CLONGUISH PARISH NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 25th 2017

Fr. Ciaran McGovern. Tel: 043-3346805
Website: www.clonguishparish.ie / eMail: clonguishparish@gmail.com

MASSES THIS WEEK
***Tues**.9.00am.**Wed.** 9.00am. **Thurs**.9.00am **Fri**. 7.00pm.*
ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEKEND
No special intentions
***Fri.** 7.00pm: Peter and Patricia Mimnagh*
ANNIVERSARIES NEXT WEEKEND
No special intentions

Last weekend Collection: €1,525. **Thank you.**

Next Weekend

Readers—Vigil: *Margaret Kilbane*		**10.30am:** *Fionuala Carthy*
E.Ms.	**Vigil:** *Al Yorke*	**10.30am:** *Joanne Quinn*

Feast Days

Dec. 25th **The Nativity**
The birth of Christ Our Saviour.
Dec. 26th **St Stephen**
St Stephen was the first Christian martyr.
Dec.27th **St John**
*Today we honour **St John**, the **Apostle** and **Evangelist** (gospel writer**).***
Dec. 28th **The Holy Innocents** (martyrs**)**
*Having been misled by the **Three Wise Men**, **Herod** ordered the massacre of all the boys in **Bethlehem** and its vicinity two years old and under, perhaps twenty or twenty- five in total.*

Do This in Memory
*The **Vigil Mass** this weekend is a **Do This in Memory** Mass for the children preparing for **First Holy Communion**.*

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve: Mass: **9.00pm** –
Christmas Day Masses: **9.00am** *and* **11.00 am.**

When A Child is Born

In 1808, a war weary world anxiously watched the march of Napoleon Bonaparte. As at any time, babies were being born. Among them, the political leaders **William E Gladstone** and **Abraham Lincoln** and poet **Alfred Lord Tennyson**. Yet, people's minds were occupied with battles, not babies. Over 200 years later it is clear that these babies made a far greater contribution to history than the battles!

So, it is with the birth of **Jesus**. The Bethlehem crowds had no inkling of the greatness in their midst. Napoleon, again, summed up the admiration of the ages for Jesus Christ: '**Alexander the Great, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I myself have founded great empires… but Jesus Christ alone founded his empire upon love, and to this very day, millions would die for him.**

Jesus Christ was more than a man.'

Every birth is shrouded in wonder, the mystery of unknown potential lies asleep in a parent's arms. Care is taken at the naming of a child. But the name of **Jesus** was not left to **Mary** or **Joseph** to choose. **Jesus**, or **Yeshua,** means **God is Salvation**. His name describes the purpose for which he came- to be the Saviour of the world.

Fr Nial Ahern- Advent Radio Reflections

Bishop Francis' Advent Safeguarding Message

"I wish to thank our **Parish Safeguarding Representatives** and our **Priests** for their valuable work in ensuring the safety of children and adults at risk in our church related activities.

I encourage anyone with concerns regarding the safety of children or anyone who suffered in the past to contact our Designated Liaison Person, **Sean Layden** (087 7431649) or our Deputy Designated Liaison Person, **Roisin O'Doherty** (087 3327587)**"**

Shane Brennan 5K

The Shane Brennan **5K Race** and **Walk** is on as usual on St Stephen's Day. The proceeds this year go to **Multiple Sclerosis**, Longford branch.

Parish Calendar

Clonguish Parish Calendar for 2018 is now available in the local shops, and in the sacristy. It only costs

Happy Christmas everyone