

God of Joy

It is in your love

That we find lasting joy

Teach us to find you

In the gift of Your son

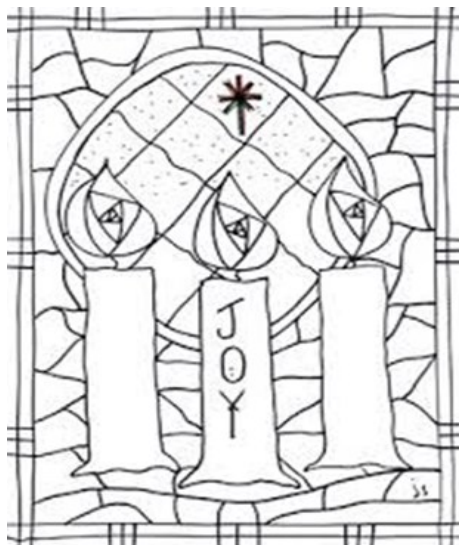
Who came into this

world with nothing

Yet gave us everything.

May His joy fill our hearts

As we prepare for Christmas



BAPTISMS Saturday at 5pm Contact the Parish Office 71263152 between 10am-12 noon Mon-Fri

MARRIAGES At least 3 months notice must be given to the Parish. Contact Parish Office to arrange Pre-Marriage Preparation Course.

THE WEBCAM: To join us for the live streaming of all Masses via the webcam, log into www.cregganchapel.com or www.churchservies.tv/creggan.

If you have any difficulty accessing the webcam, please contact the parish office on 028 7126 3152 or email stmaryscreggan@derrydiocese.org.

IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS REGARDING SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS

in need of protection within the Church, please contact Marie O'Kane, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) 07596500793 or at dlp@derrydiocese.org Additional Contact numbers - PSNI Tel 101 or Social Services Western SHC Trust Tel 02871314090 (ask for Duty Social Worker)

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: GARDA SÍOCHÁNA, BUNCRANA +353749320540 OR LETTERKENNY HQ +353749167100
TUSLA FAMILY AND CHILD AGENCY, BUNCRANA +353749320420 OR LETTERKENNY +353749123672

Parish of St. Mary CREGGAN



SUNDAY MASS

Vigil (*Saturday*)

6.30 pm

10.30 am

12.15 pm

Polish Mass

4.00 pm (every 2nd & 4th Sunday)

HOLY DAY MASS

as announced

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Monday - Friday

5.00 pm - 5.30 pm

Saturday -

10.30 am

5.30 pm - 6.20 pm

WEEK DAY MASS

Monday-Saturday

10.00 am

Tuesday & Friday

7.30 pm

EXPOSITION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT

(in the Divine Mercy Chapel)

Sunday

1.30 pm - 6 pm

Monday

10.30 am - 7 pm

Tue - Sat

10.30 am - 12 pm

Fr. Daniel McFaul PP

Fr. Ignacy Saniuta CC

PAROCHIAL HOUSE, 1 FANAD DRIVE, DERRY. BT48 9QE

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 10 am - 1 pm

Tel 02871263152 - email: stmaryscreggan@derrydiocese.org

www.stmaryscreggan.com

14th December 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent



The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.”

In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next

breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus.

Today, we are called to prepare our hearts during Advent through repentance as we prepare to encounter Christ at Christmas.

Bambino Sunday is celebrated today, where families bring their figures of the Baby Jesus from their homes to be blessed. This custom started by Pope St. John Paul II, helps to focus the family on the anticipation of Christmas and the coming of Jesus. You are invited to bring the figure of the baby Jesus from your home crib to Mass this weekend. The figures will be blessed at Mass. After the blessing, the figure taken home and wrapped. It's the first gift to be unwrapped by the youngest member of the family on Christmas morning and placed in the crib.

2025 Parish Draw: *The final draw for this year is on **Saturday 20th December** after the Vigil Mass in the Community room. There will be a cup of tea for everyone and we will have 3 extra prizes of £100 for Christmas.*

2026 Parish Draw: There is still time to buy a ticket (perhaps as a Christmas present) or promote them within your family and friends. Please call into the Sacristy after week-end Masses or at the Parish Office during office hours Monday-Friday 10am - 1pm. Tickets cost of £120 cash or by standing order, £10 per month. **The 2025 standing orders** will expire at the end of this month; so if you want to continue to be in the Draw for next year, you will need to re-apply for a new ticket. You can do this by calling into the Sacristy after any week-end Mass or at the Parish Office.

Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are available to purchase (£2.00 each) in the sacristy and at the back of the Church after week-end Masses. They are also available in the Parish Office, Monday - Friday 10am - 1pm. The recipients intentions will be remembered in a triduum of Masses which will be celebrated over the Christmas period.

Recent Deaths: We offer prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of



Anthony Palmer
Brian Martin
Vincent King
Damien Vincent Bradley
Briege Carlin

Glenanne (formerly Melmore Gdns)
Demesne Avenue
Melmore Gardens
(formerly Melmore Gdns)
Foyle Road

May their souls experience the everlasting love and mercy of God

Recent Baptisms: *We welcome through the Sacrament of Baptism*
Emery Elaine Hegarty and Mason Brendan Dalzell-McManus



Last Week's Collection £ 1720 Parish Development £541

Standing Orders £132 Thank you for your continued support and generosity

Prayer for Vocations: For our seminarians and all those who will be the future priests of our diocese, that they will be prophetic proclaimers of the Good News of God's liberating love revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

Trócaire 'Gifts of Change' are gifts that transform lives, bringing real hope and opportunities to families and communities living in poverty. There are 24 Gifts to choose from starting at £5 for the 'Gift of Soap' for families in war-torn South Sudan. All the gifts are real items, sourced in-country which go to families in need of our support. You can buy a Gift and help change lives this Christmas by going online at www.trocaire.org/gifts, calling **0800 912 1200** or visiting our office at **60 Berry Street, Belfast, BT1 1FJ**.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026: Monday 29 June to Friday 3 July (4 nights) ex City of Derry Airport. Cost £895 inclusive of local taxes but exclusive of single supplements and insurance. The Pilgrimage office will open for bookings on Saturday **17 January 2026 at 11am**. However, Gift Vouchers to any value are now available (Monday to Thursday) from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ

Children in Crossfire: As Christmas fast approaches, Children in Crossfire would like to thank all the parishioners who have already supported our Advent Appeal. If you would like to donate, packs are still available from the back of the church. You can donate directly or return via the chapel in the New Year.

IS GAMBLING AFFECTING YOUR LIFE? Perhaps we can help. Tel: 028 7135 1329.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD: Have you been affected or hurt by abortion? If so, please contact Michelle on 07871765181.