

We all need to be recalled into the fidelity of our own baptism; we all need to be recalled into the fidelity of our baptism; we all need to be challenged again by the word of the Lord. We don't have to make a trek into the wilderness to hear the word of the Lord. We hear it here, in this place. Hearing it and acting on it – this is the best preparation for the one who is to come. (Source: *Seasons of the Word* by Fr. Denis McBride, C.S.S.R)

The Light that Leads

In the beginning God said: 'let there be light and there was light' (Genesis 1:3). Jesus is the true light who has come into the world (John 1:9).

We are called to be a light to the world, a city on a hilltop and, putting aside the deeds of darkness, to put on the armour of light (Romans 13:12)

'If we are truly in love with Christ and if we sense how much he loves, our hearts will light up with a joy that spreads to everyone around us' (Pope Francis).

Lord, we have seen a great light; we once lived in a land of shadows but now your light shines on us. (Source: *Walk with Me – Advent 2019*)

Fr Michael Carey

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2nd Sunday of Advent

The call from the wilderness to a change of heart

“O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations”

Newsletter Sunday 8th December 2019



Mass Intentions this Sunday

Sat 6.30pm Deceased members of the Agnew Family (An)

Patricia mcCreevey (MM)

Sun 8.30am Teresa Malone (An)

Sun 11.15am Deceased members of the O'Reilly & Kealey Families (An)



Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Special intention

Mon 10.00am Special intention

Tues 8.00am Hoy Souls

Tues 10.00am Special Intention

Wed 8.00am Christy Griffin

Wed 10.00am Salvatore Saputo

Thurs 8.00am Patrick O'Donovan

Thurs 10.00am Patrick Barry Jnr

Fri 8.00am Pat O'Reilly

Fri 10.00am Br Martin Keaney

Next Sunday

Sat 6.30pm Philip Markey

Sun 8.30am Des Becton

Sun 11.15am Joe & Margaret Prendergast

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)

There will be a Drynam Pastoral Team meeting on Tuesday 10th December at 8:00 PM to prepare for the Christmas season.



Advent Weekly Gifts

Gift 2 – God's Word of Comfort

The gift for the second week of Advent is that God speaks a reassuring word of comfort in the midst of our discontent and longing. In this quiet season—a season we tend to fill up with a lot of noise and frantic activity—make time daily to listen for the comforting words of God in your life. Probably the quickest way to begin hearing those words is to create a daily gratitude list. Set aside five minutes each morning or evening and take a few deep breaths. When you are settled, start jotting down whatever comes to your mind that you are grateful for. With a heart full of gratitude, everything else in our lives will change. We will begin to see, even in the demands of our Christmas preparations, the real purpose of those efforts - celebrating the Lord's arrival in our life and the lives of those we love

A wilderness voice

All four Gospels testify to an important truth: that John the Baptist stands at the beginning of the gospel. He is the one who marks the end of the time of waiting and the beginning of the new age in Jesus. He is the last of the great prophets, the one who came after a long period when no prophet spoke to the people. The great sequence of prophetic witness had been broken off in the history of Israel and people lamented that the spirit had been silenced.

God spoke only through the echo of his voice. The people had been without a messenger from God to challenge them with the word. However, in John the Baptist the people could see an end to God's silence. Through John they could hear the word of God.

John the Baptist has an unusual address: *c/o the wilderness*. But that is the traditional place associated with the growth of Israel's religion. It was in the desert that Israel first met God, and the story of the people's wanderings through the wilderness became the story of their growth from crisis to settlement in the promised land. In the desert the people were tested, and later, when they failed God, they were told that they would be taken back into the desert where God would speak to their heart. (Hosea 2:16)

So it is appropriate that the word of God should come again to the people in the wilderness. Matthew tells us that John the Baptist preaches in the wilderness and that all the people in Judea and Jerusalem make their way to him. This an extraordinary tribute to John's power. Why should busloads of people go into the wilderness? Hardly for a day's outing: there is nothing to see. It is a mark of John's charismatic power that he can stay in the wilderness and attract people to the place they would normally avoid. It is a portrait of Israel again hearing the word of God in the desert. John is the voice speaking in the wilderness.

The one who is to come

John calls the whole of Israel without exception to a change of heart. If the people do not change, John says that they will be overcome by a catastrophe that will destroy Israel. The judgement of the people will not be carried out by John himself; he speaks of the one who is to come who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. John warns of fireworks ahead. He calls the attention of Israel to its infidelity; the one who is to come will be more powerful and will exercise God's authority of judgement. We recognise the one John spoke of as Jesus, someone who will continue warning of the coming destruction and calling the whole people to a change of heart

The call is addressed to us. We hear it especially during the time of Advent when a community we are called to a change of heart. That challenge is addressed to each of us.

