

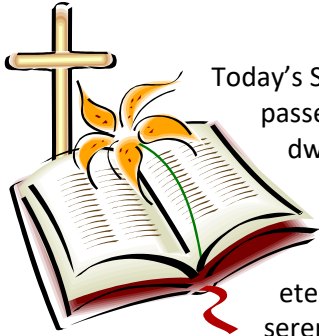


Skerries Parish Bulletin

No 2403

5th-12th January, 2025

Winter Light



Today's Scripture passages are mysterious and poetic. Now that the frenzy of a secular Christmas has passed, we are invited to sit quietly and think of the significance of "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us". What have I personally just celebrated in The Nativity of Christ?

The image of Wisdom, always portrayed as a woman, beautiful and mysterious, in and out of the shadows, always sought, is used by the writer of Ecclesiasticus in an attempt to grasp the magnitude and nature of God. Wisdom is self-perpetuating, glories in itself and is eternal "From eternity and in the beginning he created me and for eternity I shall remain". Her serenity is longed for

St John, in the opening paragraph of his Gospel, is on a similar mission. Instead of "Wisdom", he uses "The Word" to somehow convey the significance of Emmanuel – God with us. "The Word was with God and the Word was God.....through him all things came to be..... that life was the light of men.... a light that darkness could not overcome".

The steady flame of a candle is the very same element as the blaze of an inferno, the glow of the fire and the eruption of a volcano, the radiant sun or its cool reflection on the moon. It is the element of fire. It produces light. Perhaps in these quieter days of the very new year, we might gaze vacantly at a candle or into the embers of a fire and wonder about Wisdom, the Word, the Light. Who knows what passing wisdom, words and light might be our visitors? What life they might bring? Let us wait, listen and look!

"Candlelight, Angel-light, Firelight and Star-glow shine on His cradle 'til breaking of morn;
Gloria! Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Angels are singing the Christ-child is born".

Skerries Church Choir.

New Year's Wishes from Fr. Melvyn

As we begin a New Year – once again I thank all of our volunteers and yourselves our parishioners for your prayers and support during this past year. I wish you all best wishes and blessings of health and peace for this coming New Year 2025. **Fr. Melvyn**



OUR SYMPATHY

to the families of Ann Clinton late of Blackhills, May Wherity late of Sherlock Park, Catherine Guilda, late of Loughshinny Nursing Home, whose deaths occurred during the past week. May they rest in peace.

. WE WELCOME



We welcome Matias Senan O'Laoide recently baptised into our Parish family.

All morning Masses will return to 10 a.m.

Monday, 6th January is The Feast of the Epiphany and is a Holy day of Obligation – Mass to celebrate the feast will be @ 10 am. Please note this will be the only Mass for the Holy Day.

ANNIVERSARY AND SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sat 4th 10am: James Larkin, Dolores O'Byrne, Terence Friel

6 pm: Kenny Keogh (1st A), Kevin Woodcock, Eileen, Patrick & Peggy McCormack & decd mbrs of the family, William McGarry, Bernadette Roche & the McLoughlin & Roche family, Nicholas Harford

Sun. 5th 9.30am: Paul Workman (MM), Pearse Thornton, Theresa McCloskey, Margaret & Arthur Farrell, Declan O'Byrne, Michael & Margaret White, Bridie & Luke Clogher

Mon. 6th 10am: Mass Card Intentions

Tues. 7th 10am: Brigid McDonagh, Margie O'Brien, William Nugent, Mary McGirl, James & Katie McGirl, Desmond McGirl (Snr)

Wed. 8th 10am: Jim Slattery, Paddy & Gaye McGirl, Desmond McGirl (Jnr), Special Intention, Maura Davey

Fri. 10th 10am: Frank McDonagh Jnr, Mandy O'Connor, Michael, Betty & Bernard Moles, William & Eileen Nugent and decd. members of the Nugent family

Sat. 11th 10am: Paddy & Bridget Keating, Margaret & Vincent Coughlan (Rem)

6pm: Peig Kelly (MM), Richard Stanley, Tom Tolan

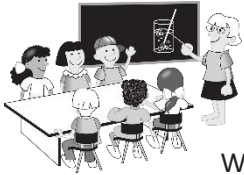
Sun. 12th 9.30am: Muriel St.John

11am: Susan Butler (MM) Marie, Patricia & John Hughes, Tom, Belle & Michael McCourt, Theresa Quinn

