



**Staff of the Pro-Cathedral** - Fr Kieran McDermott, Adm., Sr. Patricia Somers, RSC (Parish Sister)  
Fr Brendan Staunton, SJ, P.C., Monsignor Francis Walsh, P.C.

## *Christmas Message*

*from the Administrator of St Mary's Pro-Cathedral*

Traditionally, Christmas is a time of peace and joy, a time to celebrate with family, with friends and loved ones. As Christians the source of our joy is recorded in St Matthew's Gospel: "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel- which means, 'God with us'" (Mt 1:22-23).

The Christmas message is a challenge and a call for all of us to become more involved. It is not so much a question of giving more; it is a question of giving more of ourselves. But then, that's what God was doing when he got involved with us and our world at Christmas. Christmas belongs to the baptised, to those who believe that Jesus Christ, Son of God, was born of the Virgin Mary to reconcile us to one another and to the Father. This is why he came. At Christmas we should also remember the implications of what it is to be baptised. We the baptised and anointed are commissioned to 'Go out into the World' to be alongside the men and women of our times in their own struggles in life, especially the families - as Pope Francis continually reminds us - who live on the periphery of society. When the Pope talks about "the periphery" he is not talking just about the geographical or economic peripheries of society - though this is also vital - but of the profound peripheries of alienation and hopelessness and suffering and search for meaning that exists among the men and women of our time. If our parish is to be fit for the task we need your talent and time and there are a variety of ways that you can do this. I invite you to get in touch with us after Christmas via the parish office or through our email address, [procathedral@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:procathedral@dublindiocese.ie)

Finally, a prayer: May God fill us with his peace, whose coming among us at the first Christmas gives meaning and purpose to our lives.

Happy **Christmas!**

*Fr Kieran McDermott*



### *Thank You*

The amount collected at the Carol Service last Sunday for Blossom Ireland was **€2,486.**

Auveen Bell, CEO & Co-Founder of Blossom Ireland would like to extend her sincere thanks to all here in St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral for their kindness and generosity.

**Christmas Schedule**  
*are available at the  
back of the Church*

**Thank You** 16<sup>th</sup> /17<sup>th</sup> December  
1<sup>st</sup> Collection €1,235  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (*Share*) €885