

Dunhill & Fenor Parish Notes, Christmas Day 2011 www.dunhillandfenorparish.ie

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| ☒ Sunday, December 25th <i>Christmas Day</i> | Dawn Mass in Fenor Church at 9.30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass in Dunhill Church at 11.00 a.m. |
| Monday, December 26th | Dunhill Church at 11.00 a.m. (<i>St Stephen's Day – Bank Holiday</i>) |
| Tuesday, December 27th | Fenor Church at 10.00 a.m. |
| Wednesday, December 28th | Dunhill Church at 12 noon (<i>Funeral for James McGuire, Ballymoat House</i>) <i>No formal Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Today</i> |
| Thursday, December 29th | Holy Cross Church, Tramore, at 10.00 a.m. |
| Friday, December 30th <i>Feast of the Holy Family</i> | Fenor Church at 10.00 a.m. <i>Adoration in Fenor Church from after 10.00 a.m. Mass until 12.00 noon</i> |
| Saturday, December 31st | Fenor Church at 6.30 p.m. (<i>Anticipated Sunday Mass</i>) |
| ☒ Sunday, January 01st, 2012 <i>Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i> | Fenor Church at 9.30 a.m. Dunhill Church at 11.00 a.m. |

- We extend a very special '**Céad Míle Fáilte**' to all visitors to our parish this weekend; especially those who have come home to be with family members and friends this Christmas. We pray that you will enjoy your stay among us and carry treasured memories with you when you leave.
- The **Annual Christmas Collection** for the support of the Bishop and the Priests is being taken up at all Masses this weekend. We deeply appreciate everybody's generosity this Christmas and throughout the year.
- On behalf of all the parishioners of our parish, we would like to extend a very **sincere and heartfelt word of gratitude** to all those who helped out in any way in our parish over the past year. In particular, we thank the members of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council and all their sub-committees; Mary Power & Ita O'Reilly who take such great care in looking after the sacristies and the churches; and all those who help them throughout the year; all who help with the upkeep of all the parish properties, the Property Committee and all its advisors; those who decorate the churches throughout the year with beautiful floral arrangements; those who work in the background with things that need doing, such as erecting cribs and Christmas trees, fixing things, changing things, mending things, and so many other things which need doing throughout the year. We thank our secretary Margaret Power for her dedication; those who distribute envelopes; collectors in church and those who count the collection weekly; the musicians and choirs who lead us in song and especially for all the extra work they do for the major liturgies; Ministers of the Word and Eucharist; and the Altar Servers for their commitment and service. We thank the teachers in both schools for helping to pass on the faith to our children. May the peace of the child Jesus be with you all this Christmas and throughout the coming year.
- The 50th **International Eucharistic Congress** are delighted to announce that they have now over 700 registered volunteers from all over Ireland and continue their call to volunteers as more are needed. Recently, the first volunteer induction training sessions were held and there will be more induction training sessions in January. Why not make it your News Years' resolution to volunteer. Register now and make a difference! www.iec2012.ie
- **Dunhill Multi Education Centre** would like to wish all their friends and colleagues a very happy and holy Christmas and New Year and to thank them all for their support during 2011. The Education Centre will re-open January 9th 2012. Nollaig Shona agus an Bhliain Nua Sásta!
- **Questions people ask** – Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap Email silvesteroflynn@gmail.com
Question: Do we know for certain that Jesus was born on 25 December? Answer: We have no way of knowing the actual date. Two reasons are given for the selection of this date. It took over from the Roman feast of the Unconquered Sun at the winter solstice. Christians decided to celebrate the birth of Jesus as the light of God who came to conquer the darkness of sin. The second reason is that it is nine months after the feast of the Annunciation and the conception of Jesus. The Annunciation was an older feast than Christmas. It was celebrated on 25 March to connect with the Jewish tradition that this was the first day of creation and the day when Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Thus the conception of Jesus was linked with creation and sacrificial death.
- Last week's **Parish Collection**: Masses €557.07 & Envelopes €636.00 Thank you for your continued support.

