



# St Peter's Church, Phibsborough Parish Newsletter

Third Sunday of Advent  
17 December 2017

## **Holding Hands with God**

The readings of Isaiah are very moving during Advent, calling us to consider our relationship with God in new ways. Isaiah invites us to consider a relationship with God on a very deep and personal level, to feel comforted, loved and protected. There is constant encouragement not to be afraid.

*I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand;  
It is I who say to you, "Fear not, I will help you." Isaiah 41:13.*

I have read these words every Advent for years, focused on the words, "Fear not." But one morning as I looked at this passage, I noticed the beginning of it:

*"I am the Lord, your God who grasps your right hand."*

It is fairly specific. Not that I was reaching out to God, but that God was reaching out to *me* – and grasping me by my right hand. How wonderful. I relaxed into that image and tried to picture that. What would it be like to have God hold my right hand?

Terrible! I couldn't do anything!

I am right-handed and if God is holding onto it, how would I get all of my things done? I am a busy, busy person (sometimes so busy that I am coming and going at the same time). With my right hand un-usable, I couldn't drive, use the computer or grab my mobile phone. If I really ponder the image of the Lord grasping my right hand, it takes me several minutes to get beyond, "I can't get anything done!"

Then I pause in my mental distress and hold this dilemma up to God as an offering: "What now, God?"

*I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand ... I will help you.*

I can see that the passage means that I can't do it all *alone*. I am strong, busy, independent and apparently somewhat arrogant. I want to do it all myself. How do I share my life and my work with a God who at the moment seems to be hampering my progress?

That's where the Isaiah reading adds, *"It is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'"*

I really, really don't have to do it alone. I can step off my self-imposed pedestal and join the rest of the human race in asking for help.

I can ask God every morning to open my heart in new ways for the freedom to accept what God wants for me - not what I want for me. I can realize that God stands ready, cherishing me every moment, holding my hand and offering me a banquet.



## **Mass Times**

### **Sunday**

Saturday vigil 6.30pm, Sunday 8.00am, 10.00am, 11.30am, 2.15pm (African Mass, 1st Sunday of each month), 4.00pm (Indian Mass, 2nd Sunday of each month) & 6.30pm

### **Monday - Saturday**

10.30am (& Monday at 7.00pm followed by Novena, except Bank Holidays)

### **Holy Days of Obligation**

10.30am & 6.30pm

### **Confessions**

Saturday immediately following the 10.30am Mass and at the Parish Office by request

## Parish Clergy

Fr Aidan CM - [pp@stpetersphibsboro.ie](mailto:pp@stpetersphibsboro.ie)

Fr Ioan CM - [fr.ioan@stpetersphibsboro.ie](mailto:fr.ioan@stpetersphibsboro.ie)

## Parish Office

Monday - Friday

9.30am - 12.30pm

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F: +353 1 838 9950

E: [info@stpetersphibsboro.ie](mailto:info@stpetersphibsboro.ie)

W: [www.stpetersphibsboro.ie](http://www.stpetersphibsboro.ie)

## Pastoral Office

Ms Kirsten Mahon

T: +353 1 810 2572

E: [pastoral@stpetersphibsboro.ie](mailto:pastoral@stpetersphibsboro.ie)

## Monday Novena

*"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."*

The Miraculous Medal Novena continues each Monday evening at 7.00pm. All are encouraged to attend.

## AMM Meeting

The Association of the Miraculous Medal hold their next meeting Monday, 18 December in the Church directly after the Novena. There will be a short talk and discussion followed by Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to attend.

## A Word on the Word

Held Monday's from 7.30pm in the Conference Room (via Parish Office), the sessions take on a new format - *'An Introduction to the Bible, Understanding the Old Testament'*.

## Patrician Meeting

The Legion of Mary will hold a meeting on Tuesday, 19 December in the Frank Duff Room at 7.30pm (entrance via the Parish Office). The topic for discussion is 'The Joy of Christmas'. All are welcome.

## Join us as we Pray for Vocations

On Thursday's after Mass the Vincentian Community here in St Peter's invite you to join with them in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for vocations to the Vincentian Community in Ireland.



St Peter's, Phibsborough

# Bambinelli Sunday

11.30am

Sunday, 17 December

For the past several decades, each year on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, children (and adults) bring their Baby Jesus figures from the crib at their homes to St Peter's Square where the Pope blesses both the people and the figurines during the Angelus.

