

Dunhill & Fenor Parish Notes, January 7th 2018

✠ Sunday, January 7th <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Mass in Dunhill Church at 9.30 a.m. <i>Anniversary Mass for Joseph & Marian O' Keffe</i>
Monday, January 8th	Mass in Holy Cross Church, Tramore, at 10.00 a.m.
Tuesday, January 9th	Mass in Holy Cross Church, Tramore, at 10.00 a.m.
Wednesday, January 10th	Mass in Holy Cross Church, Tramore, at 10.00 a.m.
Thursday, January 11th	Mass in Holy Cross Church, Tramore, at 10.00 a.m.
Friday, January 12th	Mass in Holy Cross Church, Tramore, at 10.00 a.m.
Saturday, January 13th	Mass in Fenor Church at 6.00 p.m. <i>Anniversary Mass for Dan & Mary Shanahan</i> <i>Pray for Gay O' Donnell</i>

- Today's feast, a powerful reminder of the vocation to which we are called, Baptism was not over and done with when the priest poured water over our infant foreheads. The truth is we are being baptised by everything that happens to us in life. We are baptised by trials and difficulties, in their turbulent waters we are purified of all that is false and useless. We are baptised by suffering, in its murky waters we experience the goodness of life. We are baptised by love, in its singing waters we blossom like flowers in the sun. To be baptised is to be christened, which means to be made like Christ. The sacrament, however, only begins this. It is like the planting of a seed to grow and ripen, for the image of Christ to be formed in us.
- The priests would like to **thank you** for your continued support and contribution to the recent Christmas Collection. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
- The 2018 series of the **Dunhill History Lectures** will begin this Thursday 11th January, in the Dunhill Multi Education Centre at 8.00 p.m. The first speaker will be Julian Walton and his title is: *'Despicable jackals and gallant submariners: Waterford in the U-boat campaign of World War One'* The series will continue every Thursday evening until 22nd March. The full programme will be announced shortly. We hope you will be able to attend.
- The annual **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** will take place this year from 6th to 11th June. Bookings will soon be open at the Joe Walsh Tours office at St. John's Pastoral Centre, John's Hill, Waterford. You may contact Warren via telephone if you wish on 051-878900. This is a special year in Lourdes – they are celebrating the 160th Anniversary of the Apparition. The Diocese of Waterford and Lismore are celebrating their 60th anniversary. Please do join us for this special event in our Diocese.
- **Lectio Divina** will continue in St. John's Pastoral Centre each Wednesday evening at 7.30 p.m. It will be facilitated by the Sisters of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Each week, the Liturgical Readings will be studied for the following weekend, and a greater and deeper understanding of them will be reflected upon. Donation of €5.00. All are welcome
- **A year of time** Even though thinking on the subject of time may prove discomfoting, it is not a bad idea, especially at the beginning of a new year. As we look back into 2017 we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. All is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchase it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life. But the gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak - every man, woman and child has the exact same 24 hours, 1,440 minutes and 86,400 seconds every day. Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on. In addition, you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block in time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any part of it. Time is obviously one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it, worry over it, spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in building up the Kingdom of God.
- **Last week's** Parish Collection: Masses €401.47 Envelopes €465.80. Thank you for your support.