

4th Sunday of Advent



21st December 2014

MASS INTENTIONS

6:30pm Kevin Donnelly (B'day Rem)

9.00am Altar List of the Dead

11.00am Kathleen, Maire & Aisling
Skelton (A)

12.30pm John Hughes & Family (Rem)

5.30pm Gerry Macken (A)

PRAY FOR

Delores Edwards (A)

Anthony Marmion (A)

MASSES NEXT WEEK 10.00 AM

Mon: Laurence Wolohan (A)

Tue: Kathleen & Sandra Brophy (A)

Pray for: Noel Hoey (A)

Wed: Eileen McGuirk (Rem)

Thurs: Christmas Day – for intentions
of Parish Christmas Cards

Fri: John Scahill (RD)

Sat: John & Gerard McKenna, Rose
Lundy & D'csd Family Members

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

Children participating in Nativity Play on Christmas Eve are asked to come to the Church an hour before Mass begins at 6:00pm.

BAPTISMS

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 €670.71. 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

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.

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.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

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.

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.

PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUETS

Parish Christmas Mass Bouquets, nativity sets, Church Art calendars, Christmas cards, *gifts from the Holy Land*, Children's Bibles and other Christmas gifts available from Legion of Mary in main porch after Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses.

**WE WISH ALL OUR PARISHIONERS A
HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS AND
EVERY BLESSING FOR 2015.**



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

Vigil Mass at 6.00pm

Mass of the Nativity at 9.30pm (Preceded by Carols at 9.15pm)

Thursday 25th December (Christmas Day)

Masses 9.00am, 11.00am and 12.30pm **No Evening Mass**

Friday 26th December and Saturday 27th December

Mass at 10.00am

Sunday 28th December

Vigil Mass 6.30pm (Saturday), 9.00am, 11.00am, 12.30pm and 5.30pm

Monday to Wednesday 29th to 31st December

Mass at 10.00am

Thursday 1st January 2015 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass at 10.00am (Day of Prayer for Peace)

Tuesday 6th January 2015 (Feast of the Epiphany)

Vigil Mass (Monday) 7:30pm and Morning Mass (Tuesday) 10:00am

Epiphany Gifts can be brought to all Masses

Alice Leahy of TRUST is the benefactor of our Epiphany Gifts.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Swords

Monday 22nd December at 7.30pm

River Valley

Tuesday 23rd December at 7.30pm

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday 24th December

10.30am – 12.00pm & 2.00pm - 3.00pm

At Christmas we receive many gifts from people and often find that we have too many and would like to pass some of them on to those who maybe didn't get a gift. If you have any extra gifts you can bring them to the crib on the 4th, 5th and 6th January.

This is our Epiphany Gifts Appeal. We will pass on your gifts to the Alice Leahy TRUST, which looks after people who are homeless in Dublin city centre. What she looks for are warm clothing, sweets, soaps, shower gels, scented candles etc. For those who come into her centre they get the opportunity to have a shower, be fed, and relax for a while before going back out.

SACRISTANS MEETING: The Sacristans are having a meeting in the Sacristy on Monday at 11:30am.

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THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU – AN INVITATION TO HEALING THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Pope Francis knows the reluctance that people have to going to Confession and yet he believes that through this Sacrament we experience the peace and compassion that the Prophets speak of Jesus bringing into the world. Take a moment to read his thoughts and consider our invitation to you to come to Confession. (the times are given on the back page.) "Everyone say to themselves: 'When was the last time I went to confession?' And if it has been a long time, don't lose another day! Go, the priest will be good. And Jesus, will be there, and Jesus is better than the priests - Jesus receives you. He will receive you with so much love! Be courageous, and go to confession."

Acknowledging a popular objection to the sacrament, Pope Francis noted, "someone can say, 'I confess my sins only to God.' Yes, you can say to God, 'forgive me,' and say your sins. But our sins are also against our brothers and sisters, and against the Church. This is why it is necessary to ask forgiveness of the Church and of our brothers and sisters, in the person of the priest."

"While the celebration of the sacrament is personal, it is rooted in the universality of the Church," which "accompanies us on the path of conversion," he explained. "Forgiveness is not something we can give ourselves," cautioned the Pope. "One asks forgiveness, one asks it of another person, and in confession, we ask forgiveness from Jesus."

"Forgiveness is not a result of our efforts, but is a gift. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit who showers us with mercy and grace that pours forth unceasingly from the open heart of Christ crucified and risen."

Pope Francis recognises that many people feel ashamed at the idea of confessing their sins and might say, "but Father, I am embarrassed! Even embarrassment is good. It's healthy to have a bit of shame... it does us good, because it makes us more humble."

"Don't be afraid of confession," Pope Francis stresses. "When someone is in line for confession they feel all these things - even shame - but then, when they finish confessing, they leave feeling free, great, beautiful, forgiven, clean, happy. The sacrament of reconciliation is a sacrament of healing."

"When I go to confession, it's for healing: healing the soul, healing the heart because of something that I did to make it unwell."

Pope Francis points to the biblical story of Jesus healing a paralysed man, which expresses the "profound link" between "forgiveness and healing," since "the Lord Jesus is revealed at the same time as the physician of soul and body. Also the parable of the prodigal son, who sought his father's forgiveness and was welcomed home with open arms."

"But I say to you, every time we go to confession, God embraces us."