



Skerries Parish Bulletin

No 2245

19th – 26th December 2021

A Sonnet for the Visitation by Malcolm Guite

Here is a meeting made of hidden joys,
Of lightnings cloistered in a narrow place
From quiet hearts the sudden flame of praise
And in the womb the quickening kick of grace.

Two women on the very edge of things
Unnoticed and unknown to men of power
But in their flesh the hidden Spirit sings
And in their lives the buds of blessing flower.

And Mary stands with all we call 'too young',
Elizabeth with all called 'past their prime'
They sing today for all the great unsung,
Women who turned eternity to time.

Favoured of heaven, outcast on the earth,
Prophets who bring the best in us to birth.

This sonnet by Malcolm Guite highlights how those two women on the very margins of society were so important to the coming of Jesus to renew the face of the earth. How important now are our contributions to the discussions taking place as part of the Synod, the purpose of which is to renew the Church in our time!

Luke 1:39-44; Micah 5:2-5; Psalm 80; Hebrews 10:5-10

The passage from the prophet Micah foretells that the Christ will be born in Bethlehem, however we know that when our Saviour's birth drew near those scribes and priests just ignored it. They had the knowledge of the truth but did not search it out like the wise men who had come from afar. Do we today who have knowledge of the Good News live by it and proclaim it to others? The author of the letter to the Hebrews was writing to a group of Jewish Christians whose world had been collapsed around them by the Roman Jewish war and the total destruction of their Temple where sacrifices had been offered daily. Sounds a bit like how our lives have been changed. He reminds them how God had so often in the past told them through the prophets that love was more important than sacrifice. The prophet Hosea Ch.6:6 "For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings."

In our Covid world of today keeping ourselves and others safe is the most loving way to protect all our community especially those working in our health services. Lord, may our hearts leap with joy as we hear your Word. May we rejoice when we behold you in all of creation.

Lydia Gillen (Bible Study Group)

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS



As we are still in this pandemic you are **not** obliged to attend in person in the church. For your safety please consider participating in our Christmas celebrations via webcam and parish radio only.

MASS ARRANGEMENTS

Friday 24th, Christmas Eve: Vigil Masses for Christmas Day at 6pm and 8pm.

Saturday 25th, Christmas Day: Masses at 9.30am and 11am.

Sunday 26th, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph: Masses at 9.30am and 11am.

Monday 27th December to Saturday 1st January: Morning Mass at 11am.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES

This is a service of prayer for forgiveness and peace with God, ourselves and others.

NB You are welcome to attend the service in Skerries. However individual confession will **NOT** be available.

Mon 20th (Webcam/Radio) Skerries 7.30pm

Tues 21st (Webcam/Radio) Rush 7.30pm

Wed 22nd (Webcam/Radio) Lusk 7.30pm

MASS INTENTIONS

✦ **Sat 18th 10am:** Conor O'Connell, Christy Wilde, Annie & Patrick Leonard, Mollie Smith, Sabina Cannon, Bernadette O'Connor, Esther Carmel McDonagh

✦ **Sat 18th 6pm:** Tom Ferguson, Maura Hughes, Bernie Morris, Paul Holland, Margaret McNally, Mary Carabini, Larry Daly, Ned & Dympna McNamee

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

✦ **Sun 19th 11am:** William Flanagan, Catriona Harper, Richard & Una Murtagh, Swanee Martin, Michael & Grace Lyons, Paddy, May & Edie McMahan, Walter, Kitty Howlett & Family

✦ **Mon 20th 10am:** Mass Card Intentions

✦ **Tues 21st 10am:** Decd Mbrs of O'Halloran Family, Margaret, Thomas & Joseph Flaherty, John Cahalane, Desmond McGirl, Bernadette Mooney, Liam Davey, Kevin, Alice & Bernie Farrell (Rem), Mary Melia & Family, Walter & Gwen Morrisson & Family

