



Skerries Parish Bulletin

No 2452

14th – 21st December 2025

Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; Psalm 146 (145); James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Can we be joyful in this busy season of preparing for Christmas?

Today's readings say, "Yes we can". Isaiah describes God's saving power (blind see, lame leap) and we can be joyful because of this. The psalm lists ways God helps the poor, the blind, and the broken-hearted, which are all signs of God's justice and of his reign that never ends.

As we anticipate Christmas, James urges us to be patient like a farmer waiting for the harvest. In Matthew's gospel, John the Baptist introduces us to Jesus as "the one who is to come". Jesus asks the people who do they think he is? Some imagine he may be a prophet or a prince. He is neither. Jesus points to his works. The miracles he performs fulfil the prophecies of Isaiah and are signs that he is the Messiah. His love for us never ends. We are encouraged to get ready. The nearness of God at Christmas brings hope. In the gospel Jesus reminds the friends of John the Baptist – and us – that He is the one we are both waiting for.

These readings focus on **joy, hope, and preparation for Jesus' arrival**. They give strength to us when we may feel tired or uncertain. Jesus gives us signs of love, healing, and hope. We might look for Jesus in our world in quiet moments and simple acts of kindness.

Church Readers

Building Hope - Faith for the Future

Why Sunday Matters- Reflecting on our Sunday Mass (Part 3)

The purpose of this message is to encourage you to reflect on what is special about Sunday Mass and what it means to you, and, if you no longer attend, to consider returning to Mass. How can you enrich your experience of Mass and make it a central part of your life? We invite individuals, families, and parish groups to reflect on the following questions and to consider how you can contribute to a more vibrant and welcoming celebration of Sunday Mass in your community.

- How can we better welcome those hesitant to return since the pandemic?
- How can our parish enhance Sunday Mass for all ages?
- What impact have online Masses had on our community?
- What brings vitality to our Sunday celebration?
- How does participating in Sunday Mass inspire your life as a Christian?
- How can I make Mass a central and enriching part of my life?



This is an edited version of "Why Sunday Matters" that was for the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference. To see the full article, please use web link; ***Why Sunday Matters – an invitation to reflect on Sunday Mass | Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference*** Parish Pastoral Council

ANNIVERSARY / SPECIAL INTENTION MASSES

Sat 13th 10am: Charles Clarke & family, Margaret Horan, Thomas Jones, Kieran Martin, Michael & Brigid O'Reilly & family, Lily McMahan, Susan Butler

Sat 13th 6pm: Aidan Giles (MM), Terry Murphy, Dessie & Maureen Delemere, Margaret McNally, Teresa Gaffney, James & Mary Manning

Sun 14th 9.30am: Tom McDonald, Michael, Eileen & Brendan Redden, Deceased members of the Marks family, Ailish Guinan, Frederick Jones (BR), Ronnie O'Loghlen

Sun 14th 11am: Colm Dennis, Bernie, Liz & Fanchea Rice, Pat Hynes, John Connelly, Mary Rochford, Rosie & Gerry Hoare, Emily Crowley & dec'd members of Crowley & Nolan families

Mon 15th 10am: Mass Card Intentions

Tues 16th 10am: Margaret McAuley, Rena McGrath, Margaret Ryan, Katie, Mary & James McGirl, Martha & Patrick Ruddy

Wed 17th 10am: Esther Carmel McDonagh, Dolores Doorty, Anna Jones, Christie Gough, Special Intention

Fri 19th 10am: Kitty & Harry McBride, Austin Fields (rem), Noel Nelson (rem), Bernadette 'Bernie' O'Connor, Michael & Anthony O'Leary (br,rem)

Sat 20th 10am: Bernadette Mooney, Desmond Lumsden, Sean Horan, Anna McMahan

Sat 20th 6pm: Maura White, Mona & Pdraig Potter, Binnie Lannon Bernie Morris, Joan Smyth (BR), Paul Holland, May Towson

Sun 21st 9.30am: Oonagh Beglan, Phil Duggan, Basil, Frances & Paul Emmerson, Larry Daly, John & Moira Kelly & deceased members of the Kelly family, Ina Woods

Sun 21st 11am: Swanee Martin, Jean Treleaven Maureen Hayes, Catriona Harper, Edie McMahan, Walter & Kitty Howlett, Paddy & May McMahan

OUR SYMPATHY



To the family of **Tony Walls**, Hillside Gardens, who died recently. May he Rest in Peace.

Parish Website: www.stpatricksskerries.ie Email: info@stpatricksskerries.ie Ph (01)8106771, RCN 20016166;

Fr Melvyn 01 9629662; Parish Mobile No - for out of normal hours, emergencies only - 089 2053460;

Parish Pastoral Council: ppcstpatricksskerries@gmail.com; Bulletin Email: skerriesbulletin@gmail.com

CALENDAR 2026

The Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of The Sacred Heart calendar available in the Parish Office.

