



# St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

## Parish Newsletter

Second Sunday of Advent: 10th December 2023

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Sunday, 10 December

*Our Lady of Loreto & Blessed Mark Anthony Durando, priest are not celebrated this year*

Teresa Shelley (MM)

Margaret Malone (1st A)

Mai & Lillie O'Sullivan (A)

#### Monday, 11 December

*St Damasus I, pope*

Helen (SI)

Special Intention

Holy Souls

#### Tuesday, 12 December

*Our Lady of Guadalupe & St Finnian, bishop*

Special Intention

Joe Williamson (MM)

Ultan Sinclair (3rd A)

Sean Sinclair (D)

Holy Souls

#### Wednesday, 13 December

*St Lucy, virgin & martyr*

Special Intention

Holy Souls

#### Thursday, 14 December

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

Special Intention

Susan Mungovan (A)

Holy Souls

#### Friday, 15 December

Special Intention

Kathleen, John & David Cullen (D)

Holy Souls

#### Saturday, 16 December

Marion Grehan (SI)

Special Intention

Liam Byrne (10th A)

Bernie Flanagan (D)

Holy Souls

### ADVENT — CHRISTMAS, NOW, AND HEAVEN

#### Steadfast Pursuit of a Goal for Life

#### Today's Readings speak to all

A book was published seven years ago. Its title was *The End of All Things Earthly*. It dealt with the leaders of the 1916 Rising and the influence of faith in their lives; this book has a resonance in Advent. The 1st Reading (Isaiah 40) foresees the joy and freedom of the Jews returning to Jerusalem (Sion) from exile. This is a sign of God's people obeying his call and striving for heaven. The 2nd Reading (2 Peter 3) looks to the future also, even to the end of the world, painting an image of glory. St Peter here shows God as waiting patiently for sinners to repent, and avoid damnation. The way to prepare is 'live holy and saintly lives'. The Gospel (Mark 1) presents John the Baptist who prepares for Christ, and tells us the message that leads us to salvation. There is mention too of conversion. This reminds us of an Advent Confession, or two. Again there is implied the true goal for us; with a well-lived life we look forward to death and heaven.

#### Advent, the way to Christmas

Advent embraces a few major perspectives. The first one comes from Gaul (up to AD 400), where Baptism was celebrated at Epiphany; so in France, Advent had an ascetical theme (like Lent). In Rome, however, the emphasis was on joyful anticipation of Christ's Birth. We now tend towards the latter, while not forgetting the former. Going on, we continue our prayer, we do our duty, at home and in community; we keep the 'Commandments better' (1 Thess 4:1). A good way of praying through these days would be to accompany Mary bearing Jesus in her womb, and St Joseph; asking them to assist us in our family life, at work, shopping, meeting people. We can have close friendship with the Holy Family. This intimacy of relationship calls for attention and discipline; it brings us peace now, a foretaste of 'heavenly peace' (Silent Night).

Fr Eamon Flanagan CM

### IN LOVING MEMORY

Please remember in your prayers all those who died recently especially Marie Mills (Great Western Square).

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.**

### 'CHRISTMAS'

There will be a brief paper on the topic then we gather to talk followed by light refreshments. Everyone is welcome to come on Tuesday 19th December at 7.30pm to the Frank Duff Room (entrance - facing **YOUR STOP** shop, corner of St Peter's Road). Organised by the Legion of Mary.

### ADVENT — TIME OF WAITING AND PREPARATION

Alongside our regular schedule of Masses, confessions, exposition and novena are the following opportunities for prayer and celebration.

- 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, 10th December 2023

### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,

'Here is your God'. Here is the Lord the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewe.

The Word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

### SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that

with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The Word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

### TAX RELIEF - CHY FORMS

Thanks to everyone who completed the CHY 3 Forms. We have received a total of 11 forms for 2022 and 3 for 2023. We will be processing 2022 in the coming weeks so there is still time to complete and drop back. Any queries please contact our administrator at 01 810 2575

or: [marion.mccormack@stpetersphibsboro.ie](mailto:marion.mccormack@stpetersphibsboro.ie).

### COLLECTIONS - Sun 3rd Dec

Parish (1st Collection, incl. Online) = €1,470.65

Envelopes (Online/Easy Payments) = € 744.00

Share = € 289.63

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

### THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The Annual Christmas Appeal takes place at all Masses this weekend 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 this weekend.