THE CONVERSION OF ZACCHEUS

Zaccheus was a man immersed in sin. He was a tax collector, and tax collectors were particularly despised in biblical times. That may seem a little strange to us as we don't look on the tax officials in our day with the same passionate hatred. They were the cronies of the oppressive Romans who collected money for them on their behalf. Not alone that but tax collectors had no regulator to worry about so they defrauded the people as the Romans allowed them to line their own pockets. Zaccheus was a wealthy tax collector so had probably embezzled a lot of people in his career. Zaccheus was a big sinner all right but then these are the people most fascinated by God.

Elsewhere in the Gospel we are told of another great sinner who was fascinated by God. King Herod was about as bad as you can get and yet he would bring his saintly prisoner John the Baptist from his cell and listen to what John had to say. He liked the truth and beauty of what he heard even though King Herod could not bring himself to live by it. This incident indicates in a profound way that it's impossible to stifle the soul's hunger for God – even King Herod yearned for what is good and beautiful and true which is why he liked to listen to John the Baptist.

Zaccheus hungered for God and he sensed the presence of God in Jesus as he moved among the crowds of Jericho. In his anxiety to see Jesus he climbed a tree. All Christ needs is the smallest move on our part and he pounces – in this case to invade the soul of a great sinner.

Conversion and redemption are always possible and very often it is those who are estranged from God are at the same time most fascinated by him.

We reflect on a young woman who is the greatest saint in Catholicism. She died at 24 years of age; she was a cloistered nun and hardly anyone knew she existed. She was the Little Flower. Millions pray for her intercession and follow her "little way" of

doing small things well. It is the little things that matter. That is how we go about converting the world as Zaccheus was converted by Jesus in our Gospel today.

Fr. Padraig

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

A brief meeting of those involved in decorating the church for Christmas will be held after 10am Mass on Tuesday 10th December in the Pastoral Centre. It will involve plans on how the church should be suitably adorned and every one's input is welcomed.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Due to lack of space in the Newsletter the Novena for Christmas Prayer is available from the Shop and free to be taken away. The prayer is traditionally said 15 times a day until Christmas.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

James Keady, a new entrant, is this week's winner. Congratulations James! Your prize is waiting to be picked up by you from the Sacristy after Mass today.

This week's ouiz



On the Advent wreath you see 4 candles and a white one in the centre

What does the WHITE candle represent? Your entries by email – ellenteresacoyne@eircom.net

by Tuesday evening or to the Sacristy by Wednesday morning!

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Notices and submissions for the Newsletter must be received before 10.30am on **WEDNESDAY** morning to be considered for inclusion into that week's edition. Envelopes marked "PARISH NEWSLETTER" should be left into the Sacristy or Parish Office.

PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

Village

Office/Sacristy 459 3520

Fr Damian Farnon Adm St Cecilla's 459 2665

Fr Pádraig O'Sullivan CC St Columba's 464 0441

Deacon Seamus McEntee St Mary's 459 2311

Clonburris

Fr Shán O Cuív CC c/o Parish Office

Knockmitten

Fr Des Byrne CC 45 Woodford Drive. 459 2323



Parish Pastoral Workers (for the Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin)

> Peter Siney 089 461 4226

Christopher Okereke 457 3546

PARISH NEWS

Clondalkin Village, Clonburris & Knockmitten

clondalkinchurch@eircom.net

www.clondalkinparish.com

Vol. 18

Sunday - 1st December 2013

No 48

LONDON CALLING

Firstly, a *mea culpa*. I went to London this week to catch up with a few friends and forgot to leave instructions regarding the newsletter. Jim Flood emailed looking for the front page so I had to search what the Archdiocese of Westminster was doing and reply to Jim in a hurry. Archbishop Vincent Nichols writing for the diocesan website suggests.

"Advent and Christmas have a particular part to play in our lives. Advent gives us the opportunity to think afresh about the fact and meaning of the birth of Christ, the eternal word of God taking on our human condition. It is a great mystery for us to comprehend and I urge everyone to spend Advent preparing well for this joyous occasion. There are lots of material things that we prepare for when celebrating Christmas, let us not forget our spiritual preparations too. God became incarnate in Jesus, in a tiny child, and in doing so offered humanity the hope of salvation and of a share in the divine life. The Eternal Love of God took on our flesh and blood in order to save us. This is the greatest gift of all and it should be foremost in our mind at this time. May every act of prayer, work, gift giving and spending time with friends and family, reflect the love and generosity of the incarnation that we celebrate. May that same love and generosity shape our actions in the New Year as we try and follow Christ ore faithfully."

The Diocese of Westminster has faced many of the challenges we will have to face and in my opinion the Church in Central London is vibrant, caring and above all is outward looking, inviting people to follow the way of the Lord.

Happy Advent Fr. D (an expert in cutting and pasting!!!)

