

First Sunday of Advent 2018



Today, the Church is celebrating the beginning of a new liturgical year. During the Advent season we are anticipating the coming of the Son of God, He who comes to kindle our hearts with His light and His love. This is a time when we can renew our faith and our relationship with the love and mercifulness of God as we await the birth of Jesus.

John Henry Newman, in a homily he wrote for the advent season, reminds us 'Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy, because of the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but also a time of commitment as we are motivated to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance' In today's gospel Jesus teaches the disciples to be vigilant so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes in His glory. Let us too be vigilant.

Scripture Group

Thank you

The Finance Committee recently sent out Tax Rebate Forms for 2016/17. We are very grateful for the Tax Forms returned. If you did not receive a Tax Form, or have yet to return your Form, we would be very grateful to hear from you. We are delighted to report that we recently received €23,500 from the Revenue Commissioners on donations received in 2016/17. The minimum amount donated to the parish in a calendar year to qualify for tax rebate is €250, and this provides an additional €112.32 to the parish. We would like to thank most sincerely all our parishioners who support our parish financially by joining our weekly Planned Giving campaign or by standing order/donations. The annual amount of €250 can be made up by donations to Easter and Christmas dues, planned giving or other donations. If you would like to know more about how you can help, please contact the Finance Committee via the Parish Office. A very sincere "Thank You"

Please note that the **Parish Office** will be CLOSED for training on Monday December 3rd. It will OPEN on Tuesday 4th instead of Monday.

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Brendan Hennigan, Barnageeragh, who died recently. May he rest in peace.

Months Mind: Sunday 9th 11.00am Moira Schindwein

Anniversary/Intentions:

Tue 4th 10.00am Special Intention

Wed 5th 10.00am Padraig & Mona Potter, Pat McGrath.

Thu 6th 10.00am Noeleen Taaffe.

Sat 8th 10.00am Martin Archbold, Kay and Frank Coyle, Dick Fanning.

6.00pm Gerry Cunneen, Tony & Liam Shiels, Anne Marjoram, Theresa Gaffney, John O'Driscoll, Johnny Brady, Phil and Nancy Walls

Sun 9th 9.30am Maureen and John Martin, Fr Jim Martin.

11.00am Peg Conliss, P.J. Ryan, Frances Tanner, Rosie and Gerry Hoare, Emily Crowley, Members of the Crowley Family and Nolan Family, Roderic Neary.

Holy Day 8th December: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception. **Mass** at 10.00am. **Vigil Mass** Friday 7th at 7.30pm

Wednesday 5th Padre Pio Mass.

Friday 7th First Friday of the month.

St Vincent de Paul



The Diocesan Annual Christmas Collection for the Dublin Council of the Society of St Vincent de Paul will take place at all Masses next weekend 8th and 9th December. This will replace the normal Share collection. Your support for this very worthy cause will be very much appreciated.

Crosscare Foodbank Appeal: This weekend the annual diocesan Crosscare Foodbank Appeal takes place. Archbishop Martin is seeking the support of parishes to support the work of the Crosscare foodbank who, last year, provided 10,000 emergency food hampers to families. Crosscare has identified items they need – toiletries & cleaning products; non-perishable food & festive foods. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Praying with the Sunday Readings during Advent: The beautiful season of Advent offers us the opportunity to spend some time in quiet prayer away from the hustle and bustle around us. We will meet on **Wednesday December 5th at 4pm in 42 Strand St.** to spend some time reflecting and praying with the readings for the 2nd **Sunday of Advent.** All are welcome.

Altar list of the Dead: Envelopes are available in the porches and the parish office. All Masses on the first Friday of each month are offered for those names on the list.

Parish Book Club:



During the month of December we are reading **Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives** by Pope Benedict XVI. This timely and beautifully written book details how the stories of Jesus' infancy and childhood are as relevant today as they were over two thousand years ago.

Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart calendars for 2019 price €2.50 on sale at rear of church after all Masses this weekend 1st/2nd December. We will also be taking names if you wish to avail of our monthly **Pioneer magazine**, annual subscription €17.05. It has articles on spirituality, personalities, short stories, a crossword and games. There is something to appeal to everyone. **New venue for our monthly committee meeting:** 42 Strand Street opposite church, please consider joining us for 2019. Our next committee meeting is after 10am Mass Monday 3rd December 2018.

Thank you - Temple St Fundraiser.



Breda and Barbara would like to thank everyone who helped with the jewellery sale and raffle in aid of Temple Street Children's University Hospital. Special thanks goes to Greg Reddin and all the helpers on the day. They raised a grand total of €1720.

30 Years ago in our Parish

- Newly baptised were Fiona Grant, Emma Keogh, Emma Wilson, Suzanne Peters and Lorna Gissane.
- Our Parish Priest, Liam Shanahan, was appointed Canon of the diocese.
- Families were encouraged to make an Advent Wreath for their homes.
- The Parish Shop was offering a series of books suitable for Advent reading.
- Scoil Réalt na Mara was holding a Christmas Book Fair.
- The St. Vincent de Paul Annual Christmas appeal was launched.
- The u-15 Table Tennis team from Holy Faith/de la Salle College had reached the semi-final of the Leinster League.

Skerries Active Retirement

Mon 3rd December, Christmas bingo, chocs, wine and biscuits. (10 Games)

Sat 8th, Christmas Party, Balbriggan Golf Club. Food, music, raffle. €30 inc bus, all monies in by 3rd Dec.

Mon 10th, End of year Christmas Party in the club. Hot food, raffle and music.

Skerries Community Choir



Present their annual Christmas Concerts on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th December in Holmpatrick Church, with special guest artists. Tickets €10 available from The Book Shop and at the door.

Skerries Harps GAA Club



Congrats to Lyndsey Davey – named Dublin Player of the Year and Captain of Leinster. She also entertained the All Blacks to a Skills' display in Croke Park.

Academy has finished its second term and resumes on 19th January in conjunction with the Gormanston Indoor Hurling/Camogie.

Club Shop - see website or Facebook page re opening hours for Christmas pressies.

Officers for 2019 elected at AGM are: Chairman David Watson, Sec. Terry Gormley and Treasurer Eddie McCarthy. Bad news is that M/ship fees are again due!!

Zingo. 2, 1, 4, 7, 3, 6, 5. Dividend €850 won by John Costello. Jackpot now €2,600. Draw in clubhouse on Sundays at 6.30 pm

Fri 21st – Annual Christmas Draw – Tickets available from the usual suspects!!

Clubhouse is available for your Christmas Party - Contact Joanne Kenny, club PRO, for club news etc. on 086 4058523 or see website www.skerriesharps.ie

Skerries Town Football Club

is reaching out to invite former players and club members to re-engage with us to help us manage our future club development programme at Schoolboy/Girl and Senior levels.

For further information please contact Owen O'Brien at 087 2584398

Millbank Theatre presents Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Dec 6th to 31st. Phone 8437485 or see www.millbanktheatre.ie

Balbriggan and District Horticultural Society

is having a Christmas flower arranging demonstration by the renowned demonstrator Christopher White from the Naul on Thursday the 13th of December at 8:30 p.m. in the Scouts Den, Market Green Balbriggan beside Lidl. Admission €5 to include tea, biscuits and mince pies. Bring a plant for the plant swap. For more information telephone 087 752 0506.

Naul gardening and flower club

Christmas Flower Arranging demonstration by the renowned Christopher White, Chelsea medal winner, on Wednesday 5th of December at 8pm in the Seamus Ennis Centre Naul. Admission €10 (also includes tea and biscuits).