



Skerries Parish Bulletin

No 2349

17th – 24th December 2023

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 1Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

During these short days of Advent, a season of waiting and expectation, we pause to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a welcome source of colour, of light and an invitation to rejoice.

The readings reflect and reinforce themes of joy and good news as we approach the feast of Christmas. The entrance antiphon reminds us to rejoice in the closeness of the Lord, something we can depend on but may sometimes overlook. Today's Psalm is a song of praise and wonderment in the presence of God's mercy and power for good, while echoing the words of the antiphon, 'my soul rejoices in my God'. In the passages from 1Thessalonians we are encouraged to be happy, to pray constantly and to hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. The vocabulary of the message is uncomplicated; the putting into practice more of a challenge and merits personal reflection.



Heartened by sentiments of joy, this pause in the Advent season is perhaps an opportunity to discern how we share our joy and how we spread the message of good news. Can we be as John was, 'witnesses' and 'speak for the light'.

Church Readers

ANNIVERSARY / SPECIAL INTENTION MASSES

- ✦ **Sat 16th 10am:** Rena McGrath, Margaret McAuley, Thomas & Anna Jones, Brigid & John Kelly, Martin & Patrick Ruddy, Ann O'Reilly (RD), Denis Martin
- ✦ **Sat 16th 6pm:** Anne McCann (MM), Rita O'Boyle (MM), Oonagh Beglan (1st A), Maureen & Dessie Delemere, Bernie Morris, Paul Holland, Patrick & Catherine Flaherty, Esther Carmel McDonagh
- ✦ **Sun 17th 9.30am:** Amelia Tonon, Tom McDonald, Phil Duggan, Charles O'Loughlin, Annie & Patrick Leonard, Basil & Frances Emerson
- ✦ **Sun 17th 11am:** Margaret Ryan (1st A), Jean Treleaven, Cathriona Harper, Dolores Doorty, Mary Rochford, Bernie O'Connor, Bernie, Liz & Fanchea Rice, Sabina Lannon
- ✦ **Mon 18th 10am:** Mass Card Intentions
- ✦ **Tues 19th 10am:** John Hughes, Bridget Byron, Sean & Moira Kelly & deceased members of the Kelly family, Catherine McAllister (MM)
- ✦ **Wed 20th 10am:** Margaret, Thomas & Joseph Flaherty, Desmond McGirl, Thomas O'Shea (Rem), Gerry Grimes (Rem), Mary Josephine Melia, Molly Smith
- ✦ **Fri 22nd 10am:** Aisling Kennedy Casey (MM), Christopher (Kit) Reid (1st A), Mona & Pdraig Potter, Bunny & Brendan Hughes

(Rem), Bernadette Mooney, May Towson, Sean Horan

- ✦ **Sat 23rd 10am:** Stacie Bailey (MM), Terry Tolan, Billy Ryan, Noel & Vera Morris (Rem), Lily McMahon (Rem), Anna McMahon, Mary McCormack
- ✦ **Sat 23rd 6pm:** Maura Hughes, George Hand (Rem), Henry & Florence Gavin (Rem), Harry Gavin (Rem), Denis Heraghty (Rem) Ann Murray
- ✦ **Sun 24th 9.30am:** Una & Richard Murtagh, Eddie & Marge Moran, Sean Darcy, Cora & Mick Cannon, Thanksgiving Mass for all who supported the family of Aisling Kennedy Casey
- ✦ **Sun 24th 11am:** Edie (Edith) McMahon, Kitty & Walter Howlett & family, Paddy & May McMahon, Richard & Una Murtagh, Maureen Hayes, Esther Kelly, Tom & May Redmond (Rem)

OUR SYMPATHY

To the family of **Leo Bolton, Balcunnin, Skerries**, who died recently. May he Rest in Peace.

FEASTDAYS

17th Dec: 3rd Sunday of Advent; 18th Dec: St Flannan, 20th Dec: St Fachanan, 24th Dec: 4th Sunday of Advent

CHRISTMAS MASS ARRANGEMENTS

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve:

Vigil Masses at 6pm and 8pm.

Monday 25th Christmas Day:

Masses at 9.30am and 11.00am

Tuesday 26th: Mass at 11.00am

Wednesday 27th: Mass at 11.00am

RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Monday 18th December: **Skerries**, 7.30pm

Tuesday 19th December: **Lusk**, 7.30pm

Saturday 16th & Sun 17th: After Masses, **Rush**

THANK YOU.

Many thanks to all parishioners who helped with the distribution of the Christmas Arrangements 2023 to the homes in our parish. The sending out of this information each year is so important and your help with this is much appreciated.

WELL DONE!

to all the boys and girls from 2nd classes in our Primary Schools who took part in the 11am Bridge Mass last Sunday. Lots of baby Jesus figures were blessed for the family cribs and all went home with a "Christmas Job" to do. As Fr. Melvyn said about using their talents "Use it, or lose it" !!

30 YEARS AGO IN THE PARISH

- Candles and details for making an Advent wreath were available in the Parish Office. Also Christmas cards for Crosscare could be had in the Office
- Choirs from Holmpatrick, Skerries Methodist Church and St. Patrick's were coming together for a Carol Service in our Church
- The Active Retirement group was planning a theatre outing in the New Year
- Skerries Town Twinning was planning a farewell evening for the 8 young people who have been in Skerries on a work scheme over the past 12 weeks
- The Charity Card Fair in the Methodist church leading up to Christmas had raised £800 for various charities
- The "best little Christmas fête in Skerries" was being held in Réalt na Mara school in aid of the Mourne Summer Project

IRISH BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

There will be a blood donation clinic in Skerries Community Centre, Skerries on **Thursday 28th December**, 2023 from 11:30am to 3pm.

Interesting facts about blood donations –

- The deferral for people who lived in the UK between 1980 and 1996 no longer applies.
- Blood makes up around 7% of the weight of a human body.
- People with AB+ blood type can receive blood from all of the major blood types.

THE HERITAGE SINGERS



Present *Songs & Carols on a December Night* on Sunday 17th December (tonight) at The Heritage Centre, Balrothery at 7.30pm. Admission €8, Family €20.

SKERRIES LADIES BOWLS

Get your Santa hats on and hurry down to the Bowling Club on Monday 18th for the Annual Christmas fun bowling morning. The games will be followed by a glass of cheer and goodies. Don't forget your gift for the Kris Kindle !!

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

Senior footballers defeated Raheny to keep their Div.1 status – thanks for the great support for the Charity collection and thanks to All Star Brian Fenton who gave his time to meet our Juveniles afterwards. Under 21 footballers and under 21 Camogie both won the Championship finals but our two Under 16 teams lost their finals in away games. This ends our playing season for 2023.

BIG Christmas Draw in Clubhouse tonight, Sunday 17th. All prizes sourced locally by our teams. Tickets are €5 and are available online or from Clubhouse. Christmas Charity games on St Stephens Day – football at 10.30 and Hurling/Camogie 12.30. Charity Christmas Golf at Skerries GC on Fri 29 Dec. Contact Tony 087 6498177 for Tee times. Proceeds from both events to local St Vincent de Paul branch. Our annual Christmas Tree collection service runs again this year with tags only €5.50. Trees will be collected on 6 January - Check our Social Media pages. Zingo for Sun 10 Dec. 7, 3, 6, 2, 1, 4. 5. No winners. Jackpot now €5,400. Draw in Club on Sunday evening at 7pm after the BIG Christmas Draw.

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