BAPTISMS

Congratulations and welcome to:

Maizie Anne Delaney McDonald, Glenfield Close

Lea Elizabeth Wade Clifford, Grange View Rd Gianna Rose Grendon, Monastery Gate Green Dylan Alasdair Verschoyle Connolly, Monastery Rd

Isabella Anastasia Tilova, Cherrywood Crescent

Caoimhe Bernadette Smith, Castle Park Isabella Eva Rafferty, Griffith Rd, Finglas Odhran John King, Monastery Park Caela Catherine King, Monastery Park

recently Baptised.

ADORATION

This Thursday 5th December, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held **in the Sisters' Oratory:** from after 10am Mass to 11.45am, **and from** 7pm to 9pm. All are welcome.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Finance Committee acknowledges with thanks eq 2,078 - your contributions this week

NOTICES

Monday 2nd December

Miraculous Medal Novena after 10am Mass and Rosary.

Friday 6th December

First Friday, Masses at 7.30am and 10am. Masses offered for all whose names are on the Altar List of the Dead

Saturday 7th December

First Saturday, Fatima Devotions after Mass and Rosary (Please note: No Baptismal preparation meeting)

DEATHS

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

Joseph (Joe) Fitzgibbon, St. Patrick's Rd Anthony Barrett, Palmerstown Woods

recently deceased. May they rest in peace.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Rachel Stokes and Michael Reilly

recently married.

CHURCH DUTY

Cleaning: all teams on Wednesday 4th at 2.30pm for the Annual Clean up! All materials provided. Help appreciated!

Altar Linen: Catherine Sherwin

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Clondalkin "Intercultural Centre invites all to a "Christmas Carol" after noon next Sunday at 3pm to 4pm here in the Church and all are welcome.

ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday 8th December

7.30pm (Vigi	l) Anne Conroy
Peg Lynch	
	John Lynch, B/day Rem
	Mary Ashe
	Marion Corless, 5 th An
	Mary, Sylvia and Jim
	Thornbury
9.00am	Noel Bower, 2 nd An
10.30am	James (Jr) and Alice Norton
	Evelyn Jones, B/day Rem
12 Noon	Tommy and Hattie Tobin
	Michael Mahon, MM
5.30pm	Ciarán O'Dwyer, MM

CLONBURRIS Mass Intentions

Saturday 30th November

6.30pm Mass for the Deceased Parishioners of Clonburris

Sunday 1st December

11.00am Elizabeth Byrne (50th An).

Baptism

Congratulations to Alfie Brian McEneff who was Baptised on Saturday 23rd November

Competition Winner

Congratulations to Ciaran and Cormac Gavin competition winners, your prize can be collected after Mass.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SAYS "THANKS"

"We have many families in our area who need your help urgently" Garry Plunkett told Newlands Bridge Club last week when he accepted €2,650, proceeds of Charity Bridge night and Raffle tickets. Thanking the Golf Club for their generosity not alone at this time but also during the year. "This money you have given me will go some way to make life a little easier for the families in Clondalkin area".

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The "Year of Faith" closed last Sunday but the real work continues – feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, share the "good news"

On Sunday next, 8th December the Annual Christmas Collection will be taken up at all Masses. It will replace the SHARE Collection. In these recessionary times all are feeling the pinch but none more so that those in need in our parish. St. Vincent de Paul members acknowledge with thanks generosity always shown by parishioners and we thank the people involved who take on the task of visiting and helping on our behalf

ADVENT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Each Wednesday during Advent there will be a Faith Development session based on the "Catholicism Series" by Fr. Robert Barron. The format of the sessions begins with a half hour viewing of a DVD from the series followed by a presentation and discussion of issues raised. It will be facilitated by Fr. Padraig O'Sullivan

Venue: upstairs in Parish Pastoral Centre Times: 8pm to 10pm, Wednesday 4th, 11th and 18th December

As numbers are limited it is necessary to register with your name and phone no. on the list available in the Sacristy.

SILVER JUBILEE

The 25th anniversary of St Ronans Church, Deansrath is on December 1. There will be a Mass of thanksgiving at 11.00 followed by refreshments. All are very welcome,

Fr. Sean O'Leary.

MONDAY CLUB

Colours and numbers made up the Quiz presented by Kathleen Murray last week. I've said it before and I'll say it again Kathleen is marvellous at keeping our brains ticking over. Who would have thought that a short trip on the Luas could have created such furrowing of brows as "how many colours make up station names on the "RED LINE". It is four – now name them!!. We had ten questions on colour which really made us realise that we are not very observant. The same can be said for numbers questions. Did you know that there are eighteen bridges over the Liffey from Housten Station to Dublin Bay?

Next week we welcome our own Betty McDaid and her musicians for a lovely, lively Irish morning. Please come along and enjoy great entertainment!

Joan