



Parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Parish Newsletter

24th December 2017

Fourth Sunday in Advent & Christmas Day

Vol.16 No 4

Priests of the Parish: Fr Patrick M. Devitt Adm. 2857773
Fr Declan Gallagher C.C. 2859212

Sacristan: Finbarr Madden 2859975 (8.30-10.30am)
Secretary: Caitríona Fogarty 2859418 (10.30-12.30pm)

Parish Pastoral Council: Elizabeth Hogan (Chairman), Margaret More O'Ferrall (Secretary), Gerardine Parkinson, Brendan Flood, Valerie Hand, Joseph Collins, Norman Dingle, Michael Lane, Amy Luttrell, Gerry O'Brien, Valerie O'Rourke, Fr. Paddy Devitt and Fr. Declan Gallagher,

email: office@dalkeyparish.ie

www.dalkeyparish.ie

www.dalkeyparish.ie/webcam

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New year from all the Dalkey Parish team!

Sunday

Sat 6pm Vigil: Pauline and Teddy Murphy (ann)
Lillian and Denis Kelly (ann)
Sun 8.45am: Gerald Killeen (ann)
10.00am: Michael and Doris Purcell (ann)
Tom Noonan (RD)
Annie Reilly (ann)
11.15 am: Florence and Francis Brougham (ann)
Lucy and Mary Hargrove (ann)
12.30pm: Deceased relatives and friends of Brennan Family (ann)
Mary Towey (ann) and Declan Hickey (RD)
6pm: Doris Doyle (ann)

Christmas Eve 6pm Vigil Mass for Christmas

9pm 'Midnight Mass' preceded by Carol singing at 8.30pm

Christmas Day
8.45am
9.45am (Family Mass)
11.15am
12.30pm

No Evening Mass on Christmas Day .

Recently Deceased Louis Knowles, Sean Dunne and Jacqueline McKenna.

Our thoughts are with their families, relatives and friends.

Anniversaries Gerard McGeough, Michael and Kathleen Henry, Phyllis McGill, Joseph & Catherine Morris, Frank & Sheila Murphy, Mary Towey & Declan Hickey. Eddie & Nora O'Brien.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

Remembered at Masses this week

Tues: 10am: St Stephen's Day
Wed: 10am: Teresa Warner, Kieran Jethwa and Michael Duffy.
Zach Mahony (1st ann)
Thurs 10am June Gaughran (MM)
Annie and John Blake (ann)
Fri: 10am: Barry Cahill (ann)
Sat 10am: Peadar Somers and Noreen Moore (ann)

Welcome Home for Christmas!

We wish a warm welcome home to those who have returned to Dalkey for Christmas. We hope it will be a happy time for you. May you be blessed with the gladness of Christmas which is Hope, the Spirit of Christmas which is Peace; the heart of Christmas which is Love. May you be blessed with God's love for you this Christmas.

Pope Francis on Twitter

@pontifex

Without Love, both life and faith are worthless.

23rd December 2017

With gratitude!

As we rejoice in the great feast of Christmas, we thank all who do so much to enhance our celebration: those who have cleaned and decorated the church, the flower arranging group, Cathal and family who built the crib, the collectors, the choirs, organists and instrumentalists in the music ministry, altar servers, ministers of the Word (readers) and ministers of the Eucharist, those who exercise a ministry of welcome, Finbarr our sacristan and Caitriona in the office-as well as those who serve us all on the Parish Pastoral Council and its sub-committees, and on the Parish Finance Committee, the Parish Maintenance Committee and on the Board of Harold Boys', our parish school; all who organised and participated in the wonderful carol services which we have enjoyed over the past week, and especially our friends and neighbours in St Patrick's Church. To all our numerous volunteers who are the beating heart of our vibrant community - too numerous to mention! Thank You!! Finally, Dalkey Community Council has once again this year, donated a lovely Christmas Tree to the church. We thank the Council for this very generous gift.

Bethlehem Peace light

The Peace Light from Bethlehem is a continuously-burning flame, originating from one of the oil lamps of the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Israel. It is meant to promote peace, harmony and unity among the people of the world regardless of race, ethnicity or religion. For several decades the International Scouting movement - both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts - have actively promoted global peace and harmony through the distribution of the Peace Light. We are blessed to have this light in our parish this Christmastime. Please be welcome to share this light in your home this Christmas - you can light your own candle or take one of the candles placed beside the light. A small donation can be left for St V de Paul.

Christmas Day Lunch

The 30th Annual Gala Lunch, Cabaret and Song Contest for people living on their own will be held in the Club Room, Blackrock College Rugby Club, Stradbroke from 10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on Christmas Day. We send best wishes to Margaret Brown who has been organising this for the past 30 years.

Dalkey Crib

Did you know that our crib is over 100 years old, having been donated by a local benefactor in 1913? The pieces are still in remarkably good condition and have really stood the test of time. Why not stop a while and say a prayer.

