



St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

Parish Newsletter

Third Sunday of Advent: 17th December 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, 17 December

Gaudete Sunday

Maura O'Brien (A)

Jack Martin (A)

John Stedmon (A)

Rose & Martin Burke (A)

Monday, 18 December

St Flannan, bishop

Marissa Tiomico (SI)

John Lawrence (BR)

Eileen Carroll (A)

Eddie Brennan (D)

Tuesday, 19 December

Nickson & Ashelyn (1st WA)

Cornelius & Carmel (SI)

Fr Brian Moore CM (A)

Josephine Manscier (A)

Seanie & Frank Kelehan (A)

Wednesday, 20 December

St Fachanan, bishop

Special Intention

Brian McElroy (SI)

Mary Casey (A)

Holy Souls

Thursday, 21 December

St Peter Canisius, priest & doctor of the Church

Sanctification & Healing for China

Special Intention

Holy Souls

Friday, 22 December

Thanksgiving

Patricia Lawler (A)

Sinon & Mollie Haugh (A)

Kathleen, John & David Cullen (D)

Holy Souls

Saturday, 23 December

St John of Kanty, priest

Marion Grehan (SI)

Tommy Kelly (B)

Carmel Moore (A)

James Walsh (A)

Rose Burke (A)

Jomini Jose (D)

Kathleen Healy (D)

Martin Duffy (D)

Deceased members of Duffy Family

Advent is a time of waiting - waiting for the coming of God into our lives and into our world. Waiting can be frustrating. We all know the frustration of waiting in a doctor's surgery or waiting at a bus stop. Waiting for God can be frustrating too. But it need not be so. R.S. Thomas, the Welsh poet, said '*the meaning is in the waiting*' ('Kneeling').

The people of the Old Testament waited for centuries for the coming of the Messiah. In their waiting they wondered what the Messiah would be like and what the Messiah would do. They imagined all kinds of wonderful things. They believed the arid desert land of Palestine would be turned into green pastures in the blinking of an eye. They believed that Jerusalem would be raised up into the sky and they would be safe from any attacks by their enemies. They believed there would be no more sickness or death.

But none of these things happened when the Messiah came on earth. The People of the Old Testament missed the coming of God. Their unreal expectations got in the way. They were not expecting their future Messiah to be born in a stable. They were certainly not expecting their future Messiah to be executed as a criminal by the Roman army of occupation. The God of Surprises.

We too can miss the coming of God. Unreal expectations of what God is like and what God might do could get in the way.

Fr Mark Noonan CM

IN LOVING MEMORY

Please remember in your prayers all those who died recently especially Elizabeth (Ettie) Gorman (Annamoe Drive) & Marie Mills.

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.**

SAFEGUARDING

Dublin Diocese has issued new Safeguarding guidelines. Please note the new safeguarding statement in the Church porches and in the offices, meeting rooms and St Peter's Club. Copies of guidelines are available in the Sacristy for anyone wishing to consult same or take a copy.

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.

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.

LITURGICAL READINGS FOR: Sunday, 17th December 2023

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord,

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING

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

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

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 Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God. His name was John.

He came as a witness as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ'.

'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said.

'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No'.

So they said to him, 'Who are you?'

We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?

So John said,

'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord'.

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him,

'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?'

John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you –

the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap'.

This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

COLLECTIONS - Sun 10th Dec

Parish (1st Collection, incl. Online) = €1,169.65

Envelopes (Online/Easy Payments) = € 744.20

SVP Christmas Collection = €4,744.00

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

A SPECIAL GUEST VISITS

On Sunday, 17th December after the 11.30am Mass a special guest will make an appearance at the front porch of the church. There will be drinks and sweets for the children, he may even have some gifts. There will be tea, coffee and mince pies for the adults. A raffle will also take place.

Tickets will be on sale in the Repository (former parish office) Monday to Thursday, 1 strip for €2.00 or 3 for €5.00.

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC IS: CHRISTMAS

There will be a brief paper then we gather to talk & to listen, followed by light refreshments. All are 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.

VLM CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets are available now. Prizes:

1st Prize - Sandymount Hotel, One Night Bed & Breakfast

2nd Prize - WestWood Club Westmanstown €200 Private Swimming Lessons

3rd Prize - €100 Dinner Voucher, The Market Bar, Fade Street

4th Prize - €80 Dada Moroccan Restaurant Voucher

5th Prize - Bewleys Afternoon Tea for Two

6th Prize - Pinocchio Restaurant and Italian School of Cooking, 1 Cookery Class

7th Prize - Butlers Chocolates, The Signature Selection Box

Please see poster on church noticeboard for more information. If people leave money and their email address with the Parish Office we can put through the sale for them and enter them in the draw. All donations are processed securely and will be given directly to Vincentian Lay Missionaries (VLM). Winners will be announced on 20th December 2023 via social media, they will also be contacted directly. VLM are committed to working with and supporting some of the poorest people in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Burkina Faso. We do this through our partner projects run by the Vincentian Fathers and Daughters of Charity and our dedicated, dynamic and skilled volunteers, both at home and abroad. Your contribution will make a difference to the lives of the poorest of the poor. Link: www.idonate.ie/raffle/VLMChristmasRaffle2023.