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

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- ✦ **Wed 22nd 10am:** May Towson 1st A, Joan Smyth (BR), Swanee Martin, Terry Tolan, Mona & Pdraig Potter, Louise & Patrick Ryan & Ryan Family, Kevin Farrell, Tom Burke (Rem)
- ✦ **Fri 24th 10am:** Sadie Garrett MM, Sean Horan, Nan Fanning, Mary McCormack, Esther Kelly, Flanagan Family (Rem), Decd Mbrs of O'Connell & Lawlor Families
- ✦ **Fri 24th 6pm & 8pm:** Christmas Mass Cards
- ✦ **Sat 25th 9.30am & 11am:** Christmas Day
- ✦ **Sun 26th 9.30am:** Bernie Walker MM, Leo & Rosaleen Doolin, Theresa McCloskey, Maisie Grimes, Maurice Mullins, Billy Ryan
- ✦ **Sun 26th 11am:** Brian Robert Beggs, Maureen Hayes, Cora & Mick Cannon, Ann Murray, Roderick Neary, Sean Darcy

MANY, MANY THANKS !

Members of Skerries Community Choir wish to thank most sincerely all those who supported their outdoor carol singing at Skerries Mills last Sunday. A cheque for €1000 was handed over this week to St.Francis Hospice, Raheny.

FEASTDAYS

20th Dec: St Fachanan, 25th Dec: Christmas Day, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, 26th Dec: St Stephen's Day

30 YEARS AGO IN THE PARISH

- Recently baptised were Jennifer Burns, Stephen Canavan, Lauren Clarke, Paul O'Loughlen and Eoin Savage.
- The number of pupils in Milverton School had risen and for the first time since 1902, the school had 3 teachers
- St. Patrick's Sen. school had acquired the old telephone exchange building in their grounds and it was to become a Library
- Ministers of the Eucharist and the Word were having a day retreat in Emmaus
- St. Vincent de Paul society thanked all parishioners for their outstanding generosity last weekend
- The Folk Group invited all parishioners to carol singing event in the Little Theatre
- Christmas Fairs abounded and Santa Claus was making visits to several venues in the Parish

SKERRIES LADIES BOWLS

The final morning of our current competition will take place tomorrow 20th. Over the past five weeks more than 40 ladies have participated. Prizes will be presented at a small outdoor Christmas celebration. Wear your party hats !!

FOCUS IRELAND COFFEE MORNING

A big thank you to all who supported our Covid friendly Coffee Morning in Joe May's in aid of Focus Ireland last Sunday. Your generosity was greatly appreciated.

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

Congrats to our Under 21 team and management on winning the premier Dublin U21 final last Saturday with a 1 point win over Whitehall. Thanks for the amazing support. Zingo result for Sunday 12 Dec: 4,5,6,3,7,1,2. Dividend €250 won by C. O'Donoghue. Jackpot is now €2,300. Draw in Club on Sunday at 6.30pm with in-house Spot-Prizes. Club Shop Christmas opening hours are: Monday 9.30 - 10.30am; Tuesday 7.30-8.30pm; Thursday 8 - 9 pm. Online Shop is open 24/7 via link on www.skerriesharps.ie. Christmas Draw in Clubhouse on Sat.18th Dec at 8 pm. Annual Christmas Tree collection service will run again this year. Tags available on our website or Skerries Hardware, MOW Plus or Billy Flood, Strand Street. Our Annual Charity match takes place on St Stephen's Day, 11am and the Charity Golf outing on Monday 27th at Skerries Golf Club. Details from Paul 085 1740474. Proceeds from both events to the local branch of St Vincent de Paul. We send our sincere sympathy to Gerry O'Donoghue and family on the passing of his brother, JJ.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

John Costello: The Costello family wish to thank most sincerely all those who sympathised with them on the very sad loss of John; those who sent mass cards, letters and cards of sympathy and messages of condolence and floral tributes; those who attended the funeral home and funeral mass. Many thanks to our very kind neighbours and friends for all their help and support. It was a huge comfort to us. Special word of thanks to Fr Melvyn, Sr Marie and Eithne, and to Lannons Funeral Directors for all their help and support. We trust this acknowledgment will be accepted by all as a token of our sincere gratitude. The holy sacrifice of mass will be offered for all your intentions.

Bernie Walker: Many thanks for all your sympathy and condolences on the death of my beloved sister Bernie. The holy sacrifice of the mass will be offered for all your intentions.