Here at St Peter's we will celebrate 'Bambinelli Sunday' at our 11.30am Mass on Sunday, 17 December.

All are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their homes to Mass that morning to be blessed. Families can even make their own 'Bambinelli' if they want.

A suggestion is, following the blessing, take your 'Bambinelli' home and place it in a gift box, wrap it, and save it for Christmas.

Let this be the first gift your family opens on Christmas, when together you place your Baby Jesus figure in the crib, and have a home blessing of the Nativity for your whole family.

## Humanitarian Symphony Orchestra

A great night was had by all on Thursday, 7 December. Thanks to all involved for a most entertaining evening. Thanks also to the people who contributed to the collection in aid of St Peter's Parish. A total of €71.97 was raised.

## Happy Birthday

Heartiest congratulations must go to Marie Clarke as she celebrates her 102nd birthday. Please remember her in your prayers.

## Legion of Mary

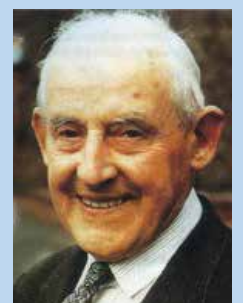
Meetings take place on Monday and Wednesday evenings (ex. Bank Holidays) from 7.00pm in the **Frank Duff Room** (entrance via Parish Office)

### Monday

*Our Lady, Queen of All Nations*

### Wednesday

*Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament*



## In Loving Memory

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who died recently especially Michael Ryan (Rathdown Road). Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.



## Sacramental Preparation

### **You Shall Be My Witnesses - Sunday, 17 December**

A special Mass will take place at 11.30am for the children from St Peter's National School due to make their Confirmation next year.

## St Peter's Christmas Liturgy

### Confessions

#### **Monday 18th December**

Cluster Penitential Service - Church of the Most Precious Blood 7.30pm

#### **Wednesday 20th - Friday 22nd**

11.00am - 12.00pm

#### **Saturday 23rd December**

11.00am - 12.30pm

### Mass Schedule

#### **Sunday 24th December**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christmas Eve*

8.00am / 10.00am / 11.30am. No 6.30pm Mass

**Carol Service 8.15pm followed by Christmas Vigil 9.00pm**

## Coffee Morning

The Cremore Bakery (across from the Church) will host a **Christmas Cake and Pudding Tasting** also a **Coffee and Mince Pie Morning** in aid of the **Ladies of Charity** today (Sunday) directly after the 10.00am and 11.30am Masses. Please come join us and support this great charity.

## 'Church at the Heart of the World'

A new book of poems by Fr Eamon Flanagan CM is on sale in the Parish Office and Repository priced €7. Includes references to Phibsborough, Knock, Frank Duff etc... Would make a lovely Christmas gift for the avid reader in your life.

## Christmas Cards & Calendars

Mass Bouquets €7.00, Novena Cards €4.00, Society of St Vincent de Paul Cards (2 sizes) €5.00 and €6.00 and Church Art Calendars €2.20 are available from the Parish Office and the Repository.

## Weekly Boxes

The weekly boxes of envelopes are available from the Parish Office. They commenced from the First Sunday in Advent, 3 December 2017.

## Christmas Dues

Christmas Dues Envelopes are available at the Church doors. Please return them to the Parish Office.

## 3rd Sunday of Advent

### Readings

Is 61:1-2, 10-11.

Ps Lk 1:46-50, 53-54, R/ Is 61:10.

1 Thess 5:16-24.

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28.

## Monday

*St Flannan, bishop*

Mass with Novena Prayers 7.00pm

Followed by AMM meeting

Legion of Mary 7.00pm

A Word on the Word 7.30pm

## Tuesday

Patrician Meeting 7.30pm

## Wednesday

*St Fachanan, bishop*

Legion of Mary 7.00pm

## Thursday

*St Peter Canisius, priest & doctor of the Church*

Prayer for Vocations directly after Mass

## Saturday

*St John of Kanty, priest*

## 4th Sunday of Advent

### Readings

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16.

Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29, R/ cf. v 2.

Rm 16:25-27.

Lk 1:26-38.

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## Weekly Collections

Recent collections amounted to:

Church (8 Dec) = € 401.41

Church (10 Dec) = €1,012.69

SVP (10 Dec) = €7,780.60

Thank you very much for your continued support.



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