



Advent Newsletter Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin



Welcome at Christmas

There is an aspect to the preparation for Christmas that appeals to people whether they are religious or not. The tasks that are undertaken in the weeks leading up to the day itself as familiar maybe from childhood and if nothing else can take our minds off the cold and short days. During the year the Interpretative Centre at the Round Tower in Clondalkin Village was opened. The perseverance and determination of many people made this happen. As I walked around the garden on the day of the opening I was struck by how for many centuries the Tower acted not only as a marker to indicate where Clondalkin Village was but pointing upwards towards heaven. An image came into my mind of many Christmas mornings when parishioners from the rural parts of Clondalkin made their way to Mass.

Christmas is a time of welcoming. People welcome home family and friends who live overseas, neighbours welcome neighbours for a seasonal drink. We remember our families and friends who are overseas, especially those for whom this is their first Christmas away from home. We welcome those spending their first Christmas with us here in Clondalkin and our parishioners from other lands who are now an integral part of our worshipping community. The first Christmas was a little different. There was no welcome for the couple from Nazareth who were expecting their child. Their only refuge was a place where the animals were kept, not the most healthy or hygienic place to give birth. God's chosen people and those waiting for a Messiah were not the first to welcome him. Instead it was the outsiders, the shepherds and those who travelled from afar, who greeted the baby with joy.

How will the Christ child be welcomed this Christmas? Will there be space amongst the celebrations and gift-giving to receive the gift of a child who has the power to transform and heal, to comfort and disturb? Where will we encounter the Christ who lives among us – in those who are less fortunate than ourselves? The Clondalkin I wrote about in the first paragraph has disappeared. Today there are nine Catholic Churches in the area and on Sunday 17th December the Church of the Transfiguration in Bawnogue will officially reopen after extensive repairs. All are invited to the 11am Mass to mark the occasion.

Finally, I wish you and yours a very happy, holy and above all a peaceful Christmas.

Fr. Damian Farnon, Moderator CCPC

Pick up a copy for a friend or neighbour or to send to relatives over seas!

2017



Mighty God
Messiah

Everlasting Father

Wonderful Counselor

LOVE Jesus Prince of Peace

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

HOPE Son **JOY**
GOD WITH US LORD IMMANUEL

**Advent is a wonderful time to
celebrate the reconciling love and the
healing graces our Lord offers us.**

Reconciliation is what God does!

Receiving it and celebrating it is what we do!

For Catholics, the Sacrament of

Reconciliation is a most natural way to celebrate God's reconciliation. We used to think of this sacrament as only about "confession" - like a dumping ground for my sins, where I got forgiven, and I had to "pay a toll." One of the great recoveries in our

Christian history is re-discovery of the meaning of this sacrament. It's about our God who loves us, walks with us, and always calls us into his loving care. God never turns from us but we can often turn from God. God forgives us the very moment that we realise that we need forgiveness - *At the moment, I feel sorrow and a desire for forgiveness and healing.* In that moment, I am reconciled

with God. The reunion, the bond, the connection, the joy are all there! Three more things remain: *to receive it deep within my heart, to celebrate it, and to participate in the healing process!*

Advent Reconciliation Services

CCPC - Srulleen Mon 18th Dec 7:30pm

Rowlagh-Quarryvale & Neilstown -

Available during the 3rd Sunday of Advent as part of all the Sunday Masses
16th & 17th Dec

Knockmitten Saturday 16th Dec 6pm

Bawnogue and Deansrath in

Bawnogue Church Tuesday
19th December at 7:30pm

*Contact your local parish for
opportunities outside of these times*



Clondalkin Village, Deansrath, Srulleen, Knockmitten, Clonburris, Bawnogue, Neilstown, Rowlagh-Quarryvale, Parish of the Travelling People

Contact us - CCPC.Clondalkin@gmail.com or @TheCCPCDublin

Masses and Liturgical Celebrations in the Clondalkin Area over the Christmas Period

KNOCKMITTEN

Saturday 16th December - Penitential Service at 6.00pm followed by Vigil Mass at 6.30pm

Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve) **Morning Mass 10am**, First Mass of Christmas (for children) at 5pm
Vigil Mass of Christmas at 6.30pm

Monday 25th December (Christmas Day) - Mass (with Band and Choir) at 10am,

CLONBURRIS

Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve) First Mass of Christmas at 9pm

Monday 25th December (Christmas Day) Mass at 11am

CLONDALKIN VILLAGE

Monday 18th December - Penitential Service joining at 7.30pm with all in CCPC **held in Sruleen Church**

Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve) - Masses as on Sunday except no 5.30pm - Confessions: 2 to 4pm

First Mass of Christmas (with Clondalkin Youth Band) at 7.30pm, Carols at 9.45pm followed by Night Mass of Christmas at 10pm

Monday 25th December (Christmas Day) - Aifreann na Nollag at 9am, Sung Mass at 10.30am, Gospel Mass at 12 noon
Evening Prayer 7.00pm Christmas Night - **No Evening Mass**

Tuesday 26th December to Friday 5th January - The weekday daily Mass will be at 10am only. (The 7.30am Mass resumes on Monday 8th January)

Sunday 31st December (New Year's Eve) - Masses as on Sunday

The annual Last Lights ceremony of quiet, candlelit prayer is in the Village Church from 4pm to 5pm

Please note - From 7th January the Vigil Mass in the Village will be at 6.30pm

SRULEEN

Saturday 23rd Dec Confession from 10.30-12 noon

Sunday 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent Vigil Mass at 6.30pm, Sunday Mass at 11.00am

Christmas Eve First mass of Christmas at 5.00pm, Carol Singing at 8.00pm, Second Mass at 8.30pm

Christmas Day Mass at 11.00am

Mass during Christmas Week is at 10am each morning.

