

Kilbrittain Parish Weekly Bulletin

No 272

30th Dec 2018

First Sunday after Christmas FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Masses This Week

Monday to Saturday 10.00 am

TUESDAY, NEW YEAR'S DAY,
SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER
OF GOD is not a Holy Day of
Obligation.

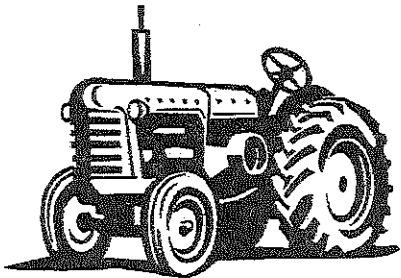
Friday next is the First Friday.

Sunday Next is the Feast of the
Epiphany.

Autism Tractor Run

Annual Run takes place this

Sunday, Dec 30th, starting after
10.30 Mass.



TODAY'S GOSPEL

Today's Gospel episode is the story of the finding of the child Jesus in the Temple – a story that makes us question whether Jesus was like other boys. The Jesus' parents every year went to Jerusalem for the great feast of Passover showed them to be deeply pious. They trained their son to be the same. At this time, only the Jewish men who lived in Judea, and were thus close by, were obliged at all. But many who weren't strictly obliged often attended out of devotion.

On this twelfth birthday, a young Jewish male became Bar Mitzvah, "a son of the Law", and assumed the obligations of the Mosaic Code. It was the age when a boy began the practice of his chosen trade. We can well imagine how the Holy City, the Temple precincts, and the sacred ritual fascinated the boy Jesus.

When an Eastern caravan like the one for a Passover celebration got under way, all was noise, confusion, and excitement.

Usually the women started earlier than the men each day, because their travel was slower. The two sections wouldn't meet until both had reached the evening encampment. It wasn't through carelessness, then, that Mary and Joseph missed Jesus. No doubt Joseph thought he was with Mary and Mary though he was with Joseph. Jesus was at the age when the men could accept that he was still among the children who were with their mothers and when the women wouldn't be surprised to think he'd joined the men.

During the Passover season, it was the custom of the Sanhedrin to meet publicly to discuss religious questions for all who were interested. The Rabbis sat on a chair with their pupils sitting on the ground at their feet. Jesus, searching for knowledge like an eager student, was listening to them and asking them questions.

Upon finding the child Jesus, Mary, like any mother finding a lost child, was probably torn between hugging and spanking him. She informed the young Jesus that Joseph and she had been looking for him with great anxiety. Jesus deftly took the name "father" from Mary's imputation of it to Joseph and gave it to God: "Did you not know I must be in my Father's house (namely, the Temple)?"

This was Jesus' first recorded public utterance, and it reveals that his reflections had led him to knowing something of who he was. When did that moment arrive that he knew himself to be different — unique? As Jesus grew older, he continually manifested greater graciousness because like all thinking

people, he grew in wisdom. As God, Jesus had infinite knowledge. As man, his mind could advance in experiential knowledge. And God intended many lessons from Jesus' "hidden life" in Nazareth — for one, the lesson that prominent and brilliant successes aren't essential elements of a noble life. Millions of the beloved of God are to be found among the obscure. But, as Luke's Gospel says, he grew. Growth is a part of human existence, and Jesus realized its fullest possibilities.

Lest we think that Jesus' words to his parents showed undue independence, Luke stresses Jesus' obedience toward them. Whatever he knew of his special relationship to God, it didn't cause him to look down on his parents, the gentle Mary and the hard-working Joseph.

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH,
KILBRITTAIN
Fr Jerry Cremin PP
Member of Irish Confraternity of Catholic
Clergy
023-8849637 / 087-7857712
Email: mail@frcremin.com.

Websites: www.kilbrittain.org
www.frcremin.com

BAPTISMS:
Sat and 11.30 Sun or by arrangement.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:
Mon 9 to 1; Wed 2 to 8

Items for the Bulletin can be given or emailed to Denis and Margaret Collins: killeenskilbrittain@yahoo.ie or to Fr Cremin: mail@frcremin.com.
Deadline for receipt of submissions each week is Thurs night 9.00 pm.
Weekly Bulletin online at <http://www.frcremin.com/news.html>