

We are God's Family



Today is the feast of the Holy Family and the readings encompass three very different families. In the first reading we hear about Elkanah and Hannah and their little boy Samuel. Hannah had been unable to conceive had been getting grief from other women for many years. They had been accustomed to going up to the temple every year for the annual feast, but now at last that she has had her baby whom she in prayer had promised to God, she was reluctant to go up to Jerusalem until Samuel was old enough to be left with the family of the high priest Eli.

In the gospel we encounter another family who also go up to the temple annually for the Passover feast; Joseph and Mary with their son Jesus who now, at the age of 12, is considered a young adult. They would have gone as usual with a large group from their own village, walking and camping together along the way. After the feast they leave Jerusalem in the company of the other villagers, and it is only at the end of the first day's walking that they realise that Jesus is not with his friends or any of the neighbours. Any parent who has experienced a child missing even for a short time can appreciate what they went through. They journey back to Jerusalem, eyes alert for any sight of Him, asking everybody they meet had they seen Him. When they finally find Him, Mary remains patient and asks Him "Why" and then tells Him how they have felt because of his absence from the group. What an example for us parents. So often fear and anxiety can manifest itself initially in anger at a child. We can learn from Mary.

The second reading is an excerpt from St. John's first letter to a Christian community experiencing difficulties. He says to them, "**Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children: and that is what we are.**" Did he pause before he wrote the words "**and that is what we are?**" It is a thought almost too profound to be taken in, and yet it is a reality. Each one of us is a child of God, created in love by God and loved unconditionally by God all the days of our life and forever more.

Bible Study Group

Father Melvyn and Father James wish all their Parishioners every blessing for a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

ANNIVERSARIES & INTENTIONS REMEMBERED

- ✦ **Mon 31st Dec** 10am: John Nealon
- ✦ **Wed 2nd Jan** 10am: Bridget Roche, Special Intention -100th Birthday
- ✦ **Sat 5th Jan** 6pm: Sonny Rogan, Anne McEvoy, William McGarry, Dolores O'Byrne
- ✦ **Sun 6th Jan** 9.30am: Amelia Tonon
- ✦ **Sun 6th Jan** 11am: Dessie Delemere

WE WELCOME

Finn Guiney, Rian Maypothor & Lucy Horgan who were baptised recently into our Parish family.



A BIG THANK YOU

Thank you to those who made our Parish Church such a warm, beautiful and welcoming space this Christmas. No doubt many hands were involved and the result is magnificent. Thanks to all who contributed in any way to the prayerful and meaningful Liturgy of the ceremonies - singers, musicians, altar servers, collectors and stewards. Skerries Parish is blessed to have such a wealth of volunteers.

SCOIL RÉALT NA MARA



Pre-enrolment for Junior Infant Classes for September 2019 will take place from **Monday 7th January to Friday 18th January** between 9am and 1pm on school days.

Contact: Máire Ni Ódhráin 01 8490049.

30 YEARS AGO IN THE PARISH

- Christmas baptisms were Melissa O'Grady and Colum Wilde.
- Twelve new Ministers of the Eucharist were welcomed.
- St. Vincent de Paul Society thanked all those schools, clubs, residents groups and individuals who had contributed to the Christmas Hampers or donated money. The pre-Christmas Annual Appeal had brought in £2,757 - a very considerable sum.
- Skerries Community Centre, Skerries Harps, Mourne Summer Project, Hills Cricket Club, Skerries Meals on Wheels & Skerries 98th all sent Christmas and New Year greetings.
- Skerries Swimming Club congratulated Leah Foley, Caroline MacManus, J.Tanner, Tim Noone, Thomas Connolly, Gerry Reddy, Emma Quirke, D. Gibney, Maeve Mullins, Brian Tierney, B. Sullivan and Kerry Foley on their recent award.



SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

Thanks to all who supported our Charity games and Golf over Christmas. All the proceeds from

Games and Golf go to the local branch of St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Christmas Draw winner was Pat Boylan – full results available on Facebook page. Zingo. 3, 1, 4, 6, 5, 7, 2. Jackpot now €3,000.

Next Zingo is at 6.30 pm on Sunday. Entry only €2 or 3 lines for €5. You can also join online – see link on club website.

Christmas Tree collection service to aid our Féile 2019 teams - Trees collected and disposed of on **Sun 6 Jan for €5**. Tags available from most tree suppliers.

Mon 31st New Years Eve Party hosted by Aoife and Heather for Nurture Africa at 8 pm. Glitz and Glam, Music, Food, Prosecco. Tickets €20 from 086 0839137.

A Happy New Year to all club members, sponsors and supporters and wishing a successful year to all the local Skerries clubs who do so much for our Community.

Athbhliain faoi siochain daoibh go léir agus go n'éiri an t-ádh libh. For details of Membership fees 2019 see website www.skerriesharps.ie



SKERRIES BOWLS CLUB

Members - don't forget to drop down to the Club on New Year's Day at 11.30am for a fun one-ball roll up for a bottle of bubbly! Happy New Year to all members.

PANAMA IN DUBLIN

Are you aged 16-29? Do you dare to say 'Yes'... then why not join us for Panama in Dublin from **Sat 26th to Sun 27th Jan 2019** at Emmaus Retreat Centre near Swords, to mark and link with **World Youth Day 2019** in Panama.

We will have music, talks, the Pope's homilies from Panama, food, fellowship, fun and more. Register your interest by emailing us at: wynthathome@dublindiocese.ie If you're aged 18-29 and would like to volunteer for this exciting event, pop us an email to the same address with 'volunteer' in the subject line!

Follow us on Face book at: WYD@Home – Panama in Dublin"

NOLLAIG NA MBAN

Skerries Mills Book Group cordially invite you to an afternoon of music and stories from 2 - 4pm on **Sunday 6th January** in the Mills tearooms. Admission free. Raffle in aid of St Luke's Cancer Hospital - tickets €5.



BULLETIN TEAM

The Bulletin team wishes all our readers a very Happy and Peaceful New Year. Thanks to all who have made donations to our funds during the year. Thank you to those who supply us with news, in particular the staff of the Parish Office and to those who write our weekly Reflection. Without you, we would have no news.

This November we celebrated 40 years of the Bulletin - we look forward to continuing to bring you the Parish News each weekend for many more to come. Adrienne, Annette, Benny, Eilish, Frances, Geraldine, Joan, Louise, Kathleen, Marie, Mary D, Mary G, Nora, & Tom.



ITEMS FOR THE BULLETIN

Please forward items for inclusion in the Bulletin to skerriesbulletin@hotmail.com by **4pm** on **Wednesdays** or leave in the **Parish Office** no later than **12.30pm** on Wednesdays.