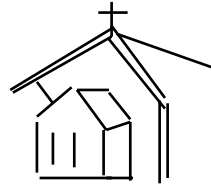


**GLANMIRE PARISH**  
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Masses in Glanmire					
St Joseph's Church			St Michael's Church		
Mon-Fri	10:00am	Daily Mass	Sun	09:30am	Sunday Mass
Sat	6:00pm	Vigil Mass			
Sun	10:30am	Sunday Mass			
	12:00noon	Sunday Mass			
First Saturday	10:00am				

Masses streamed on <https://www.mcmedia.tv/camera/st-josephs-church-glanmire>

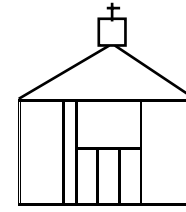
Fr John Newman Tel.087 2485684. Fr Pat Nugent Tel. 087 0518239  
Office open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30am am to 2 pm.  
Tel: (021) 4820654 email: office @glanmireparish.ie  
[www.glanmireparish.ie](http://www.glanmireparish.ie) [www.facebook.com/GlanmireCatholicParish](https://www.facebook.com/GlanmireCatholicParish) @ParishGlanmire

**Christmas Masses**

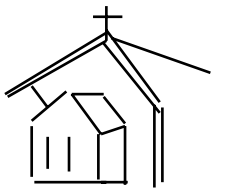
There will be ten masses celebrated in Glanmire Parish at Christmas, seven in St Joseph's Church and three in St Michael's Church, as below.

Unfortunately, because of government restrictions, you must make a reservation to be able to attend a Christmas mass. Please visit [www.glanmireparish.ie](http://www.glanmireparish.ie) for details on how to book masses. This will also contain up-to-date information on remaining capacity per mass.

St Joseph's Church		St Michael's Church	
Christmas Eve	4:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:30 pm 9:00 pm	Christmas Eve	7:30 pm
Christmas Day	9:00 am 10:30am 12:00 noon	Christmas Day	9:30 am 11:00 am



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**Information from the Bishop**

Dr Fintan Gavin, Bishop of Cork and Ross, has made the following observations with regard to church services and the celebration of the sacraments.

**Public Worship**

The restrictions in place from 1st December are similar to the ones in place at Level 2 before 6th October last. According to the recent government announcement, the current restrictions are a 'special concession for places of worship in light of the upcoming Christmas period and to be reviewed in January'. Parishes have been very attentive to restrictions since churches re-opened for public worship on 29th June with the assistance of stewards and volunteers who have sanitised churches between Masses and we will again be indebted to these generous volunteers.

**Current guidance** in relation to public worship is as follows:

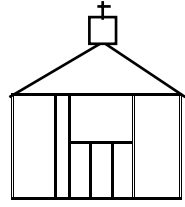
- Up to 50 people can attend socially distanced if the capacity of the church allows.
- More than 50 people can be present if the capacity of the church allows for it to be subdivided into distinct sections (pods) of not more than 50 people in each pod. The churches in Glanmire parish can accommodate one pod only.
- Face coverings are required.
- No gatherings outside the church to take place. This means that the outside microphone at St Joseph's Church cannot be turned on and people may not congregate in the plaza area near the door.
- At least one hour should be allowed between Masses in the same church for cleaning and ventilation and to avoid overlap of congregations.

**Christmas Masses (Christmas Eve – Epiphany)**

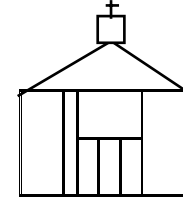
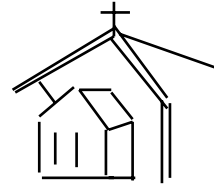
The biggest challenge for parishes will be to manage expectations and attendances for Christmas Masses. In light of the restrictions it will not be possible to accommodate attendances on the scale of previous years. Bishop Gavin asks the priests to work with the Parish Pastoral Assembly and dedicated volunteers to devise ways of managing numbers and expectations and a pre booking system may well be required. In fact, a pre-booking system has been put in place in Glanmire parish and many of the masses are fully booked with a small number of spaces available at others.

We have repeatedly announced this procedure at the regular parish masses and we will continue to announce it so that people will be well informed in good time before Christmas day. We want to avoid the embarrassing and awkward situation whereby people show up at the church doors and have to be turned away. We do apologise for any inconvenience caused but we are prioritising people's safety above all else as we have been asked to do.

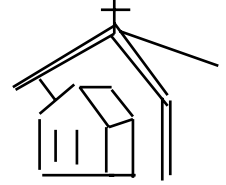
Do remember that **all masses in St Joseph's Church are available on the live stream** service which can be accessed from the [glanmireparish.ie](http://glanmireparish.ie) website. Also, be aware that people can join in Christmas Mass on any day from Christmas Eve to the Feast of the Epiphany over the twelve days of the Christmas Season.



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**Choirs and Congregational Singing**

Government guidance in relation to choirs and congregational singing was issued on Friday 4th December last as follows:

- Choir singing and congregational singing are not permitted.
- Playing musical instruments that are wind-blown by a person should be avoided.
- Playing other instrumental music (e.g. string, percussion) is possible.

**In Glanmire parish** we will not have choral singing in the church this Christmas. Members of the choir plan to gather in the open air and sing carols before the 9:00pm mass. This should set the Christmas spirit nicely. Cantors, organists and family groups will provide music at the Christmas masses and we are grateful to all involved.

**Crib Visits**

Bishop Gavin says people can be encouraged or ‘messed’ to visit the Crib individually or as a family over the Christmas Season if they are hesitant to attend Mass or if it is not possible due to restricted numbers. There are cribs in the churches and Glanmire Men’s Shed have erected a beautifully colourful crib at the Marian Grotto.

**Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Bishop Gavin writes: “This has been a difficult year for people and Confession will be very important for them in their spiritual life. I ask that you continue to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent. It will not be possible to celebrate the Sacrament using Rite Two this year. However, it is possible to celebrate a liturgy of Perfect Contrition online with people resolving to go to Confession as soon as possible afterwards when it is possible to do so.” Rite Two takes place when people walk up to the priest and confess their sins directly. In Glanmire Parish there will be an on-line Penitential Service **on Monday 21 December at 7:30pm**. As Bishop asks, people can participate remotely that evening and go to confession in the New Year. Confession will be available after mass on **Tues, Wed, and Thur, 22-24 Dec.**

**Funerals**

Up to 25 mourners can attend a Funeral Mass.

**Weddings**

Up to 25 guests can attend the celebration of marriage in a church.

**Baptisms**

Baptisms can be arranged and celebrated with small numbers in attendance. As there is no government guidance in relation to number of people who can be present it is best to keep numbers small to include parents, godparents, the child’s siblings and possibly grandparents.

**Dues Envelopes**

The Dues envelopes are being distributed at the moment. Apologies that they are going out so close to Christmas. There are still some bundles in the sacristy. If you can help, please call to the sacristy after mass, collect a bundle, and distribute the envelopes to the houses this week.

**Offertory Envelopes**

Parish secretary Eileen has the Offertory envelopes in the Parish Office. Please collect your 2021 envelopes at your earliest convenience.

**Mass & Stewarding**

A meeting for the Church stewards will take place in the church on **Tuesday 22nd December at 7:30pm** to go through the Christmas mass protocols. If anyone can help as a steward to ensure the safe running of masses during the Christmas period you are welcome to that meeting.