



COMFORT FOOD.

Everywhere today food features in the Scripture passages and the purpose of it all is to convey comfort and reassurance. It is a gentle, loving message... though with a little warning too!

The rich language of Isaiah conveys the bounty, goodness and power of God; "The Lord of hosts will prepare a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines....he will remove the mourning veil he will destroy Death forever".

The Psalm features the banquet image again, the bounty of God in the phrase "my head you have anointed with oil, my cup is overflowing". The Response (not the usual one) describes total comfort and safety, "In the Lord's own house shall I dwell forever and ever".

Even St Paul mentions "a full stomach or empty stomach" but the most telling phrase from him is "There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength" referring to the 'lavish' generosity of God.

Then comes the fly in the ointment. St Matthew's Gospel, in describing the unusual wedding banquet, moves to the key point behind all the passages i.e. we have a choice in how we accept the invitation to the endless generosity of God. Like so many in that parable, we can reject it and abuse the host, but if we accept it, we must do so aware that it is not to be treated as a casual 'freebie'. Who knows why that guest turned up so casually "without a wedding garment", why he didn't answer the host, take the chance to explain himself? Was he thoughtless, ignorant, arrogant, poor? We'll never know. What we do know is that no allowances were made for him. Unusual.

As for us today, what is the message? It is surely that God's invitation to us is to be taken as an honour and a privilege. We ourselves must show due respect by wearing the "wedding garment" of faith, proper appreciation and gratitude at all times. "God will provide" while we go our own way just won't do. "Many are called but few are chosen"....we have been warned!

We can remind ourselves too just how comforting and reassuring the 'cup of tea and a biscuit' can be – not a banquet, true – but let's still take care never to run out of milk! You wouldn't know who might drop in unannounced.

Church Choir



We Welcome Ossie Maypothor, Noah Joseph Byrne, Rosa Lucy Flynn and Molly Potter into our parish family.

Anniversary / Special Intention Masses

- ✦ **Saturday 14th 10.00am:** JJ Ward, Eddie Moran, Special Intention for donor and family, Special Intention.
- ✦ **6.00pm:** Packie Markey (MM), Michael White; Seamus Murphy; Rose Grimes; Teddy, Mary, Terence and Joe Plunkett; Margaret, Ellen and Philip Fitzsimons; John and Valerie Fitzsimons.
- ✦ **Sunday 15th 9.30am:** Brendan Hughes; Deceased members of the Friel, Sheridan and Moore families.
- ✦ **11.00am:** William Hoare; Charles Flanagan; Audrey Melia; Hugh McDonnell; Patrick (Paddy) Reid; Therese Sheridan (RD) and Declan Friel.
- ✦ **Monday 16th 10.00am:** Mass Card Intentions
- ✦ **Tuesday 17th 10.00am:** Joan Moorhouse.
- ✦ **Friday 20th 10.00am:** Mary Browne; Joseph Dardis.

- ✦ **Saturday 21st 10.00am:** Charles Chuck Clarke (1st A); Bunny Hughes.
- ✦ **6.00pm:** Charles Cooper.
- ✦ **Sunday 22nd 9.30am:** Seamus Russell (MM); Michael King (1st A); Mary Fennell, Paddy, Nancy and Tom Hand.
- ✦ **11.00am:** Maureen Hughes (MM); Esther Crosbie; Jane Dardis.



Our Sympathy is extended to the families and friends of Bernie Marrey, Mourne Drive, and Theresa Maher, Kelly's Bay, who died recently. May they Rest in Peace.

Feast Days 16th Oct – St. Gall,
17th – St Ignatius,
18th Oct – Feast of St Luke, Evangelist

St Vincent de Paul Monthly Churchgate



Collection is this weekend, Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th October. Any contribution, no matter how small, will be truly appreciated.

