



# St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

## Parish Newsletter

### Third Sunday of Advent: 15 December 2024

#### MASS INTENTIONS

##### Sunday, 15 December

*(Gaudete Sunday)*

Willie King (1st BR)

Liam Byrne (A)

Jack Martin (A)

Kathleen Scott (A)

Michael & Larry O'Sullivan (D)

##### Monday, 16 December

Maura O'Brien (A)

##### Tuesday, 17 December

Mary Ormsby (BR)

##### Wednesday, 18 December

*St Flannan, bishop*

Peter Hoines (MM)

John Lawrence (BR)

Eddie Lawrence (D)

##### Thursday, 19 December

Holy Souls

##### Friday, 20 December

*St Fachanan, bishop*

Suzanne Miller (SI)

Kathleen, John & David Cullen (D)

##### Saturday, 21 December

*St Peter Canisius, priest & doctor of the Church*

Marion Grehan (Thanksgiving)

Dermot Byrne (1st A)

Rory Larkin (1st A)

*The Lord, the King of Israel is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear...  
the Lord, your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior...  
He will exult with Joy over you, he will renew you by his love...  
he will dance with shouts of Joy for you. Zeph: 3:14-18*

Today is Gaudete Sunday in Latin or Rejoice Sunday. The word Gaudete or rejoice comes from the opening words of the entrance antiphon: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.* Today is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent. We light the pink candle on the Advent wreath to remind us that the Lord is near. The 3<sup>rd</sup> week of waiting for the coming of the Lord. The readings tell us over and over again that the time of waiting for the coming of God is nearly over and we should rejoice.

The people of the Old Testament waited for 2,000 years for the coming of God. When things were bad, the longing for a Messiah became great. During their waiting the people of Israel had very unreal expectations. They believed that when the Messiah came there would be a perfect world. There would be no more suffering or sickness or pain. The desert land of Palestine would become green pasture land. The Messiah would put right all the things that were wrong with the world. The Messiah would come in the clouds of heaven and would enter Jerusalem in triumph and glory. Everyone would know instantly that the Messiah had come.

What actually happened was very different. Talk about the God of surprises. A baby was born in a stable because there was no room in the inn.

The 2,000 years of waiting of the Jewish people for the coming of the Messiah is the same as our waiting this Advent. The experience of waiting is the same the world over. During our waiting, we become more aware of the darkness of a world without God. We begin to long for the coming of God to fill the empty parts of our lives. During Advent we begin to long for a new light but in the words of R.S. Thomas the Welsh poet, *The meaning is in the waiting.*

**Fr Mark Noonan CM**



#### ADVENT — WAITING IN JOYFUL HOPE

The Church begins again its liturgical life, waiting and watching for Christ our Saviour, born in time, to come again in glory. To help us prepare to welcome Jesus with hearts and minds renewed, the following moments alongside our regular life of Masses, confessions, adoration, novena...

- Reconciliation Services in the Parish Partnership: Monday 16th December at 7.30pm in Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Navan Road.
- Monday 16 December: 8.00pm St Peter's Choir and the Offbeat Ensemble Concert in the Church with donations to this year's parish charity, supporting families with children who have additional educational needs.
- Reconciliation Services in the Parish Partnership: Saturday 21st December at 10.30am in Christ the King Church, Cabra.

**Fr Eamon Devlin CM PP**



# LITURGICAL READINGS FOR: Sunday, 15 December 2024

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the Prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!  
Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!  
The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:  
Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp.  
The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.  
He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love;  
he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.  
The Word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst  
is the Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord,  
give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst  
is the Holy One of Israel.

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord;  
I repeat, what I want is your happiness.

Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.  
There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it,  
asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving,  
and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand,  
will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.  
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 holy Gospel according to Luke

When all the people asked John, *'What must we do, then?'*  
He answered, *'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.'*  
There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, *'Master, what must we do?'*  
He said to them, *'Exact no more than your rate.'*  
Some soldiers asked him in their turn, *'What about us? What must we do?'*

He said to them, *'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'*  
A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all,  
*'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'*

As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.  
The Gospel of the Lord.



## COLLECTIONS - Sunday 8th December

Parish (1st Collection, incl. Online) = € 857.50  
Envelopes (Online/Payzone) = € 963.00  
SVP Christmas Collection (Replaced Share) = €3,625.20

Thank you for your support to the parish and to the Diocese.

## VLM RAFFLE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets for the Vincentian Lay Missionaries Christmas Raffle are available now! Fantastic prizes include an overnight stay in Sandymount Hotel, dinner vouchers for Mr Fox & Dada Restaurants, afternoon tea for two in Barberstown Castle & Clayton Ballsbridge Hotels & lots more. See poster on Church notice-board for more information and QR code.

## IN LOVING MEMORY

Please remember in your prayers all those who died recently especially Albert O'Brien (Munster Street).

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 CARDS & CALENDARS

Mass Bouquets €10.00  
Novena Cards €5.00  
SVP (pack of 10) €5.00  
2025 Calendars €2.50

Available  
from the  
Parish Office  
and the  
Repository

