



Skerries Parish Bulletin

No 2352

7 to 14 January 2024

SETTING OFF.



It's official! Christmas is over! With the feast of Epiphany yesterday, the twelve days came to an end. Now fast forward 30 years and we find ourselves today, liturgically, celebrating the Baptism of Jesus. It marks the beginning of his ministry, three years of leading by example, teaching, loving and apparently ultimately losing.

The first Scripture passage from Isaiah describes exactly what the ministry of Jesus involves – and of every Christian afterwards. It is a passage full of beauty, full of challenge, the most important line being “I have endowed him with my Spirit”. Baptism claims us in the same way.

This foretelling by Isaiah is echoed in the Gospel of Matthew “...suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him, and a voice spoke from Heaven ‘ This is my Son the Beloved; my favour rests on him’”.

The Ministry of Jesus – Christianity, in other words – is launched with these words. We followers must continue that ministry. Our Baptism also endows us with the Spirit i.e. ‘Love’. We are mere channels of Love; we don’t “manufacture” it ourselves. God constantly moves through us. The Scriptural year begins in a blaze of light. We must carry this light to those who are unhappy and imprisoned in themselves and for whom this is a very dark time of year.

Let us set off full of resolve and pray for grace to keep going. The hymn “Come Down, O Love Divine” puts it gently and beautifully – a lovely prayer for life:

Come down, O Love Divine, seek Thou this soul of mine and visit it with Thine own ardour glowing.
O Comforter draw near; within my heart appear and kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

Skerries Church Choir.

Anniversary / Special Intention Masses

- ✦ **Saturday January 6th 10.00am:** Brigid McDonagh, Ann Murphy, Tess Goggin, Charlie Donnelly, Brendan Garland, Brendan O’Hanlon.
- ✦ **6.00pm:** George and May Tolan, William McGarry, Dolores O’Byrne, William Nugent, Special Intention, Kevin Woodcock.
- ✦ **Sunday 7th 9.30am:** Leo Bolton (MM), Pearse Thornton, Jim Slattery, Margie O’Brien, Matthew Farrell (RD), Sasha Sjercek
- ✦ **11.00am:** Terence Friel (1st A), Sonny Rogan, Ann McEvoy, Nicholas Harford, Nancy Walls, Peggy and Patrick McCormack, Declan O’Byrne.
- ✦ **Monday 8th 10.00am:** Mass card intentions.
- ✦ **Tues. 9th 10.00am:** Maura Davey (1st A), Michael and Margaret White, Bridie and Luke Clogher and a thanksgiving Mass

- ✦ **Wednesday 10th 10.00am:** Frank McDonagh, Mandy O’Connor, Eddie and Pop Dunne.
- ✦ **Saturday 13th 6.00pm:** Marie and Paddy Hughes, Michael Phelan, John Galvin, Richard Shanley, Tommy Ryan, Tom Tolan, Tommy Costello
- ✦ **Sunday 14th 11.00am:** Tom, Belle and Michael McCourt, John Flanagan, Theresa Quinn, Jack and Mary Leonard, Leo Jones.



Our Sympathy is extended to the families and friends of **Patrick McNally**, Balbriggan St., **Rita Forte**, Swords and Bartra NH, Loughshinny, and **Seán Carron**, Martine Court, who died recently. May they Rest in Peace.

World Day Of Peace

To mark World Day of Peace the Archbishop celebrated Mass in Ballyroan parish on Monday 1st January. In his homily he speaks of the world situation we find ourselves in with war and violence in so many parts of our world at this time. You can read the homily on-line here at <https://dublindiocese.ie/world-day-of-peace-2024/>

Feast Days

6th January – The Epiphany of the Lord.
7th – Baptism of the Lord.

Many Happy Returns....

to all our parish children who will be returning to school this week after the Christmas holidays. We hope you will all be renewed after the holiday break.

Skerries Historical Society

Tuesday 9 January at 8.15pm, in Skerries Bowling Club,

A second look at the Billy Blood Smyth stories, presented by Edward Mullarkey. All are welcome.

30 Years Ago in the Parish

- 1994 had been designated the Year of the Family and all parishioners were asked to pray for all families in the Parish
- Details of the Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes 1994 were released, visiting Lisieux
- The local Pioneers were holding a New Year Get Together in the Library after Monday evening Mass, with refreshments
- The Marian Society's Treasure Island pantomime was planned for the secondary school Hall
- A talk on Lambay Island was being organised in the Sailing Club

Skerries Ladies Bowls



Congratulations to Marian Fagan who won the President's bottle of bubbly on New Years' morning.

There was a great turn-out for this annual event. Ladies mornings will resume on Monday 8th and the Spring competition will start on Monday 15th. A very Happy New Year to all our members.

Skerries Forget-me-not Café.



We are open on Wednesday 10th January from 11.00am to 1.00pm.

The café is free of charge and open to people living with dementia, their families, carers and friends. Come for tea and biscuits, a chat, to meet others on a similar journey and to learn more about dementia services in the area. To make sure we don't run out of cake(!) please let us know you are coming. Please phone or text 083 119 2972. If you would like more information please contact us at:
skerriesforgetmenotcafe@gmail.com.

Skerries Harps GAA Club



Elected at our recent AGM were: Martin Kenny (Chairman), Ger Dillon (Secretary), Eileen McGinnis (Treasurer) and Joanne Kenny

(PRO). Membership fees for 2024 become due after the AGM and can be paid online. New players (male and female) are welcome to join up.

For all club information, check www.skerriesharps.com

On Wed 10 January we welcome the Skerries Forget Me Not Cafe (11.00am – 1.00pm), open to people living with dementia, their families, carers and friends.

Our Saturday morning Juvenile Academy will resume towards end of January.

Zingo for 26 Dec. 4, 2, 6, 5, 1, 7. 3 Dividend €200 won by Deborah Stevens. Numbers drawn on 1st January were 2, 4, 3, 6, 5, 7, 1. No winners - Jackpot now €5,700. Draw on Sunday at 6 p.m.

Happy New Year to all our Members, our supporters and sponsors and wishing lots of success to all the sports clubs in Skerries in 2024.

Reminder

Used Postage Stamps can be left into Skerries temporary Library beside SuperValu on Church St.

Please leave a 1/4" trim around the stamps. The Guide Dogs Association is most grateful for the stamps.