

First Sunday of Advent

The word 'advent' means 'arrival' or 'coming' and with this season the Church begins another new year. There is a threefold coming of Jesus to which the Church draws our attention in this season. First, Jesus' coming as a human being at Bethlehem; second, his daily coming into the lives of those who open their hearts to receive him and third, his glorious coming at the end of time. The use of purple vestments underlines the special character of this season.

Reflection - During this liturgical year the gospel according to Luke will be read on Sundays. The thirteenth century Italian poet Dante described Luke as the scribe of Christ's gentleness. It is the gospel of mercy and compassion. Luke is anxious to point out how the life of Jesus ought to be paralleled by the life of the Church. So he will present the life, destiny and teaching of Jesus as a pattern for the Christian community for which he was writing. (*Source: St. Paul's Missal*)

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Jerry Ryan	Sat 10.00am Dec members of Agnew Family
Mon 10.00pm Alice Murphy & deceased members of Murphy Family	
Tues 8.00am John Crimmins	
Tues 10.00am George & Mary Larmon	Sat 6.30pm Dominic King
Wed 8.00 Special intention	
Wed 10.00 Special Intention Michael Farrell	Sun 8.30am Gerry Ryan
Thurs 8.00am James Fitzsimons	
Thurs 10.00am William Maxwell	Sun 11.00am Margaret Prendergast & Joe Prendergast
Fri 8.00am Altar List of the Dead	
Fri 10.00am Altar List of the Dead	Sun 6.30pm Ronald Kane

Church of the Visitation Drynam *The Visitation of the BVM*

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)& 12 noon, Mon & Tues 9.20am

There will be a further Drynam Church Fundraising Committee meeting on Wednesday 30th November at 8PM in the hall.

JESSE TREE-week 1

This tree is named after David, the great king of Israel. The symbols represent the promises God made through the Old Testament concerning the birth of his only Son. Some of the most important promise were made to Jesses and his son David. They were promised that God's only Son would be born in their family. The first week of Advent will see the following symbols on our Jesse Tree in both our churches

Apple:In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the forbidden tree. People began to disobey the commands of God and so we needed a redeemer

Ark:When Noah, his family and all the animals came out of the ark, God promised that he would always love his people. God's love was shown when Jesus came to live with us

Joseph's Dreamcoat:Joseph's Dreamcoat reminds us of the story of Joseph and his brothers. After he was rejected and sold into slavery in Egypt by his brothers, through understanding dreams, Joseph became an important person in the Egyptian kingdom



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1st Sunday of Advent

Waiting in Hope

"What we have been promised is greater than we can imagine (Amoris Laetitia 325)"

Newsletter Sunday 27th November 2016



In *Amoris Laetitia* Pope Francis says, 'The Bible is full of families; birth, love stories and family crisis' (*Amoris Laetitia* 8).

We see this in the Bible's first family, Adam and Eve, to its very last page when we behold the wedding of the Bride and the Lamb (Revelation 21:2,9)

Through Advent and Christmastide we are invited to peer into the drama unfolding in one family in Nazareth, the Holy Family. In the Holy Family of Nazareth, we encounter the revelation of love, which is the very essence of the gospel message.

God's message of love began with a promise of love. The promise of a Saviour, the Messiah, the Lord's Anointed, is at the heart of the journey of Israel, God's holy and chosen people. Down through the centuries this promise grew ever louder and clearer in the Law and the Prophets, the Psalms and the Wisdom Literature.

The challenge we face is that the season itself is such a busy one. It is so easy to get caught up in and taken over by all that needs to be done. We get our heads down and adopt especially fast and something of a 'don't interrupt me' attitude, as we move through this frenetic time of year.

And yet, in the midst of this, we can discern the voice of the Spirit calling us, as Jesus called his disciples: 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest' (Mark 6:31).

We sense something of a dissatisfaction, an ache or longing to be still, and enjoy God's peace and presence.

This is a season` of love. During these days, we discover the depth of God's love for humankind, for the world, for every person but also for us personally. We discover the beauty and glory of God's love made Incarnate, born in a stable, true God, true man, of one being with the Father.

As the Second Vatican Council put it. 'The Son of God...worked with human hands; he thought with a human mind. He acted with human will, and with a human heart he loved. Born of the Virgin Mary, he has truly been made one of us, like to us in all things except sin' (*Gaudiam st Spes* 22).

