

3rd Sunday of Advent



14th December 2014

MASS INTENTIONS

- 6:30pm** Thomas Malone (A)
9:00am Altar List of the Dead
11:00am Gustavo Cafolla & Gemma O'Toole (A)
12:30pm Bridget Darcy (A)
5:30pm Tom & Ita McArdle (A)

PRAY FOR

Stephen O'Gorman (2nd A)

MASSES NEXT WEEK 10.00 AM

- Mon:** Rosanna McDonnell (RD)
Tue: Margaret Farrell (RD)
Wed: Margaret Doyle & Dcsd Family Members
Thurs: Eileen Byrne (A)
Fri: Dcsd Members of Rooney & Kelly Families
Sat: Tony McCarthy (MM)

MSZE SWIETA W JERYKU POLSKIM

Msze Swieta w Jeryku Polskim dzisiaj, Niedziele 14 Grundzien, o godz 18:45. (Spowiedz 18:15 – 18:40).

THE ROSARY

The Rosary Statue was blessed for use in the homes of the parish at the October Candlelight Procession. If you would like to pray the rosary and have the statue in your home for a week, or get more information, please contact a member of Legion of Mary in main porch after Sunday morning Masses.

NATIVITY PLAY

Any children who would like to participate in the Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at the 6:00pm Mass, please give their names to the Family Mass Team after 12:30pm Mass this Sunday. Angels and shepherds needed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Next Do This In Memory Mass: Sat 13th & Sun 14th December

Carol Service: Wed 17th December at 7:30pm

Dates for Baptisms in January:

Saturday 10th January at 4:00pm
Sunday 11th January during 11am & 12:30pm Mass
Saturday 24th January at 4:00pm
Sunday 25th January at 2:00pm

Parent/Guardian Meeting is **Thursday 8th January at 8:00pm.**

Please contact the Parish Office for details.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Times of Adoration are:

- Mon: 10.30 am – 11.30 am**
Fri: 10.30am – 5.45 pm
Sat: 10.30am – 11.30am

Please note there is **NO Wednesday night Adoration over the Christmas period**, until Wednesday 7th January 2015. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on each Sunday of Advent from 4 - 5 pm.

Adoration will be available on:

- Friday 26th December 10:30am – 1pm**
Wednesday 31st December 10:30am – 1pm

FAMILY OFFERING

We thank all those parishioners who support the running of the parish through the Parish Family Offering fund. The Weekly Outdoor collection for last week amounted to €795.07. The Family Offering Envelope Collection is the **ONLY** one which supports the daily running costs of the Parish and the upkeep of the Church. Thank you for your commitment to this collection.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Advent Reconciliation Services will take place on:

Monday 22nd December in **St. Colmcille's Church, Swords** at 7:30pm

Tuesday 23rd December in **St. Finian's Church, River Valley**, at 7:30pm.

MYAM YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Myam Young Adult group invite you to join them for their Advent Evening Prayer in Taizé Style on Tuesday next (16th Dec) from 8-9pm in the Prayer Chapel of St. Sylvester's Church, Malahide and also for their December Mini-Nightfever Malahide on Saturday next 20th Dec from 7:30-10:30pm in St. Sylvester's Church. All welcome to both events.

ADVENT

Christmas cards & Timetables are ready for distribution & any help would be greatly appreciated. Abbeyvale, Bunbury Gate Crescent, Cianlea & Knocksedan left.

Travelling Crib: The Travelling Crib will return at the Family Mass at 6:00pm on Christmas Eve. It is very suitable for teaching children the meaning of Christmas and also gives a way of praying as a family together. There is still 1 place left, if you would like the crib in your home for a night. Please contact the Parish Office.

Carol Service in St. Columba's Church: On the Sunday 21st December Rev. Robert Deane and the community of St. Columba's Parish have invited us to join them for their Carol Service which starts at 3:00pm.

Carol Service: On Wednesday 17th December at 7:30pm the Junior and Senior Choirs with the Family Mass Group will lead us in reflecting on the Christmas Story and leading us in the carols we know and love so well.

PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUETS

Parish Christmas Mass Bouquets, nativity sets, calendars, some Christmas cards, children's Bibles and other Christmas gifts available from Legion of Mary in main porch after Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses.