CHRISTMAS MASS CARDS

Christmas Mass cards are on sale in the Parish Office. Proceeds of the sale of the cards will go to The Capuchin Homeless Day Centre, Dublin.

BRIDGE MASS - BLESSING OF BABY JESUS

The next Bridge Mass takes place at **11am this Sunday 14th December**. This Sunday is special as traditionally we bless the baby Jesus figure you may use in the crib in your home. All boys and girls are invited to bring their 'baby Jesus' to this Bridge Mass on Sunday to have it blessed as we prepare for Jesus' birth this Christmas.

SKERRIES COMMUNITY CHOIR

Annual Christmas concerts are on Dec 16th and 17th at 8pm in Holmpatrick Church. Tickets €15 cash at door. A donation will be made to the Irish Kidney Association. Come along to support this worthy cause and have a lovely festive evening.

THE HALLELUJAH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

is on the 18th December at 7pm. Tickets are available from the parish office at €20 per head. Also available at www.hallelujahchristmas.com.

AGE ACTION

Age Action's Getting Started One-To-One Digital Training for Older People is resuming in **Balbriggan Library on Tuesdays running from 11:00 – 13:00**. If you would like to learn or brush-up on your digital skills, please phone Age Action on 01-4756989 to enrol on this course and ask for the Getting Started Team. Perhaps you could make this your New Year's resolution!

SKERRIES LADIES BOWLS

Looking forward to seeing all lady members in their Christmas jumpers tomorrow Monday 15th for a short roll-up, followed by tea and goodies! Prizes for the Autumn Monday morning competition will be announced. Congratulations and best wishes to our new Lady Captain Isobel Murray and Ladies Secretary Eileen McMahon, elected last week.

PRIMARY SCHOOL SURVEY

As you are aware by now the Dept. of Education & Science have launched a survey to seek parents/guardians response to 3 questions - 1st - the patronage of the school - keep it as a Catholic school that prepares children for sacraments or change it; the 2nd question is about the language you wish your child to be taught through - either through Irish or English and 3rd question asks if you have a preference for your child to attend a single gender school (either all boys or girls) or that the school be co-educational (mixed boys & girls). It is of the highest importance that parents/guardians respond to this survey as its results will shape the school system in our country into the future.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025

We are here again at this time of the year to once again appeal to the People of Skerries for your Generosity. We try and live by the ethos of St Vincent De Paul - Compassion, Service and Respect. We could not serve the People who request our help without the support that you all give to us. We are beyond grateful for your continued support over all these years. Your support is what sustains us from January to December each year. We would ask that you do not let pride come in the way of asking for help if you need it. Everyone goes through a tough time at one time or another. We will listen to your request, and we will see what we can do. Confidentiality is upmost in our dealings with people so please feel comfortable to call us. As a Conference we can only commit to short term help. We cannot commit to long term help. We are there for when the Crisis hits and to help in the best way we can. So once again we are appealing to you, 'The Good People of Skerries' to support our Annual Christmas Appeal. No matter how small or large the contribution, it is so very much appreciated. **"We Do What We Can Because You Give What You Can"**. The appeal takes place on **Saturday/Sunday 13/14th December** at all Masses. Donations can be made to our Bank Account online - Iban IE19AIBK93224809851094. Bic Code if needed - AIBKIE2D. Donations can also be made through the Parish Office in the Blue Envelopes provided or to any Conference Member.

Head Office Helpline No - 01 8848200.

HILLS CRICKET CLUB

Tea Dance today Sun 14th from 3.30-6.00pm. Lovely refreshments served plus raffle. Music by Martin and Patrick. All welcome.

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

U21 Men's Football won Dublin B Championship final v St Patrick's Donabate by 1 point.
U21 Camogie won Dublin Division 5 Championship final v Round Towers Clondalkin by 3 points.
2026 Membership now available on skerriesharps.ie
ZINGO: 30th November result - 1-7-5-3-6-2-4. No winners. Jackpot now €1,600. Draw on Sunday at 6pm with free in-house draw. Join online or on the night by envelope - www.skerriesharps.com/zingo.
BINGO: Next Bingo is on Monday 15th December at 8pm. Jackpot €700. Special Christmas edition with lots of spot prizes! Christmas Draw Tickets now on sale. Buy in Clubhouse or at www.skerriesharps.com/tickets. Draw on Sunday 20th December.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of the late **Gavan O'Kelly** wish to thank Fr Melvyn and all those who extended their sympathy and support at the time of Gavan's death, RIP. The sacrifice of the mass will be offered for the intentions of all.

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