



Skerries Parish Bulletin

No. 2404

Jan 12-18 2025

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Handel's *Messiah*, first premiered in Dublin in 1742, and now so often heard during advent and at Christmas-time, draws in its early stages on the passages from Isaiah 40 which we read today; *prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord; ... let every valley be filled in; every mountain and hill be laid low*, verses such as these announce both the power and the joy of Christ who is to come.

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, a public ceremony carried out by John the Baptist, the disciple who prepared the way for Christ the Messiah, he who would from then on *baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire*. The words of the entrance antiphon echo the final verses of today's Gospel, Luke's account of Christ's baptism; *And a voice came from heaven, You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you*. The New Testament reading, St Paul to Titus, sets out the type of life we need to, and can live, to attain salvation, *by means of the cleansing water of rebirth*, achieved through Christ's sacrifice.

And so to reflect on our own baptism; on what we have been gifted and our responsibility to nurture that gift. The actual ceremony may now be part of a dim and distant past. How we live our baptism is very much in the here and now.

Church Readers

ANNIVERSARY / SPECIAL INTENTION MASSES

- ✦ Saturday 11th 10am: Paddy & Bridget Keating, Margaret & Vincent Coughlan, Liz Rice (br)
- ✦ Saturday 11th 6pm: Peig Kelly (MM), Richard Shanley, Tom Tolan
- ✦ Sunday 12th 9.30am: Muriel St John, Sean O'Brien
- ✦ Sunday 12th 11am: Susan Butler (MM), Brendan O'Hanlon, Marie, Patrick & John Hughes, Tom Belle & Michael McCourt, Theresa Quinn, Caroline Heyenga (br)
- ✦ Monday 13th 10am: Mass Card Intentions
- ✦ Tuesday 14th 10am: Bridie Murphy (MM), Special Intention
- ✦ Wednesday 15th 10am: Niall Butterly (1st A), Carmel Nealon
- ✦ Saturday 18th 10am: Noel McDonough

- ✦ Saturday 18th 6pm: Stephen Coffey, Hugh O'Boyle, Lisa & Philip Dunne, Tommy Ryan, Harry Grimes, David & Rita O'Sullivan
- ✦ Sunday 19th 9.30am: Kathleen Harford, Fran & Mary Carabini
- ✦ Sunday 19th 11am: Patricia Reilly (1st A), John Flanagan, Jack & Mary Leonard, John Galvin

BRIDGE MASS

The next Bridge Mass for children intending to celebrate the sacraments of 1st Penance & Holy Communion this year will take place **this Sunday 12th January 2025 @ 11am**. It is very important that children along with their parents/guardians attend and participate in these Masses as an active preparation throughout this journey. You will have been informed of the remaining dates for this year's Bridge Masses earlier and if you don't have these please request them either from your class parent coordinator or by email from the Parish Secretary in the Parish Office.

FEASTDAYS

12th Jan – The Baptism of the Lord

15th Jan – St. Ita

17th Jan – St. Anthony

1ST PENANCE/CONFESSION

Please note the following dates for the celebration of 1st Penance/Confession:

St. Patrick's JNS - Tuesday 25th February 2025 @ 7pm in the church

Sc. Realt na Mara, Sc. Mobhi, ETNS & Holmpatrick N.S. - Wednesday 26th February 2025 @7pm in the church.

As parents/guardians you can help your child to prepare for this celebration by using the class textbook 'Grow in Love' along with your child and the teacher's guidance as well.

CONFIRMATION RITUALS

The 1st Confirmation Ritual will take place on **Wednesday 15th January @ 7.30 pm in the church**. It is very important that children along with their parents/guardians attend and participate in these Rituals as an active preparation throughout this journey. Please note the two remaining rituals will take place **same time and venue on 12th February 2025 and 12th March 2025**.

ST. PATRICK'S JNS

Admissions to **Junior Infants 2025** will close on the **17th of January**. Application forms are available on the school website, www.stps.ie, or by calling in to the school during school hours.

PIONEER ASSOCIATION

Our monthly committee meeting will take place this Monday 13th January after 10am Mass in 42A Strand Street. This will include our AGM and all Pioneer members are most welcome. There are still a few calendars available in the parish office.

NOLLAIG NA MBAN, SKERRIES 2025

Many thanks to all the volunteers who took part in **Nollaig na mBan** celebrations. Thanks to Skerries Mills for providing a great venue. It was a very enjoyable afternoon. Donations given to St. Vincent de Paul and the RNLI. Mile buiochas do gach duine

CRICKET CLUB



Tea Dance will be on Sun 12th 3.30 - 6pm. Guest appearance by Patrick Byrne. Lovely refreshments served. All welcome.

SKERRIES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tuesday 14th January @ 8.15pm, Skerries Bowling Club. Edward Mullarkey will present a third extract from the Billy Blood Smyth papers. All welcome.

SKERRIES LADIES' BOWLS

Due to the icy conditions there was no bowls last Monday morning, but hopefully the Spring competition will get going tomorrow, 13th. We will hope to run it for 12 weeks, which should take us up to Easter. €2 entry and hoping to get started at 10.30 p.m.. Indoor bowling will start on Wed. next, 15th from 2 - 4 p.m.. €2 per person. Hopefully once the icy conditions have gone, the Winter League will swing into session again.

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

Over Christmas we held two fundraising events in aid of the local SVDP Society. Both were hugely successful - thanks to all who supported the St Stephen's Day Charity Games & also the Society Golf Outing. The final amount of funds raised was €3500.

Zingo for 5 Jan. 1, 6, 5, 3, 2, 7. 4. No winner. Jackpot now €6,000. Draw every Sunday at 6 p.m.

Every Step Counts is back! It's time to reconnect with your club and community and feel the benefits of physical exercise. It runs till Wednesday 12th February so help Skerries Harps reach a combined target of 4,000km for a prize fund of €30,000 from Irish Life. Download the MyLife app.

Bingo on Monday 6 January was deferred due to weather conditions and will now be held on Monday 13 Jan at 8pm with a Jackpot of €1,250.

Thanks to all who supported the Christmas Tree Tags towards our Féile 2025 teams' expenses. Membership Fees for 2025 can be renewed online at www.skerriesharps.ie/membership

NOTICES – LOST & FOUND

Lost Prayer Book, if found please contact the Parish Office or Frances Rice.

Parish Website: www.stpatricksskerries.ie Email: info@stpatricksskerries.ie Ph (01)8106771, RCN 20016166

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

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