



Skerries Parish Bulletin

No.2191

6th-13th December, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent



The Gospel of Mark, and each of the readings in today's Mass tells us "Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord". The word 'advent' means coming – the arrival of a notable person.

Isaiah the Prophet says: "the way has been made straight for us, valleys have been filled in and mountains and hills laid low."

God wants us to go to Him, as Jesus Himself went to John the Baptist to be baptised. Jesus was showing us that He too was prepared to be baptised as the way to repentance and forgiveness. John said "Someone is following me who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit".

The people to whom Peter was talking thought the end was near for them. He says, "so then my friends while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that He will find you at peace".

During Advent we have the time to prepare for Christmas, for "the coming of the Lord".

We pray

Let us see O lord

Your mercy and

Give us your Saving Help.

Masses on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

This is a Christmas we will never forget for many and varied reasons and we will celebrate it in a different way from what we are used to.



Thankfully, we have been given special permission, where possible and safe, to attend in person at

Mass. In our parish church we are limited in numbers to 50 people. Recent guidelines from the Archbishop and the government repeat that the health & safety of all the community is paramount most especially during this season when we all desire to gather to celebrate this special time together. Taking all of this into consideration the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be available only via webcam and parish radio. You are encouraged to make your Christmas Mass at any of the Masses over the twelve days of Christmas. In this way we can keep one and all safe and healthy

Giving Sunday – next weekend

Many families face impossible choices this year. If you would like to donate to our local St. Vincent de Paul group envelopes are available on the tables at the entrance and



exits of the Church. These can be returned to the Parish Office or either of the Parish houses.

Praying Together in Advent

Join us in the Church, or via the webcam or radio next Wed. at 7.30p.m., prayer, reflection and music in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Lectio Divina

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 8th December

The Vigil Mass will be celebrated on Mon. 7th at 7.30 and Mass of the Feast day at 10 a.m..

Anniversary/Intentions:

Sat. 5th 10 a.m.: Margaret Hill (recently deceased), Special Intention

6 p.m.: Thomas Hand, Rosanna Hand and decd. members of the Hand Family, Tony & Liam Shiels, Anne Marjorem, Erin O'Carroll (recently deceased), John & Kitty Ellis and deceased members of the Ellis family,

Sun, 6th Dec.: 9.30 a.m.: Marie & Michael Grimes, John, Mary & P.J. Minogue, Eileen & Maureen Murphy and the Murphy Family, Vera Leonard, Frances Tanner

11 a.m.: Colette Branagan (month's mind), Cyril McGloughlin (1st anniv), David Payne(1st anniv.), Bernard and Mary Ann Moles, Michael Duggan, Noeleen Taaffe (b'day rem.)

Mon. 7th 10 a.m.: Mass Card Intentions

Tues. 8th 10 a.m: Martin Archbold

Wed. 9th 10 a.m.,: Lily McMahan, Christopher Jenkinson, Phil & Nancy Walls, Marian Boylan

Thurs. 10th 10 a.m.: Harry Gavin (1st anniv), Charles O'Loughlin, Michael & Bridget O'Reilly and deceased members of O'Reilly family

Fri. 11th 10 a.m. : Betty Graham, Kathleen Quinn

Sat. 12th 10a.m.: Charles Clarke and family

Sat 12th 6 p.m.: Rosie & Gerry Hoare, Nelly Cannon and Cannon family, Emily Crowley and the Nolan & Crowley family, Martha & Peter Phillips and deceased members of the Phillips family

Sun. 13th 9.30am: Elizabeth Rice, Michael & Eileen Redden, Joseph Branagan, John & Maureen Martin, Fr Jim Martin, Paul Emmerson 11 a.m.: Terry Murphy (1st anniv.) and those who sympathised with the family, Peg Conliss, Pat Hynes, Joseph & Kathleen Tyndall, Oonagh Whittle, Thomas and Anna Jones, Flanagan family, Colm Dennis