In touching on this mystery we are changed: in glimpsing it we are transformed, and in entering the mystery of the secret of Nazareth we receive every spiritual grace and blessing to love God with all our heart and soul and our neighbour as ourselves (Ephesians 1:3). (*Source: Walk with Me (Advent-Season of Love) - Alive publishing*)

Already

The First Sunday of Advent is here and now. We are doing our usual stuff, running to stand still probably, going from one job to the next, one busy day to the next and suddenly here we are again with - Christmas not too far away. This feast encourages us to slow down, to refocus, to wait for the coming of the Lord in quiet hope. St. Teresa of Avila said, "it's not with many thoughts or words that He hears us but in the silence of our longing.."

Fr. Michael Carey

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Lk.6:36)

Advent Gifts

We are familiar with the Advent calendar, and they are great fun for children. I'm going to do a 'spiritual version' based on the four weeks of Advent as opposed to the 30 day (approx.) countdown to Christmas.

Gift 1– Time to know your deepest longings

The gift God offers this first week of Advent is the invitation to explore your inner longings. The Church, through our Advent customs, and even the weather of the season itself support such inner work. During the first week of Advent, give yourself time and space to contemplate what you are truly longing for in life. Know that this is the season when your longings will lead you to the Christ Child, in whom the hopes and fears of all the years are known and responded to with generous love.



Advent Wreath-week 1

The Advent wreath is significant in that unlike holly or floral wreaths, it has candles standing upright, representing the four Sundays of Advent and the thousands of years that God's people awaited the Messiah. The round ring of the Advent Wreath represents eternity-time without end.

As the circle is never ending, so time with God goes on and on. The evergreens are for eternal life, life without end. Evergreens do not die in the winter and like them God is always fresh and new. The candles remind us of Christ 'Light of the World'.

1st CANDLE – (purple) THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE –

We speak of hope – because God keeps his promises to us.

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of Old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David.

Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask this in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen



Christmas Reflection.

As is customary the Parish will hold an evening of talk and reflection by Fr. Paddy Boyle. This is normally open to the Ministers of the Word and Ministers of the Eucharist. Past members of these ministries are also invited as indeed is anyone who may be interested. The event will be held in **St. Colmcille's Church on Tuesday 13th December at 7.30pm.** all are invited.

The Bethany Bereavement Support Group will meet on Monday 28th November at 7.30pm in the Parochial House, Seatown Road. All Fingal residents are welcome

Christmas Draw

Early in the New Year it is the intention of the Property and Finance Committee to seek tenders for the re-decoration of the Church. Once the tender process is completed the aim to commence the re-decoration in the Spring.

With this in mind St. Colmcille's is having a Christmas draw this year and as usual the Pariah Pastoral Council is looking for your support. The draw will take place at **4pm on Sunday 4th December** in the Parochial House on Seatown Road.

1st Prize €1000

2nd Prize €500

There will be 10 prizes in all. Tickets are €1 each and a book of 6 tickets for €5. Tickets will be on sale in the Church before and after all Masses on 19/20th November, 26.27 November & 3/4th December. Tickets will be available in the Sacristy and in the Parish Office on Seatown Road.

This is a new venture and the PPC would really appreciate your help to make it a success. It is also hoped that this will become an annual event.

Tickets will be on sale in some supermarkets in the town so **if anybody would like to volunteer to sell tickets at these venues** we would love to hear from you. You can contact Colette at 8407277 or leave your name in the Sacristy.

To summarise: Draw on 4th December • The cost of a ticket is €1 or 6 for €5 •



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Elizabeth Markey
Carmel Heron
Margaret Comber
Christopher Devine
Richard Dillon**

**Foxwood
Church Road
Boradmeadow
St Cronan's Ave
Rathbeale Court**



Annual Carol Service and Readings

The annual Carol Service takes place in St. Colmcille's Church on **Sunday 11th December at 4.00pm**, with the Parish Choir.



Christmas Mass Bouquets

Special Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are now available in the Sacristy and Parish Office for both churches. All Masses on Christmas Day and St. Stephens Day will be offered for the intentions of the donors of these cards. They cost €5 per card and would make a 'lovely stocking filler' for your nearest and dearest.

Swords Men's Shed are holding their annual Christmas Concert on Saturday 3rd Dec at 8.00pm. You will have the pleasure of hearing Celtic Choristers Christmas collection and also hear the beautifully haunting voice of Aimee Banks. The event is in The Riase Centre, Feltrim Road, Swords. Contact 083-487 5352. for tickets