Parish Office

The Parish Office will be closed until Tues 2nd Jan. Mass cards etc. are available at the Sacristy before and after Masses during this period. We welcome John T Murphy & Paddy Morgan as they provide cover for Finbarr during the holiday period.

Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration is when we come to church and pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament. You can come anytime during the Adoration period, and stay as long or as short as you wish and be in His Presence for as long as you wish. While you are there sitting quietly in the pew before God, you can pray, read spiritual books, meditate on a mystery of the faith, ponder God's will for us, etc. Adoration really helps you to be open to what God is trying to tell you! Going to Him in this way really means a lot to Him. Remember when you are here, both pray and LISTEN! Listening is so important, so just say a few prayers then just bask in His presence and an answer will hopefully come to you'. Come along and experience the real presence of Christ, Adoration will recommence on Jan 2nd from after 10am Mass until 5pm.

St. Stephen's Day

A collection for the sacristan will be taken at Mass on St Stephen's Day.

Bereavement Counselling in Dalkey Parish The bereavement counselling service, (non-denominational), offers confidential counselling on a one to one basis by trained volunteer counsellors in Presbytery No.2 each Tuesday night from 7-9pm and Wednesday afternoons, 2-5pm. Please call 01 8391766 for an appointment on donation basis.

Meditation Group

Our parish meditation group meets every Thursday evening, from 7.30 to 8.30pm, at Presbytery No. 2. All most welcome!

Thank You!

St Vincent de Paul Dalkey would like to thank all of our parishioners for your extraordinary generosity in last weekend's collection which raised a tremendous €20,914.29.

Can you help?

If you have some time to spare and would like to help out in the parish, can you please have a look at the leaflet explaining Church ministries which has been distributed in the last few weeks. The Family Mass Group would also welcome more volunteers. Just fill out the form at the back of the leaflet and pop it in Office or email office@dalkeyparish.ie. Thank you.

Vacancies

A full list of job vacancies in the Archdiocese and for 2018 World meeting of Families is available on www.dublindioocese.ie

Hymns for 11.15 Mass

Entrance Hymn

O come, O come Emmanuel,
To free your captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appears.

*Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel,
To you shall come Emmanuel.*

O royal branch of Jesse's tree,
Redeem us all from tyranny;
From pain of hell Your people free,
And over death win victory.

Offertory Hymn

Prepare the way of the Lord,
Prepare the way of the Lord
And all people will see
The salvation of our God. X 3

Communion Hymn

I am the Bread of Life;
He who comes to me shall not hunger;
He who believes in me shall not thirst;
No one can come to me, unless the Father draw him.

*And I will raise him up and I will raise him up,
I will raise him up on the last day.*

The bread that I shall give
Is my flesh for the life of the world;
And he who eats of this bread,
He shall live forever, he shall live forever.

Unless you eat
Of the flesh of the Son of Man,
And drink of His blood,
And drink of His blood,
You shall not have life within you.

Recessional Hymn

Come O Divine Messiah,
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.

Sweet Saviour haste! Come, come to earth.
Dispel the night and show Thy face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace

O Thou whom nations sighed for
Whom priests and prophets long foretold,
Shall break the captive fetters,
Redeem the long lost fold.

It's not spooky because He promised, "I'll be with you always." Then, just speak to Him in the same way you're doing with me right now.'

So, I tried it, and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though.

If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve 6pm Vigil Mass for Christmas

9pm 'Midnight Mass' preceded by Carol singing at 8.30pm

Christmas Day 8.45am

9.45am (Family Mass)

11.15am

12.30pm

No Evening Mass on Christmas Day Monday 26th

December, Mass at 10. a.m.

Parish Group Support

The Parish Meditation group meets each Thursday evening from 7.30 to 8.30pm, at Presbytery No. 2 (behind the Church) and Compline continues each Wednesday at 6.30 p.m. One to one Bereavement Counselling (non-denominational) with trained volunteer counsellors continues in Presbytery No.2 each Tuesday night from 7-9pm and Wednesday afternoons, 2-5pm. Call 01 8391766 for an appointment on donation basis.

Wisdom

I love the simplicity of the following story....

A man's daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her father. When the minister arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed.

The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me," he said. "No, who are you?" said the father.

"I'm the new minister at your church," he replied. "When I saw the empty chair, I figured you knew I was going to show up."

"Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?"

Puzzled, the minister shut the door. "I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man.

"But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head. I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day, about four years ago, my best friend said to me, 'Joe, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus.

Here is what I suggest. Sit down in a chair; place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair.

Moved

The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey.

Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church. Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her daddy had died that afternoon.

"Did he die in peace?" he asked.

"Yes, when I left the house about two o' clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?"

The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we could all go like that."

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.

Amen.