There are no exceptions. We are probably all aware of areas in our own lives that need to be changed and to be touched by the power of God's forgiveness.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*How much better our family life would be if we used the words....
Please. Thank you...and I'm sorry. Pope Francis*



Carol service - 2019

Last Sunday's Carol Service was truly a wonderful occasion and an audience that was **up on last year**. Well done to all in the Choir who sang sublimely and especially the new members – hopefully the first Carol Service of many! All your rehearsals paid off! A **special thank you** to Choir Director Morgan Crowley. He introduced a programme that was invigorating and interesting. Thank you to the Pianist Miriam Joyce. As advertised there were wonderful solo performances by small groups and individuals and congratulation to Helen Dignam who beautifully sang, 'O Holy Night'. I also thank Maurice Kealy who as Choir Secretary had many tasks to undertake and they all paid off on the night. The choir showed their appreciation by presenting flowers to Morgan; Miriam and soloists Helen Dignam; Caitlin White and Maurice Kealy. The Minister's of the Word proclaimed God's Word superbly and helped prepare all of us as we journey towards Christmas – thank you to Bernadette Marks; Angela Grace and Michael McCabe. Finally, many thanks to all who helped prepare for this wonderful afternoon, especially, the Parish Liturgy Group, who provided the very welcome mince pies and refreshment afterwards.

During the Carol Service, Morgan presented Theresa Woods with a bouquet of flowers. Theresa retired this year and the Choir wanted to acknowledge her wonderful contribution over many years, as do I on behalf of the Parish in this newsletter.

Do This in Memory

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

A Beautiful Cake

I want to acknowledge and thank Kathleen Power for the beautiful Christmas Cake that she baked for the raffle. It was admired by all who saw it - a work of art that the winner will enjoy eating!

Christmas Cards

The Christmas cards are now ready for distribution – I need your help to have these cards dropped onto people's letterboxes. If you can take a road or an estate it would be greatly appreciated. Thank You!



The Call to priesthood

Time of prayer and fraternal gathering for men exploring the call to Priesthood. If interested, please RSVP to Fr. Enda at: enda.cunningham@dublindiocese.ie or Fr. Séamus at: seamusmcentee@yahoo.com **Date: Friday 13th December 2019-Time: 7.00 - 9.00pm**
-Location: St. Andrew's Church, Westland Row, Dublin 2.

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.

Christmas Draw

The Christmas draw was held last Sunday in the Parish Church about 30 minutes after the Carol Service. Thank you to everyone who was able to remain the raffle and to the hospitality team who continued to serve the light refreshments. The tickets were 'drawn' in the presence of the Fundraising Committee (Pat Lynch; John and Bernie Campbell; Betty McDonald and Colette Stokes) all who were present in the Church for the occasion. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the Fundraising Committee who undertook this onerous task. They arranged for loads of things including: ticket sellers; setting up of the table, in order to sell tickets in the Church (*money changers in the Temple!*) and they arranged for ticket selling in JC's Supermarket, to whom I offer on behalf of the Parish a big 'thank you'. Thanks to all who sold the tickets in the Church and in JC's – this was a long stint and it is truly appreciated. Thank you also to the Ministry Teams who took books of tickets to sell to family and friends. Thanks to those who donated prizes: Kathleen Power for the beautiful a cake with fantastic icing; Total Produce for a lovely basket of fruit and JC's ; Dunnes Stores and Supervalu. Whilst I don't have the final figure to hand as I write this newsletter the income over expenditure in terms of surplus is circa **€3500**. Thank you so much

Congratulation to Paddy and Anne Farrell who won the 1st prize of €500 and to Angela Rainey who won the second prize of €250. Congratulations to the other winners:

Liam Molloy; Conor O' Scanail; Jeremy Doyle; Paul Battams; Oliver Grogan; Catherine Hanley; Michael Enright; Margaret Reilly and Noel McLoughlin

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO BOUGHT THE TICKETS

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The annual Diocesan Collection for the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul takes place **THIS WEEKEND** It will be the second collection replacing Share. Where is the heart that loves? In the things that it loves. Consequently, where our love is, there our heart is captive. It cannot escape, it cannot reach higher or go to right or left: there it is fixed. Where the miser's treasure, there is his/her heart: where our heart is, there is our treasure. And it is a sad thing that the things that hold us captive are for the most part quite unworthy things. It is self-love that attaches and binds us to the very sorts of things that most disturb and upset us. Our passions enslave us. – **St. Vincent de Paul**

Our love should extend in a very practical way to the poor. Our Lord was not born in a palace or even a semi-detached. He was born in a stable. Jesus once drew attention to his own poverty. "The birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Lk. 9:58)

Bambinelli Sunday: Over the past number of decades on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) children and adults bring their Baby Jesus from their homes to St Peter's Square where they are blessed by the Pope. This has become known as 'Bambinelli Sunday' **Next weekend (December 15th) all children and families are invited to bring their Baby Jesus figure from their homes to be blessed to all Masses**