Parish Website: www.skerriesparish.ie Email: info@stpatricksskerries.ie Ph (01)81 06771

Fr. Melvyn 01 8491250: Fr. James 01 8106468 Parish mobile for out of hours emergencies 085 2320479

Bulletin Email: skerriesbulletin@gmail.com

Helping Hands and Listening Ears

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People



Alone manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give

advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024. Calls to the ALONE National Support Line cost no more than a local call to a landline. Calls from Vodafone or landline bundles, PAYG bundles, and mobile contracts are free. Up until December 2019, phone providers did not include 0818 numbers in free call bundles, however since then, 0818 are included in any 'free' call bundles in a caller's phone contract.

Irish Hospice Foundation - Living with Loss

As part of our bereavement support function at Irish Hospice Foundation we are arranging our annual event for the public entitled 'Living with Loss'. This year the event will be online on 9th December at 7pm. This event is free to attend, but you would need to book a place using the following link

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/living-with-loss-tickets-130420626605>

Aware - Support & Self Care Groups As we all know, during Level 5 lockdown, many people are experiencing additional feelings of isolation, anxiety and distress as well as other challenges with their mental health. If you, or those with whom you work wish to connect with people in relation to your mental wellbeing, please consider using the Phone In and Zoom Support & Self Care Groups, the Support Line or Support Mail, now and throughout the holiday season. These services provide support, coping skills and information – and most importantly help people who are in distress to know and feel that they are not alone in their experience. For more information about the groups

<https://www.aware.ie/support/support-groups/>

Skerries Ladies Bowls Club:

If you'd like a unique gift for someone in your circle, club member Gisela Hoey is holding a sale of her small paintings in the Club House, this weekend, 11 – 1, and again next weekend, 12th-14th at the same times.



PARISH BOOK CLUB: During the month of December we will be reading **A Christmas Carol** - one of Charles Dickens' most loved books - a true classic and a Christmas must-read. A Christmas Carol has been adapted for stage, screen and

animation, but nothing captures the mastery of storytelling that Dickens employs in his creation of Ebenezer Scrooge - a mean, miserable, bitter, old man with no friends. One cold Christmas Eve, three ghosts take him on a scary journey to show him the error of his nasty ways. By visiting his past, present and future, Scrooge learns to love Christmas and the people all around him. A heart-warming tale for us all this Christmas.

Acknowledgements:

Gavin: On Dec. 10th, his 1st Anniversary, the family of Harry Gavin would like to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to all who sympathised and supported them over the past year. A special thank you to Fr James, Fr Melvyn, Lannon's Funeral Directors, Skerries Bowling Club and the team in the Medical Windmill Centre. The Holy Sacrifice of the mass will be offered for your intentions.

Sheridan: The Sheridan family would like to express their sincere gratitude to all who sympathised and showed immense compassion and kindness to them on Evelyn's passing. A special word of thanks to Seamus Mulholland for his phenomenal care and support, to Fr Melvyn for celebrating such a beautiful and personal Funeral Mass, to Seamus for his lovely music and to Joey Lannon and Lannon Funeral Directors for their sensitivity, professionalism and guidance. A special mass will be offered for your intentions.

Skerries Harps News

Thanks to all members who attended the AGM via Zoom and to the outgoing Executive Committee for all their work in 2020. Newly elected were: Paul Donnelly (Chairman), Terry Connolly (Sec.), Eddie McCarthy (Treas.), Club President, John Clinton. New committee members, Stuart Bund(Registrar), Grainne Redmond(PRO), Odharnait Kiernan (Children's Officer), Sinéad Cullen (Players rep). Christmas Draw is up and running – tickets €5, 6 for €25. Vouchers and hampers from our local traders – giving something back to our local businesses. Tickets can be bought on line. www.skerriesharps.ie/Christmas Draw. Congrats to Lyndsey Davey on her player of the Match performance v Armagh last weekend.

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