

From the Pastor's Office

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, January 1

One of the lovely traditions in Ireland, at this time of the year, is to celebrate what we call Women's Christmas. Mom spent her Christmas holidays slaving in the kitchen. It is proper that we appreciate her effort and take her out to dinner. At this time of the year in Ireland it is impossible to book a table for dinner out. Every table is booked by families celebrating Mom. Bookings in the restaurant are for 10, 15, 20 people. Mom gets presents and words of appreciation. Before we launch ourselves into another frenzied year we want take a moment to appreciate Mary, the Mother of God. Moses' blessing to the Israelites becomes our blessing to Mary today. "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace." Mary was a young girl. In a minute her whole life changed. How on earth do you come to terms with an announcement that you are to become the Mother of the Savior? Like every young girl, Mary lived under the shadow and protection of her parents. She kept her head down and did her chores and acted like a nice dutiful daughter. Then she became world-famous. Her name is mentioned throughout history. Just like John the Baptist. His job in our salvation story was to point out Jesus in the crowd and tell the people that Jesus of Nazareth was the Savior of Israel. Mary's job was to tell us that her child was born. A healthy baby. Mary became the protector of Jesus throughout his life. She is also our protectress. We feel a little bit safer and cherished because Mary the Mother of God watches over us as well. That is a wonderful thing to consider. Happy New Year, everyone! Fr. Ray goes home to India in the next few days. We wish him a lovely vacation with his family. Travel safe Fr. Ray and come back to us. We love you.



With love,
Fr. Pat