



St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

Parish Newsletter

First Sunday of Advent: 3rd December 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, 3 December

St Francis Xavier, priest is not celebrated this year

Sean Linehan (MM)
Henry Hamilton (BR)
George Domican (A)
Patty Swan (A)
Holy Souls

Monday, 4 December

St John Damascene, priest & doctor of the Church

Special Intention
Fred Bolger (A)
Holy Souls

Tuesday, 5 December

Teresa Brooks (A)
Holy Souls

Wednesday, 6 December

St Nicholas, bishop

Mary Foley (BR)
Holy Souls

Thursday, 7 December

St Ambrose, bishop & doctor of the Church

Paddy Gilheany (A)
Holy Souls

Friday, 8 December

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dolores Dunne (BR)
Laura King (BR)
Kathleen, John & David Cullen (D)
Holy Souls

Saturday, 9 December

St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatzin

Marion Grehan (SI)
Eileen Harvison (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

A DANGEROUS KIND OF SLEEP

Staying awake is not easy; it is really quite hard. At night, it is natural to sleep. Even Jesus's disciples did not manage to stay awake when told to stay awake 'in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn' (cf. v. 35). They did not keep watch. They fell asleep. But that same drowsiness can also overtake us. There is a dangerous kind of sleep: it is the slumber of mediocrity. It comes when we forget our first love and grow satisfied with indifference, concerned only for an untroubled existence.

Without making an effort to love God daily and awaiting the newness he constantly brings, we become mediocre, lukewarm, worldly. And this slowly eats away at our faith, for faith is the very opposite of mediocrity: it is ardent desire for God, a bold effort to change, the courage to love, constant progress. Faith is not water that extinguishes flames, it is fire that burns; it is not a tranquilizer for people under stress, it is a love story for people in love! That is why Jesus above all else detests lukewarmness (cf. Rev 3:16). God clearly disdains the lukewarm.

How can we rouse ourselves from the slumber of mediocrity? With the vigilance of prayer. When we pray, we light a candle in the darkness. Prayer allows God to be close to us; it frees us from our solitude and gives us hope. Praying and loving: that is what it means to be watchful.

Come, Lord Jesus, take our distracted hearts and make them watchful. Awaken within us the desire to pray and the need to love.

Pope Francis - Advent
(taken from 'Intercom')

ADVENT — TIME OF WAITING AND PREPARATION

The Church's liturgical life starts afresh this weekend with the season of Advent waiting for the coming of Christ. Alongside our regular schedule of Masses, confessions, exposition and novena are the following opportunities for prayer and celebration.

- To mark the beginning of Advent the Christmas Tree lights will be switched on after 6.30pm Mass on Saturday 2nd December, vigil of the First Sunday of Advent.
- Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during 10.30am Mass on Friday 8th December, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- Parish Retreat - silent - open to everyone - on Saturday 9th December beginning at 3.00pm in the Church.
- St Peter's National School Nativity Play is on Tuesday 19th December at 6.30pm.
- St Peter's Choir and the Offbeat Ensemble in concert on Wednesday 20th December at 7.00pm, with donations to this year's parish charity, supporting people who are experiencing social isolation.
- Reconciliation Service for Christ the King Parish, Cabra and St Peter's Parish at 7.30pm in St Peter's on Thursday 21st December.

LITURGICAL READINGS FOR: Sunday, 3rd December 2023

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence, such as no one has ever heard of before. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake.

So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep.

And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!

The Gospel of the Lord.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Please remember in your prayers all those who died recently especially Gerry (Michael) Ryan (formerly of Phibsborough) and Joe Williamson.

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 - Sun 26th Nov

Parish (1st Collection, incl. Online) = €1,214.80

Envelopes (Online/Easy Payments) = € 583.20

Sick & Indigent Roomkeepers = € 646.06

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

FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS - DECEMBER 2023

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The Annual Christmas Appeal takes place at all Masses next weekend 9th/10th December and replaces Share. One of the Conference members will make a short appeal at each of the Masses. Envelopes are available in the Church and can be returned to the Parish Office or in the secure box beside our Lady's Shrine in the Church.

FOOD APPEAL

This year we repeat our annual Food Appeal. SVP staff are trying to keep up with the demand from food banks as Christmas approaches – particularly for families in need. Types of food urgently needed: breakfast cereals, rice/pasta, fruit juice, tea/coffee, soup, sugar, powdered milk, tinned meat/fish, tinned fruit/veg, packaged desserts, biscuits etc... Please bring your **non-perishable** food items to any of the Masses next weekend 9th/10th December.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Mass Bouquets €10.00

Novena Cards €5.00

2024 Calendars €2.50

Available
from the
Office
and the
Repository

