

The central message for people of faith in every generation is summed up in the name given to the Messiah in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah – Emmanuel “**God is with us**”. Through the birth of the infant Jesus we are assured of God’s abiding presence with us.

Let us keep Christ at the centre of our celebrations this Christmas. There are many special prayer moments that we can celebrate together as a family – a visit to the crib, gathering around the lighting of the Christmas candle, before our meals where we can invite the children to lead the prayer as they have learnt in school. At the time of the Angelus the family may gather to pray God’s blessing on all family members at home and those who may be far from home.

The winter days will give way to the gradual coming of spring and we look with hope and trust to the coming year, 2021. Christmas will be different this year with smaller church congregations– quieter and more reflective celebrations. Through all, we keep our focus on the Christ child.

My sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the wellbeing and safety of our parishioners through their involvement in their local parishes during these past months.

Once again, I would like to wish you and your families a Very Happy Christmas and New Year as we look forward to a brighter 2021.

Nollaig Shona Agus Rath Dé oraibh I gconaí.

+ Kieran

23.12.2020