

The Revolution of Christmas



We think of Christmas as the season of Peace and Goodwill and indeed that is with good reason. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, among other things.

When we look at today's Scripture passages, we see that Christmas is also a Revolution. From the old order of Judaism to the new order of Christianity, a real turn-up takes place.

In the reading from Micah, Bethlehem is referred to as "the least of the clans of Judah" and the scene is set for surprises and shocks. In today's eyes, Mary was a pregnant, unmarried teenager with a boyfriend, Joseph. Although we today think of her in quite different terms, we may be sure that this is how she was seen in her own time – "a disgrace". The poor couple were pathetic, forced to get themselves to Bethlehem for a census when Mary was heavily pregnant – and then nowhere to give birth - or to live in the end. They had to flee to Egypt, migrants of their own day.

Worship is also turned on its head with the coming of Jesus. St Paul's letter to the Hebrews makes that clear. Traditional worship is no longer valid. Most importantly, the idea of "paying back" for sin is changed. "This is what Christ said 'you did not want what the Law lays down... the oblations, the holocausts the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them'". The whole relationship between God and Humankind is changed with the coming of Christ. That is something worth thinking about.

What exactly does Christmas mean? Mary was a decent person, a girl of great insight and faith, like thousands of girls today. She saw herself as just another human being but, crucially, she trusted God for everything. This is the sort of faith that God used, the sort of person that God used – a 'nobody' from 'nowhere' in the eyes of the world - and what magnificence has come from that! Maybe we should ask ourselves where we look for valuable and worthy things. "Rejects" may be a lot more precious than we realise!

A little hymn puts it like this: Born in the night, Mary's Child, a long, long way from home, Coming in need, Mary's Child, born in a borrowed room; Clear shining light, Mary's Child, your face lights up our way; Light of the world, Mary's Child, dawn on our darkened day". **HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**

Skerries Church Choir

Christmas Masses 2018

Please note there will be no chairs in the glass area at the back of the church for the 4pm, 6pm and 8pm Masses on Christmas Eve (Monday 24th). There will be stewards on duty at these Masses and we would be grateful if you will follow their instructions in order to accommodate as many of our parishioners as possible. We will open the gallery for the 4pm, 6pm and 8pm Masses, but no unaccompanied children will be allowed on the gallery.

The health, safety and security of our parishioners are paramount. We would be most grateful for your help in contributing to the references of our Christmas Celebrations.

ANNIVERSARIES & INTENTIONS

- ✦ **Sat 22** 6pm: Binnie (Biney) Lannon
- ✦ **Mon 24** 10am Stephen McGrath, Eithne Everard
- ✦ **Mon 24** 4pm: Christmas Card Intentions
6pm: Christmas Card Intentions
8pm: Christmas Card Intentions
- ✦ **Tue 25** 9.30am: Christmas Card Intentions
11am: Christmas Card Intentions
- ✦ **Wed 26** 11am: Catriona Harper, Tommy Keane & Family, Ella Keane & Family, Esther Kelly, O'Connell & Lawlor (Special Intention) Madge Browne, Brian & Robert Beggs

- ✦ **Thurs 27** 11am: Kay & Ivan Heeney, Maurice Mullins, Cora & Mick Cannon, Maisie Grimes, Aiden Grimes
- ✦ **Fri 28** 11am: Fanning Family, Eileen & Larry Cummins
- ✦ **Sat 29** 11am: Flannagan Family (Special Intention)
- ✦ **Sat 29** 6pm: Kevin Woodcock, Pearse Thornton, Evelyn Marshall
- ✦ **Sun 29** 11am: Willie Flannagan, Stephen & Kathleen Attley, Frances Browne, Margaret Browne.

ST PATRICK'S PARISH CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Mon 24 Dec - Christmas Eve Vigil Masses for Christmas Day – 4pm, 6pm & 8pm

Tue 25 Dec - Christmas Day Mass 9.30am & 11am

Wed 26 Dec - St Stephen's Day Mass at 11am

Thurs 27 Dec – Sat 29th & Mon 31st Dec Mass at 11am

Tues 1st Jan – New Year's Day Mass at 11am

CONFESSIONS IN SKERRIES

Monday 24th Dec 10.30am – 11.30am.

SKERRIES PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD

The office will be closed from Monday 24th to Sunday 30th December. The office will be open on Monday 31st December 9.30 -12.30. It will reopen on Wed 2nd January as normal.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

Our thanks to all who helped with the preparation, packing and distribution of the Christmas Mass Timetable. If you have not received a copy they are available in the parish office.

NOLLAIG NA MBAN

Skerries Mill's Book Group cordially invite you to an afternoon of music and stories from 2 - 4pm on **Sunday 6th January** in the Mill's tearooms. Admission free. Raffle in aid of St Luke's Cancer Hospital - tickets €5.

SCOIL RÉALT NA MARA

Pre-Enrolment for Junior Infant Classes for September 2019 will take place from Monday 7th January to Friday 18th January between 9am and 1pm on school days. Contact: Máire Ni Odhrain 01 8490049.

SKERRIES LADIES BOWLING



We wish all our Lady members a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and active New Year. If you are looking for a new activity for the New Year, why not come along and have a trial session? Monday morning is Ladies Morning and we will be glad to see you from 10.30 onwards.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS can be left into the Skerries Library. The Guide Dogs Association will be most grateful for them. Please leave 1/4-inch trim around stamps.

PIONEER TOTAL ABSTINENCE ASSOCIATION OF THE SACRED HEART

Concelebrated Mass will take place in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, Gardiner Street, Dublin on **Friday 28th December** 2018 at 2pm to mark 120 years of the founding of the Pioneer Association. Everyone is welcome to join us for this milestone anniversary.

SKERRIES COMMUNITY CHOIR



Thank you to all who supported our Christmas Concerts. A donation will be made to charity. Rehearsals resume on **17th January 2019** and new members are very welcome. Come along & enjoy singing with us.

PANAMA IN DUBLIN

Are you aged 16-29? Do you dare to say 'Yes'... then why not join us for Panama in Dublin from Sat 26th to Sun 27th Jan 2019 at Emmaus Retreat Centre near Swords, to mark and link with World Youth Day 2019 in Panama. We will have music, talks, the Pope's homilies from Panama, food, fellowship, fun and more. Register your interest by emailing us at: wydathome@dublindiocese.ie If you're aged 18-29 and would like to volunteer for this exciting event, pop us an email to the same address with 'volunteer' in the subject line! Follow us on Facebook at: WYD@Home – Panama in Dublin"

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

We wish a Happy Christmas to all our members, sponsors and supporters.

Dec 26th Annual Charity games on St. Stephens Day at 11am - Married v Singles football followed by Mixed Hurling/Camogie with Refreshments in the Clubhouse! **Fri 28th** Charity Golf outing in Skerries GC – meal and prizes in Harps club at 8pm. All proceeds from Games and Golf go to the local branch of St. Vincent de Paul. Zingo. 6, 4, 3, 2, 7, 1, 5. Jackpot now €2,900. S. Phillips won the Turkey Draw thanks to Aiden O'Brien, butchers. Next Zingo is at 6.30 pm on Sunday. Christmas Tree collection service runs again this year to aid our Féile 2019 teams. Trees collected and disposed of for €5. Tags available from most tree suppliers. New Years Eve Party hosted by Aoife and Heather - a night for Nansana, Uganda - in aid of Nurture Africa at 8pm. Tickets €20 from 086 0839137 or 083 0638258.

We offer our sympathy to the family of the late Vivienne O'Herlihy (Lusk), RIP.