



Skerries Parish Bulletin

No 2294

27th Nov – 4th Dec 2022

First Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 121: 1-4 8-9; Paul Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

It takes an effort to be hopeful. We have to work at it, search and find reasons to be hopeful. The current climate makes this quite a challenge.

“Darkness into Light” sees thousands of people all over this country walking in early Summer, at the crack of dawn, into the light of a new day - **HOPE**. The idea grew out of the hopelessness of thousands. It rests on faith, hope and love; on solidarity with the bereaved and support for the hopeless. It is an affirmation of life and love above all else.

Advent begins this Sunday. It marks the beginning of a new liturgical year and the month of preparation for Christmas. There are all around us people who are hopeless. The forced, superficial picture of Christmas which swamps us, with its emphasis on buying, eating and drinking, is a distortion of all that the Christian festival stands for. It does nothing to lift the mood of those feeling powerless; rather it emphasises just how awful that is. As believers, we have a duty to foster the spiritual beauty of Christmas. Above all, we must carry with us in prayer as well as by our actions, all who are so dreadfully burdened by displacement, loss, hopelessness, poverty, the weight of responsibility, disillusionment, sadness....

“Darkness into Light” is what Advent is all about. At the crack of dawn of this liturgical year, let us each make it a worthy spiritual re-enactment of the Summer Original, reflecting its values and objectives and carrying all, by whatever means possible, into a new day! This is the urgent message of today’s Readings and it is echoed in the refrain of our final hymn:

“Come quickly, come, Jesus our Lord; fulfil our **HOPE** who wait for you and by your **LOVE** our **FAITH** renew”

Skerries Church Choir

Anniversaries and Intentions



Sat 26th: 6pm: Seamus Sweetman (BR), David McIlwaine, Nicky Foley

Sun 27th: 9.30am: Bernie Walker (nee Keeling) (1st A), Sean, Sarah, Mary & Leo Cody, Derek McGonagle, Liam, Jim, Jenny & Delia Keeling, Thanksgiving Mass

11am: Mary Woodcock (1st A), Marie McGeough (1st A), Michael Reburn (1st A) Chrissie McGealy, Karen Hodson, Marie and Michael Grimes

Mon 28th: 10am: Mass Card Intentions

Tues 29th: 10am: Tom, Ellen, Maeve, Gretta and deceased members of the Palmer Family (rem), Eamonn Smith, Henning Behr (RD)

Weds 30th: 10am: Ray Fay, Ita Roberts, Special Intention

Fri 2nd Dec: 10am: Altar List, First Friday, **7.30pm:** Padre Pio Mass

Sat 3rd: 6pm: Cyril McGloughlin, Laurence Daly

Sun 4th: 9.30am: Bernard & Ann Moles, Eileen & Maureen Murphy & deceased members of the Murphy Family,

Francis Ryan (BR), Vincent & Joan Woodlock (rem)

11am: Thomas Flanagan

Feast Days

27th Nov – First Sunday of Advent

30th Nov – St Andrew, Apostle

3rd Dec – St Francis Xavier

Padre Pio Mass, First Friday, 2nd Dec. 7.30pm

Deepest Sympathy is extended to the families and friends of Peggy Tucker (nee Boylan nee Collins), London and formerly Skerries and Mary Smyth, Mourne View, Skerries, who died recently. May they Rest in Peace.

ADVENT LETTER THE TIME HAS COME

Archbishop Farrell’s Advent Pastoral Letter, entitled **The Time Has Come** can be found on the Archdiocese’s website at:

<http://dublindiocese.ie/the-time-has-come-advent-2022>

PRIORY INSTITUTE

We are delighted to offer an Online Advent Retreat featuring a series of online reflections given in preparation for Christmas. The Retreat Giver is Donagh O'Shea OP, an Irish Dominican, currently director of the Dominican Retreat Centre in Tallaght. He has given retreats and taught courses on spirituality in many parts of the world. The course consists of four recorded presentations that will become available over the four Sundays of Advent, so on the first Sunday there will be access to one recording and on the second Sunday access to two recordings and so on.

Please visit www.prioryinstitute.com.

WEEKLY EZINE

Sharing the Good News is the newsletter of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. If you would like to receive this weekly ezine, you can do so at <https://catholicnews.ie/newsletter/>. You are encouraged to invite others to do so too. Send articles and photographs for use in *Sharing the Good News* to info@catholicbishops.ie.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL – 10th/11th December

The response to last year's Christmas Appeal by the people of Skerries, was once again, remarkable. Your generosity is what sustains us from one year to the next. We basically could not function without your contributions. As we always say 'WE DO WHAT WE CAN BECAUSE YOU GIVE WHAT YOU CAN'. The Appeal this year takes place on the weekend of December 10th and 11th at all Masses. Donations can be made on line to - IBAN IE19AIBK93224809851094 - Bic if needed is AIBKIE2D. Blue Envelopes will also be left in the Parish Office. Donations can also be given to any member of the Conference.

Congratulations to all our Parish students who received their long-awaited Junior Certificate results last Wednesday. Hopefully all their hopes have been realised and they can move on with confidence through the next phase of their education path.

Skerries Sea Sharps, Sunday 4th Dec.

Christmas Concert takes place in the Church at 7pm

CROSSCARE CHRISTMAS FOOD POVERTY APPEAL

2022 has been very difficult for families coming to Crosscare needing help.

This Christmas, they are asking for help for the Food Poverty Service, where Crosscare supports families who find it hard to provide nutritious food. Sadly, almost 800 families and individuals, including 1,000 children, have needed help from the Service this year and demand is likely to increase in the coming months. Crosscare ensures they have a good supply of food while at the same time looking at all the issues that may have brought them into food poverty. If you can, you can donate online at www.crosscare.ie or call 01 8360011 or send a cheque or postal order to Crosscare Christmas Appeal, 2 Saint Mary's Place North, Dublin D07 Y768. Envelopes will also be made available in all Parish Churches.

Skerries Harps GAA Club

Minor Footballers (Under 17) defeated Ballinteer in the semi-final and play the final on Sun next. Under 21 Hurlers lost out to Na Fianna; Under 16 Hurlers won v Scoil Ui Conail..

Sun 27 Nov. Minor Football Ch'ship Final v Fingal Ravens, in Skerries at 11 am.

Club Shop open Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings – now taking Christmas orders.

Saturday Night Lights: Games on our main pitch, for U8-U11 boys and girls, most Saturdays, under the lights, weather permitting. Details on our Facebook page. Proudly supported by Super Valu.

Tickets for our BIG Christmas Draw on sale on website and Clubzap app, in Club Shop and from Club reps. All prizes sourced locally. Draw on Sunday 18 December.

Annual General Meeting will be held in the Clubhouse on 1st December at 8 pm. Voting confined to paid-up members only. Christmas Tree Collection tags now on sale. Trees will be collected Sat 8 January. Buy your tag online – see website under Buy Online. Proceeds towards Feile 2023 teams.

Zingo result for 20 Nov. 1, 2, 7, 3, 5, 6, 4. No winner. Jackpot now €2,500 – a nice Christmas present. Draw held in Clubhouse on Sunday evening with Free draw for Spot prizes. See www.skerriesharps.ie