

**Parish of the Assumption of Our Lady  
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**BULLETIN C 6 – 2ND JANUARY 2022  
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

My dear brothers and sisters,

As the world celebrates the start of a New Year all our hopes are for a better, safer, healthier 2022. As to 2021 our collective dream is “it’s behind you” as they say in pantomimes!! Before we put 2021 to bed I would like to express my gratitude for those who helped to make Christmas so beautiful this year. Those who gave time and skills in cleaning, decorating, and making our church ready for the feast. So too the choir who gave their time in extra practices for the Carol Service and for the Christmas masses. One person in particular who helped in so many ways is Deacon Michael, to whom we all who owe a debt of gratitude, but a deacon is not just for Christmas, he’s there all year through! So thank you Deacon Michael for your ministry among us.

I also would like to thank all who gave cards and gifts and cash this Christmas, such generosity shows the affection with which I am held, and that feeling is mutual!  
God bless you all now and throughout 2022.

Fr. John

PS. Coffee after mass resumes on Sundays and Thursdays from this week onwards.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Mgr Keith Newton the Ordinariate’s Ordinary will be visiting the parish on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January and will Celebrate and preach at the 10am Mass.

**TIMES OF MASS DURING THIS WEEK**

Sun	2	2nd Sunday of Christmas	1000 Sung Mass 1800 Mass	for all parishioners Gerrard Doyle (RIP)
Tue	4	feria of Christmastime	1900 Mass	Hasledon Family (RIP)
Wed	5	feria of Christmastime	1000 Mass 1020 Adoration	Rose & Patrick Fitzgerald (RIP)
Thu	6	Epiphany of the Lord	1000 Mass 1900 Mass	Pete & Emma McEntee (INT) for all parishioners
Fri	7	feria of Christmastime	1000 Mass	Veronica & Rose Fitzgerald (RIP)
Sun	9	Baptism of the Lord	1000 Mass 1800 Mass	the recently Baptised for all parishioners

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Fr. John is available to hear confession on Tuesday at 6.30pm and Wednesday at 10.30am

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

When something new is invented, we have an innate tendency to say, "It will never catch on!" People have said it about railways, the combustion engine, powered flight, television, the internet... the list is endless. Later, looking back, we find it hard to think of a world in which these inventions did not exist. Human inventions have taken over from nature in providing us with the background to our lives. For most of us, wherever we live, it's hard to escape the hum of traffic, the vapour trails in the sky or the presence of chemicals in our air, water and food.

Possibly one of our greatest inventions is our capacity to record all that happens around us. We began as human beings with the great gift of memory, and for a long time we relied on spoken traditions and assimilated practices to pass on our culture and beliefs. Then came the written word and pictures, codifying our lives but also continuing the work of imagination in art, poetry and song. Later came the world of radio, telephone and television. Now, with the microchip's extraordinary abilities, we can record everything and communicate everything. The question is whether this creative blitz, with all the power of modern technology, overwhelms our human receivers – our ears, eyes and feelings. How do we discern what is true and what is good in all this glittering world?

The whole of John's Gospel is the evangelist's attempt to answer this question of discernment. Jesus is portrayed as the healer and teacher who embodies in himself the truth we search. As Jesus will say to Thomas: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." In the Prologue to his Gospel John summarises the historical sweep of this act of revelation. The Word was always in the world. It was there before the world began, intimately involved with its creation. It was there in creation itself, but people failed to recognise it, even though it was the life and light by which they existed.

John the Baptist came to announce that the Word was coming into the world in a new way. The Word became flesh. He became a human being, not through purely human action but by the power of God. He did this so that we in our turn might become children of God. If we accept him, if we believe in him, then we see and share in his glory. In the history of salvation the Law may have come through Moses, but grace and truth come through the person of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel itself Jesus will fill out this unfolding story of salvation. He will show signs, he will heal, he will teach, each word and event pointing out how he offers us what God offers, calling us to believe in him so that we may have the gift of eternal life. This is our sharing in his glory, our being with him in the love he shares with his Father.

We have different ways of knowing, different ways of understanding in our world. We have truths of the heart and truths of the mind. Ultimately they all come together in harmony, but from our partial viewpoints the threads that link and unite may be invisible. We often see more easily the differences, the conflicts between beliefs, truths and convictions. This affects not just the way we think but the way we live. We may see the differences between ourselves and our neighbours as dividing us rather than building a new and greater unity.

However, in our celebration of the coming of Christ into the world we celebrate the unifying link between the threads. He is the one who brings the different colours of the spectrum into glorious unity. It is an act of faith that joins us to him, a truth of the heart that leads us to shape differently the truths of reason, heart and experience so that they blend rather than fragment. Each hand I touch is that of a friend, not an enemy. Each word I hear I use to increase my wisdom rather than to disown or disrespect its speaker. We uncover the mystery of God's love for us and in so doing discover the love that binds us together in our world. Once taken into this mystery we cannot let it go, for we have been taken into the mystery of God's own glory.