Parish Website: www.stpatricksskerries.ie Email: info@stpatricksskerries.ie Ph (01)81 06771, RCN 20016166

Fr Melvyn 01 9629662; Parish Mobile No - for out of normal hours, emergencies only - 089 2053460

Parish Pastoral Council: ppcstpatricksskerries@gmail.com Bulletin Email: skerriesbulletin@gmail.com



Return to school

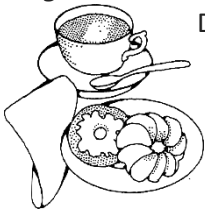
Our parish primary schools reopen after the Christmas break on Monday 6th January.

We wish our children and their teachers a very safe and happy term.

Bridge Mass

Our next Bridge Mass for all those children who intend to celebrate 1st Penance & 1st Holy Communion this year, will take place next Sunday 12th Jan. at 11am. All parents/guardians are encouraged to join with their children during this Mass as they prepare to celebrate these sacraments.

Forget-me-not Café



Do come along to our next Café morning in Skerries Harps Club on Wednesday next, 8th from 11 - 1. All those who are living with dementia, families, carers and friends are most welcome.

Please let us know if you are coming by phoning or texting: 083 119 2972

Skerries Day Care, Staff and clients wish all our friends a very Happy New Year and thank everyone for their support through 2024

Nollaig na mBan

Skerries Mills, 2.30 p.m., on Monday 6th January – music, poetry and readings. All welcome.

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



The Guide Dogs Association is most grateful for the donations of stamps please leave a trim of 1/4 inch all around

Skerries Twinning

We wish all our friends **Bonne Année**. Our Annual Dinner is coming up on Friday 24th January in the Brick House. Please let us know if you are coming by contacting skerriestwinning@gmail.com. We are also looking forward to our trip to the Canton of Guichen in July to mark the 30th anniversary of our twinning there in 1995. Please contact us if you think you might be interested in coming or would like further information – at the address above.

Skerries Ladies Bowls

Wishing all our members every happiness and good health in 2025. New Monday morning competition will start on Monday 13th. New lady members welcome – an ideal way to stay fit and healthy. Call to the clubhouse on Monday mornings from 10.30.

Skerries Harps GFC

We wish all our players, members, supporters and friends a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2025. Thank you for your support over the past 12 months – without your help we could not provide all the many activities that Skerries Harps do. Thanks to all the players who turned out for the Charity Match Series in aid of local branch of St Vincent de Paul Society on St Stephens Day. Zingo for 29 Dec. 6, 7, 2, 1, 3, 5. 4. No winner. Jackpot now €5,900. Congrats to Paul Murray who won the €250 Dividend on 22 Dec. Draw every Sunday at 6 p.m with free in-house raffle. Christmas Draw 1st prize won by Jennifer Slowey; 2nd Joe McGuinness, 3rd Aoife Donoghue. The remaining 21 prizes are published on our social media page. Thanks to all who supported the draw. Juvenile Academy on Saturday mornings will resume shortly – check our Social Media page. A gentle reminder – Membership Fees for 2025 are due for renewal, online at www.skerriesharps.ie Don't forget our Bingo on 6th January!

Acknowledgement – Mac Manus

On his 1st Anniversary, the family of the late Ian MacManus, (Skerries, Dundalk and Blackrock Co Louth) would like to express their thanks and appreciation for the wonderful support they received in their bereavement. To the many who travelled to Dundalk for his Funeral, a special thank you. Thank you to those who wrote letters and sent Mass cards. Please again accept our thanks and grateful appreciation.

Leaba i measc na naomh go raibh ag Ian.

Our New Year Message

The Bulletin team would like to wish all our readers a very Happy and Healthy New Year. We wish to acknowledge the great support we receive from Fr. Melvyn, Claireanne and Eithne in the Parish Office, those who provide the commentary on the Readings each week, our regular contributors from clubs and Parish groups and you, our readers. We are happy to welcome two new volunteer editors in the coming months, so welcome to Ray and Ann. The Editorial team: Annette, Geraldine, Kathleen, Maire, Nora.