



Skerries Parish Bulletin

No 2244

12th-19th December 2021



CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

The giving and receiving of presents is a central part of Christmas, most people would agree. We give them to express love. Even if they turn out to have been unsuitable, we say “Well, it’s the thought that counts” and indeed this is so. The greatest present we have ever been given is the present of Christmas itself. It lasts forever. Like the once cherished Teddy in the back of the wardrobe, we may tend to become a bit familiar with it, value it less from time to time, even love it less - but it is always with us. As Christians, we are drawn to Christmas. We talk about “the real meaning of Christmas”, so often obscured by commercial interests, and we yearn for its quiet assurance.

Today’s Scripture passages – all three of them – illuminate the real meaning of Christmas. The key words are “Hope” and “Joy”. “Zion, have no fear ... The Lord our God is in your midst” (**Zephaniah 3**). “Sing and shout for Joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel” (**Isaiah 12**). “The Lord is very near: there is no need to worry” (**Philippians 4**). “Someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am” says John the Baptist (**Luke 3**).

It is the most difficult thing in the world to absorb that Jesus is God in human form. “Getting our head around it” is impossible. It can only be absorbed through the heart. Music gets straight to the heart. In the absence of ‘live’ music again this year, a beautiful musical Advent Calendar is on offer on line. Why not listen? Words and music convey the deepest truths. Here’s the link: calendar.myadvent.net

Hope is essential for us all. Without it there is little light and no joy. Joy is the theme of this “Gaudete” Sunday. The thought behind the present of Christmas which has been given to us is that God loves us just for ourselves, eternally. **God is Love**. Our Christian hope is based on this truth so let us be positive, cheerful and pleasant in a way that rubs off on others! This is the real meaning of Christmas. Remember:

Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

Skerries Church Choir



We welcome - Sophie Devine, David Martin and Erin Reilly who were recently baptised into our Parish family.

Deepest Sympathy is extended to the family of Bob Christie, Quay Street, who died recently. May he Rest in Peace.

Feast Days: 13th : St Lucy; 14th : St John of the Cross, 18th : St Flannan.

Christmas Cards are available in the Parish Office. Cards are €3.00 each and all proceeds go to Brother Kevin, Capuchin Homeless Day Centre, Dublin 7.

Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart Calendars are now available in the Parish Office at €5.00 each

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to support those seeking assistance to the best of our availability. This year, more than ever, your help is needed to make sure that children and families have what they need to share the magic of the Season! On

Sunday 12th December, St Vincent de Paul will be holding a church collection in the hope of raising funds for people who are struggling this Christmas. For more information, please contact your local SVP Volunteers.

Anniversaries/Intentions/Remembrances

Sat 11th Dec: 10am: Margaret Horan, Bert & Hughie Horan and Anne Kelly (Rem), Marian Boylan, Ann Hassett (RD)
6pm: George Sweetnam (MM), Marie McGeough (RD), Molly & John Byrne, Michael Duggan, Richard & May Branagan, Teresa Gaffney, Gerry Griffin (Rem), Ena Marks
Sun 12th: 9.30am: Rosie & Gerry Hoare, Emily Crowley & deceased members of the Crowley and Nolan families, Michael & Eileen Redden, Basil & Frances Emmerson, Thomas & Anna Jones, Charles O'Loughlin

11am: John Costello (MM), Michael Ultan Ryan (MM), Colm Dennis, Patrick (Pat) Hynes, Jean Treleaven, Bernard & Mary Ann Moles, Mary McGirl, Katie McGirl, Kathleen Quinn (10th A)

Mon 13th: 10am: Mass Card Intentions.

Tues 14th: 10am: Richard Fanning & Family, Peter Coyle, Dick O'Connell

Weds 15th: 10am: John & Maureen Martin, Fr Jim Martin

Fri 17th: 10am: Dolores Doorty, Margaret McAuley, Rena McGrath, Patrick & Catherine Flaherty

Sat 18th: 10am: Conor O'Connell, Annie & Patrick Leonard, Mollie Smith, Sabrina Cannon, Bernadette O'Connor

6pm: Tom Ferguson, Maura Hughes, Bernie Morris, Paul Holland, Margaret McNally, Mary Carabini, Ned & Dymrna McNamee, Larry Daly

Sun 19th: 9.30am: Mary Rochford, Fanche Rice, Elizabeth (Liz) Rice, Mary Rice, Michael, Meta & Jean Rice, Bernie Rice-Byrne, Richard & Una Murtagh, Patsy & Thomas Hand

11am: William Flanagan, Catriona Harper, Richard & Una Murtagh, Swanee Martin, Michael & Grace Lyons, Paddy, May & Edie McMahan, Walter & Kitty Howlett and family

Carols for the Hospice

Members of Skerries Community Choir will sing out of doors at The Mills on **Sunday 12th** from **12 - 1**. Please give your support to this worthy cause and enjoy the Christmas Craft Fair at the same time.

Aware – Support & Self Care Groups

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, now and during the holiday season. These groups provide support and, most importantly, help people who are in distress to know they are not alone. For more information about the groups, Visit aware.ie/support/support-groups or www.aware.ie.

Skerries Historical Society will be meeting on 14 December at 8:15pm on Zoom. The title of the film from the Archives is 'A short architectural tour in the vicinity of Skerries', and will be presented by Brendan Grimes.

Skerries Harps GAA Club Notes

Elected at AGM, Chair. Paul Donnelly, Vice Chair. Martin Kenny, Sec. Terry Gormley, Juv Sec. Paul Walsh, PRO Grainne Ryan. New members welcome to join club.

Contact secretary.skerriesharps.dublin@gaa.ie
Zingo result for Sunday 5 Dec. 2,1,4,5,6,7,3.
The Jackpot is now €2,200. Draw In Club on Sunday at 6.30 pm with in-house Spot-Prizes. Play online via link on club website or buy entry envelope.

Sat 11 Dec. FINAL Under 21 Football Championship v Whitehall-Colmcille, in Skerries, 2.15 pm. All support welcome. Please note that our Car Park will be closed to spectators. Check www.skerriesharps.ie
Club Shop Christmas opening hours are: Monday 9.30 to 10.30 am; Tues 7.30 to 8.30 pm; Thurs 8 to 9 pm and Saturday 10 to 11 am. Online Shop is open 24/7 via link on our website.

Tickets for **Christmas Draw** on sale online or books of 6 for €25, available from the Bar and Shop. Club teams have purchased vouchers from local businesses and we have over 50 prizes in cash and vouchers. Draw takes place on 18th Dec. Full details are on Skerries Harps website.

Our Annual Christmas Tree collection service will run again this year. Tags are available online on our website or from Skerries Hardware, MOW Plus at the Monument or Billy Flood, Strand Street.