

**Christmas 2020 – ‘Joy, Hope and Peace’**

It goes without saying that this is surely a year that many of us would say we can't wait see the back of. That's perfectly understandable. It has been a 'strange time' and has brought difficult and challenging moments to each of us. Who of us would ever have thought we would have had to cope with a world-wide pandemic that has lasted since March? It has denied so many of so much and has probably brought an appreciation to us of so much as well. I'm sure none of us would have thought we would all be greeting each other through masks and at a distance to keep one another safe.

And here we are at Christmas. We share and will celebrate the gift of our saviour's birth among us. God becomes man in the person of Jesus. In 'normal' times we would be talking of the joy of Christmas – a joy to be shared generously. We can easily get caught up with the virus and forget about the centre of our celebrations. The great mystery is of Jesus' presence among us, a presence that utterly changed humankind and the world forever. And still his message of peace and joy to all, if ever is even more relevant and needed in these times. So let's keep the joy and hope alive and bring the light of Christmas joy and hope to whoever we share this season with – even virtually.

This is a time when we count our blessings and are thankful for so much. None of us would have managed to get through this year without each other's care, love and support, especially during the most difficult moments. On behalf of Fr. James and myself, sincere thanks to all in our parish community who have helped throughout this year. That help and support has and continues to make a difference to us and to so many people's lives. I wish you all 'Joy and Peace' this Christmas and continued blessings in the New Year.

Fr. Melvyn

MASS INTENTIONS

- ✦ **Sat 26th Dec, St Stephen's Day,**
11am: Brian & Robert Beggs,
Fr Christie O'Byrne (1st A), Theresa McCloskey, Sean Darcy, McCann & Moore Families, Mick & Cora Cannon
- ✦ **Sat 26th** 6pm: Matthew (Matt) Plunkett, Maurice Mullins, Brian Taylor, Taylor, McKenna & McElligott Families, Pat, Rose & Finian Murray (Rem), Tom Burke (Rem)
- ✦ **Sun 27th** 9.30am: Margaret Branagan, Eddie & Marge Moran, Billy Ryan, Tomas & Patsy Hand, Philip Egan (Rem), Larry & Eileen Cummins
- ✦ **Sun 27th** 11am: Tom Ferguson (1st A) and those who sympathised with the Ferguson family, Michael & Grace Lyons, Maureen Hayes, Leo & Rosaleen Doolin, Willie Flanagan
- ✦ **Mon 28th** 11am: Mass Card Intentions
- ✦ **Tues 29th** 11am: Stephen & Kathleen Attley, Michael Browne (Rem), Paddy Richardson, all who supported the Westby family
- ✦ **Fri 1st Jan** 11am: Elizabeth Duff
- ✦ **Sat 2nd** 11am: Sonny Rogan, Anne McEvoy, James Larkin, Arthur Patrick Farrell (Navan Road)

- ✦ **Sun 3rd** 9.30am: Pearse Thornton, Evelyn Marshall

FEASTDAYS

- 26th Dec** – St Stephen's Day
- 27th Dec** – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- 28th Dec** – The Holy Innocents

Date to Note:

Friday 1st January, first Friday,
St Padre Pio Mass, 7.30pm (radio & webcam).

Our Sympathy to the families of May Towsom, late of Chapel Lane and Tony Tisdall late of Mill Hill Park, who died recently. May they Rest in Peace.

Church Webcam: Please go into the website www.stpatricksskerries.ie and click on the webcam button or to <https://churchmedia.tv/camera/st-patricks-skerries> to view the masses online.

WE WELCOME

PEARSE HENNIGAN, ALICE
LOREILLE, CILLIAN
TANGNEY, DONAGH CULLEN,
TADHG HYNES, MAISIE WALLS,
AMELIA DOYLE, CONOR LUMSDEN, HANNAH
GRIMES, SONNY WILKINSON, BILLY LOVETT, LARA
ANNE MCLOUGHLIN AND HARRIET WALLS, WHO
WERE RECENTLY BAPTISED INTO OUR PARISH
FAMILY



Skerries Ladies' Bowls

Every good wish to all our lady members for the festive season! It has been a very strange year with so many plans scrapped, but hopefully 2021 will see us all back in competition again.

Skerries Active Retirement

A very Happy Christmas and a merry and bright New Year to all our members and friends. Remember to keep safe and active and keep in touch with each other. We will be back together soon.

Skerries Town Twinning Association

Joyeux Noel et Bonne Année from the twinning committee to all our friends. A very strange year, but we have managed to keep our contacts with the Canton of Guichen going, with two Zoom committee meetings and an on-going exchange of news through their Gazette and our bulletin. Our local Chess Club is in contact with a similar group in Guichen and we would hope to link our two communities in as many other ways as possible. If you would like to contact us our new gmail account is skerriestwinning@gmail.com

FOCUS Ireland Fundraiser

Thanks so much for all the very generous donations to our Focus Ireland fundraiser on Sunday 20th. A little different this year but an amazing response as always!

Lost: Pair of glasses, if found please phone 086 8401917.

Found: Pair of glasses on Balbriggan Road, call to Parish Office.
Pair of glasses left in Church 19/20 Dec. Please call to Parish Office.

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

Congratulations to Lyndsey Davey who helped Dublin Ladies achieve the Four in a Row of All Ireland titles against Cork on Sunday. Commiserations to Adam, Killian and Ciaran on the Dublin Under 20 defeat but well done to Dessie's Dubs on their Six in a Row.

Thanks to all who supported our Christmas Draw on 22 Dec. The list of prize winners is available on our Facebook page.

Our Christmas Tree Collection service is back again. Tags are €5 and we collect and dispose of your tree (environmentally) on 9th January. Tags available at Skerries Hardware, at Michael Connolly (at the Monument) and at Billy Flood (opposite Gerrys).

Christmas Charity Golf Outing on Monday 28th December in Skerries G.C., tee time 9 am to 12. As we were unable to hold our charity matches on St Stephen's day this is our only fundraiser for the local branch of St Vincent De Paul Society - details from Paul Murray at 085-1740474.

Zingo result for 20 Dec. 3-5-4-7-6-1-2. Next Sundays Jackpot is €4,400 and Dividend is €350. Entry is online through the link on our website and is just €5 for 3 lines.

Membership for 2021 is now open – see website. Club contact details are:

General Queries: skerriesharps@gmail.com

Club Secretary -

secretary.skerriesharps.dublin@gaa.ie Juvenile Secretary -

secretarybng.skerriesharps.dublin@gaa.ie Public Relations Office -

Pro.skerriesharps.dublin@gaa.ie Children's Officer -

Childrensofficer.skerriesharps.dublin@gaa.ie

Guide Dogs Association

Many thanks for used postage stamps with ¼ in surround, which can be left into the Library.

**Very Happy
all our**



**New Year to
Readers**

Parish Website: www.stpatricksskerries.ie Email: info@stpatricksskerries.ie Ph (01)8106771

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