St Mel's Cathedral. May God continue to bless the work that He has begun in Bishop Francis.

PARISH ENVELOPES: The Parish envelope provides a vital source of income for the parish and has been a great source of support especially during these Covid times. If you can help distribute even a small number of boxes, particularly in the Dublin Road, Viewmount, greater Shroind area, please call to the sacristy or the parish office.