DARE TO LIVE SOS HELPLINE

Approximately 1,000,000 people complete suicide every year. 1 every 40 seconds. It's Time to Change the Statistics. Suicidal? Feeling Alone over The Christmas Period? *Dare to Live* SOS Have a Christmas Presence for You:

Christmas Day Helpline
12.00pm- 3.00pm
01-857 6901

Dare To Live SOS are a group of survivors who chose not to become another rising statistic. All members of SOS have had a personal experience with being faced with the choice of suicide and want to spread the hope that there is an alternative. We have the understanding of what it feels like to be in that situation and how we got out of it. We are a society that is suffering from a severe deficiency of HOPE, *Dare to Live* SOS are a hub of survivors that choose to give the gift of Hope and Support this Christmas.

BETHLEHEM SKY

With Liam Lawton Gardiner St Church, Tuesday Dec 16th at 8pm. Tickets on sale at €10 at the Parish Office, and Postal bookings may be made to St Francis Xavier's, Gardiner St, Dublin 1, enclosing €10 per ticket and tickets will be posted to you. After the usual expenses, all proceeds will be given to Friends of the Elderly of our locality. A beautiful evening to prepare for Christmas is promised.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU IN BRACKENSTOWN

One of the ways to prepare for Christmas is to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). In a local initiative the three Parishes of the Swords area have put together a bookmark with the times of Confession and the Reconciliation Services. We invite you to take two, one for yourself and one to pass on to someone else.

ANNUAL APPEAL FOR THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)

This weekend the SHARE collection is replaced by the special collection for the Vincent de Paul Society. Even though we are told that there are signs of recovery in the economy, the members of the local conference are facing the greatest challenges they have ever done. One member who has been involved for over 12 years says things have never been as bad in all her years, as families face into rent arrears, mortgage shortfalls and trying to feed, clothe and educate their families.

Your generosity to the monthly collections and this annual collection as well as your support for the Lions Club food drive allow the conferences to help families in our area.

The money given locally stays local.

Given the size of our Parish, there are two Conferences working here, the Brackenstown Conference and the Rolestown Conference. Aside from funding the biggest challenge for the SVP is volunteers. Our Brackenstown Conference is down to its lowest level of members and urgently needs new people to join them. If you have time on your hands and would like to find out more about what the Conference does and what the time commitment is, please email your details to the Parish Office brackenstownparish@gmail.com or contact SVP headquarters directly.

Many questions are raised about how charities use funds and the SVP break it down on their website like this:

Our commitment to our supporters:

- As an organisation we endeavour to keep administration costs at 10% of expenditure.
- We can confirm that we do not pay any 'top-ups' to any staff member.
- The National Management Council (Board) of St Vincent de Paul are volunteers and are not paid by the Society.
- Donations that are given locally are spent locally.

Please help in whatever way that you can this year. Our Parish has always given extremely generously to the appeal, and from the conference members and those they support – **A very sincere THANK YOU.**

REMEMBERING THOSE AWAY THIS CHRISTMAS

At the back of the Church is a table with the stars and angels. On the blank (white) side of the star write the name of someone you want to remember who is away from home this Christmas either working abroad or those who have died.

The angels are to remember babies and children who have died, infants who were stillborn or died before birth write their names on the blank (white) side of the angel. Many wish also to remember babies they lost through miscarriage who may never have been named and for whom you could simply write the year on the blank (white) side of the angel. When you have written the names on the stars or angels put them in the box and they will be put on the Christmas Tree.

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Consecrated Life In Today's Church – Gospel, Prophecy, Hope

Earlier this year, Pope Francis decided to proclaim a **Year of Consecrated Life** on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church Lumen Gentium and on the renewal of religious life. The opening of this year began on the First Sunday of Advent and will continue until 2nd February 2016.

In his opening message Pope Francis said..."I invite every Christian community to experience this Year above all as a moment of thanksgiving to the Lord and grateful remembrance for all the gifts we continue to receive." The Logo, designed for the Year of Consecrated Life, expresses through symbols the fundamental values of consecrated life. In it we recognise the "unceasing work of the Holy Spirit, who in every age shows forth the richness of the practice of the evangelical counsels through a multiplicity of charisms. In this way too he makes ever present in the Church and in the world, in time and space, the mystery of Christ." (VC5).

Pope Francis has challenged all religious but also the laity, to live this year in a spirit of Joy and outlined the Aims of the Year: Look to the past with gratitude; Live the present with passion; Embrace the future with hope.

"You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished! Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things".

*Srs Eileen & Julie
Sisters of Marie Reparatrice*



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday 17th December at 7:30pm

A family celebration with the story of Christmas told through readings, drama and popular carols to sing together.

Refreshments & Mulled Wine afterwards – please come and join us!