Synod on Synodality - Rome October 2023

As you are aware the above synod continues to take place in Rome for the month of October. Copies of the Newsletter produced by the archdiocesan committee for the synod are available in the church and can also be accessed each week on <https://dublindioocese.ie/synod2023/>

World Mission Sunday 2023

Sunday 22nd October 2023 is World Mission Sunday. The theme for this year's World Mission Sunday is *'Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move'* (Lk 24:13-35). To assist the work of the missions the second collection (usually Share) will be for the missions instead next Sunday.

Celebration of Sacraments 2024

Parish Preparation Programmes:

The parish preparation programme for **First Holy Communion** is the **'Bridge Programme'**. Children are required to attend the Bridge Masses during the year. The Enrolment Service takes place during the first Bridge Mass on 22nd October 2023. There is usually one Mass per month. Dates will be distributed, through the class parent reps., to parents/guardians.

The parish preparation programme for **Confirmation** is the **'Rituals'** programme. Children are required to attend three Ritual services during the year. They are held on Wednesday nights at 7.30pm in the church. Once again the dates will be distributed through the class parent reps.

Enrolment Service – 1st Holy Communion

Each child presents their Enrolment Certificate at ANY of the three Sunday Masses [Saturday at 6.00pm OR Sunday 9.30am OR Sunday 11.00am] on w/e **21st/22nd October 2023**

Commitment Service - Sacrament of Confirmation

Each child presents their Commitment Certificate at ANY of the three Sunday Masses [Saturday at 6.00pm OR Sunday 9.30am OR Sunday 11.00am] on w/e **11th/12th November 2023**.

Christian Meditation Ireland are hosting a **Meditation Meet-Up** for all who are interested in Christian Meditation or in finding out more about it. It will take place in **Balally Parish Centre**, Dublin D16E032 on Saturday 21st October from 10.00am to 12.30pm with Guest Speaker **Dr Noel Keating**. See www.christianmeditation.ie

Meals on Wheels are seeking volunteer drivers to help deliver meals to older people in the town. Can you spare 2 hours per month at lunchtime, 12 – 2.00pm? Very rewarding. Please contact: Northside Homecare Services 01-8058574 or 0860201151 Mon – Fri 12 noon and 2.00pm.

Skerries Harps GAA Club



Minor girls B football team won their Championship final v Ballinteer by 1-12 to 1-4. while the A side went down to St Vincents, who had home advantage, in their final by 1 point: 2-11 to 3-7. Congrats to the players and mentors of both teams. Thanks to all who travelled in support.

Intermediate football team defeated St Vincents in their Div.4 playoff by 2-14 to 0-7.
Sun 15 Oct. Adult Hurling Championship playoff v Ballinteer, in Skerries at 10am. Minor Football Championship quarter-final v Ballymun in Skerries at 12.00. Juvenile home games on Saturdays/Sundays continue at Townparks-Ballast Pit and Kelly's Bay. Juvenile Academy each Saturday from 10 to 11am. Club shop open and Clubhouse open for refreshments during the Academy. With the white lines down, the All Weather area is almost ready for our winter training program.. Thanks to all who continue to support our fundraising on GoFundMe. Donations to the project can be made to the Club Treasurer or online to our Go Fund Me account - see link at <https://gofund.me/11815f6a>
Zingo for 8 Oct. 3, 1, 4, 7, 5, 6, 2. Dividend €250 won by Sinead Donnelly. Jackpot now €4,500. www.skerriesharps.ie/zingo

Acknowledgement (Rankin)

The Rankin family would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the condolences and acts of kindness offered on the passing of Richard. Thank you Fr. Melvyn and Fr. Dan for offering such a fitting mass for Richard and for your care and attention. Thank you to all those who attended the funeral, left messages and sent cards. To our neighbours and friends we deeply appreciate all of the support shown during Richard's illness. Thank you to the staff of both Seaholm surgery and Strand St. Pharmacy for always helping Richard in his time of need. Thank you to Lannon's funeral directors for their much needed guidance and professionalism. A special thank you to Sr. Marie for her weekly visits to our home which were treasured by Richard. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.