



St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

Parish Newsletter

Third Sunday of Advent: 12 December 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, 12 December

(Gaudete Sunday)

Our Lady of Guadalupe & St Finnian, bishop are not celebrated this year

Anne-Marie McDonnell (MM)

Ultan Sinclair (1st A)

Laura Musgrave (10th A)

Rosaleen Murphy (A)

John McDonagh (D)

Monday, 13 December

St Lucy, virgin & martyr

Holy Souls

Tuesday, 14 December

St John of the Cross, priest & doctor of the Church

Susan Mungovan (A)

Holy Souls

Wednesday, 15 December

Liam Byrne (A)

Thursday, 16 December

Maura O'Brien (D)

Bridghet & Maura O'Brien (D)

Friday, 17 December

Geraldine & Family (SI)

James & Mary Gargan & Family (D)

Saturday, 18 December

St Flannan, bishop

Frank & Seanie Kelehan & Joe

Dixon (A)

Holy Souls

A = Anniversary
B = Birthday
BR = Birthday Remembrance
D = Deceased
GW = Get Well

MM = Months Mind
RD = Recently Deceased
SI = Special Intention
W = Wedding
WA = Wedding Anniversary

GAUDETE - REJOICE

I used to greet here at St Peter's every Sunday a lady of senior years. She had restricted mobility, but always a most radiant smile. In addition, her face was serene, happy, and her whole person conveyed joy. More recently, she was called, I'm convinced, to the unending joy of heaven. Many others with me have her example as a deep invitation to draw out pure enjoyment that is in the Church.

Today's Readings encourage us. Joyful Sunday (from St Paul's "Rejoice") is always placed midway through Advent. Some of the greatest writers and saints speak of seeking happiness in the right places. In December there are many voices telling us that they offer us the secret of life's desires. Goods, amusements, clothes, delicious foods and drinks are offered. All these and other forms of satisfaction have their place, and with reason and faith a level of suitable enjoyment is perfectly lawful.

We know in our hearts and Scripture tells us that we also need a more profound means of fulfilment. St Paul is telling us that following the Gospel and prayer bring us true meaning. The first Reading from Zephaniah (c. 630 BC) portrays the strong desire of the people for God's intervention in their lives. John the Baptist sets out a pattern of living that prepares the ground for Christ. We take it on board, faithful to the Commandments and Church community. John stresses (as does Jesus later) that a basis for consistent, meaningful devotion to God is found in renewing of one's outlook, resetting our ideals. We are greatly aided in this task by repenting.

A primary means is the sacrament of Reconciliation - Confession. This sacrament causes us to look at our days and weeks, see the good, acknowledge the sins. Regular Confession is like a retreat; it takes stock, finds our real self, leads to accepting our failures and brings us to sorrow. Mercy then follows with the pure joy of God's forgiveness. The words of forgiveness are music to our ears and to our hearts. Monthly Confession (even weekly) is recommended. Thus our attachments and appetites are gradually purified. St John Paul went to Confession every day. Confession is one of the greatest joys of the Catholic Church.

Fr Eamon Flanagan CM

THIS WEEK

Monday 13th December

7.00pm - Novena Mass in honour of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal with blessing and distribution of medals and procession to Our Lady's Shrine presenting petitions and thanksgiving. Rosary at 6.40pm. Confessions also available from 6.30pm.

7.45pm - Monthly meeting of the Association of the Miraculous Medal in the Frank Duff Room.

Tuesday 14th December

7.00pm - Parish Pastoral Council Meeting in the Frank Duff Room.

LITURGICAL READINGS FOR: Sunday, 12 December 2021

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the Prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear,

do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you,

he will renew you by his love;

he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When all the people asked John,

'What must we do, then?'

He answered,

'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.'

There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him,

'Master, what must we do?'

He said to them,

'Exact no more than your rate.'

Some soldiers asked him in their turn,

'What about us? What must we do?'

He said to them,

'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all,

'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord

VLM CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Vincentian Lay Missionaries are committed to working with some of the poorest people in Africa. We are running a Christmas Raffle and any help you can give will be greatly appreciated. Tickets are priced at €5 or 2 for €9 and are available on the VLM website, www.vlm.ie. Prizes include an iPad, Apple watch, Christmas hamper and dinner vouchers. The raffle will be drawn on Monday 20th December.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Please remember in your prayers all those who died recently especially Margaret O'Malley (Shandon Crescent), Bernadette Burke (Connaught Parade) and Michael Farrelly (Royal Canal Terrace). Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

COLLECTIONS - Sunday 5 Dec

Parish (1st Collection, incl. online) = € 777.72

Weekly Envelopes (incl. online) = € 544.70

Sick & Indigent Roomkeepers = € 319.47

Thank you for your continued support and generosity to the parish and diocese each week.

CHRISTMAS CARDS & CALENDARS

Mass Bouquets €10.00, Novena Cards €5.00 and Church Art Calendars €2.00 available from the Parish Office and Repository.

CHRISTMAS DUES

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