Sunday 31 December Feast of the Holy Family: Vigil Mass at 6.30pm, Sunday Mass at 11.00am

New Years Day : Mass at 11.00am

January 2-5 Mass during the week at 9.15 AM

January 6 Feast of the Epiphany: Holy Day Mass at 10.00AM

Sunday January 7 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord: Vigil Mass at 6.30pm, Sunday Mass at 11.00am

DEANRATH

Sunday 17th Dec - 11:00am - Thanksgiving Mass of the Anniversary of the Church Building - 29 years of the Saint Ronan's Parish. After Mass, Lunch and refreshments in the Community Centre Hall - Inauguration of the Crib and Novena of Christmas

Christmas Eve - Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass 11 am, **First Mass of Christmas** 8 pm

Christmas Day - Mass at 11:00am

BAWNOGUE

Tuesday 19th December - Penitential Service joint with Deansrath - at 8.00 p.m.

Saturday 23rd December: Vigil Mass as usual at 6.00 p.m.

Sunday 24th December: Sunday Mass at 11.00 a.m. (*one Mass only today*)

Sunday 24th December: Christmas Eve Masses at 6.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m.

Monday 25th December: Christmas Day Masses at 10.30 a.m. and 12.00 noon.

Weekend of December 30th/31st December: Masses at the normal times

Monday 1st January: Mass at 10.00 a.m.

NEILSTOWN & ROWLAGH/QUARRYVALE

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th Dec: Reconciliation service at beginning all Masses in both parishes this weekend.

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th

6.00 p.m. Mass Rowlagh-Quarryvale Church, 7.00 p.m. Mass Neilstown Church

10.00 a.m. Mass Rowlagh-Quarryvale Church, 11.30 a.m. Mass Neilstown Church

Christmas Eve Masses

5.00 p.m. Children's Vigil Mass Rowlagh-Quarryvale Church, 7.00 p.m. Vigil Mass Neilstown Church

9.00 p.m. Vigil Mass Rowlagh-Quarryvale Church

Christmas Day

10.00 a.m. Mass Rowlagh-Quarryvale Church, 11.30 a.m. Mass Neilstown Church

St. Stephen's Day

11.00 a.m. Mass Rowlagh Church, 11.00 a.m. Mass Neilstown Church

Wednesday 27th December – Tuesday January 2nd Weekday Masses at 11.00 a.m. in Neilstown & Rowlagh

Saturday 30th & 31st December

6.00 p.m. Rowlagh-Quarryvale Church, 7.00 p.m. Neilstown Church

10.00 a.m. Rowlagh-Quarryvale Church, 11.30 a.m. Neilstown Church

We hope to see you there!



The Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin
Celebrates

The Blessing of Expectant Parents

In Clondalkin Village Church
Church of the Immaculate Conception & St Killian



Friday 8th December, 2017
10am Mass

All expectant and adopting parents are invited to come along and receive a special blessing and a small gift in the anticipation of your child. Please come along and invite anyone you may know who would like one of these blessings.



Magnificat of Acceptance by Ann Johnson

My soul trembles in the presence
of the loving Creator
and my spirit prepares itself to
walk hand in hand with the God
who saves Israel because I have
been accepted by God as a simple
helpmate.

Yes, forever in the life of humankind
people will sing of this loving encounter;
through remembering this moment,
the faithful will know all things
are possible in God.

Holy is the place within me where God
lives. God's tender fingers reach out
from age to age to touch the softened
inner spaces of those who open
their souls in hope.

I have experienced the creative power of
God's embracing arms and I know the
cleansing fire of unconditional love.

I am freed from all earthly authority and
know my bonding to the Author of all
earthly things.

I am filled with the news of good things;
my favour with God, faithful trust in the
gentle shadow of the Most High,
the mystery or my son, Jesus,
the gift of companionship with my
beloved kinswoman, Elizabeth, who
believes as I believe. The place in my
heart that I had filled with thoughts of
fear and inadequacy has been emptied
and I am quiet within.

God comes to save Israel, our holy
family, remembering that we are the
ones who remember, ... according to the
kinship we have known ...

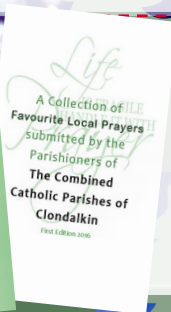
remembering that we are the ones who
remember and that where God and
people trust each other, there is home.



Human Rights Day is observed every year on **10th Dec**. It commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. This year, Human Rights Day calls for people to know and push for their rights no matter

where they are in the world ! Wherever we are, we can make a real difference. In the street, in school, at work, on public transport; in the voting booth, on social media. So notice, be aware and be vocal.

The time for this is now. "We the people" can take a stand for rights and make a difference!

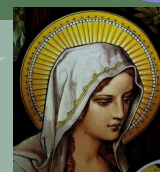


The CCPC Local Prayer Book "*Life is Fragile, Handle with Prayer*" containing favourite prayers submitted by parishioners and the Children's Prayer Book, "*Prayers go up, Blessings come down*" would make lovely & thoughtful stocking fillers or gifts this Christmas - Be sure to pick up a copy or two from your local parish shop and maybe send one over to friends & family overseas!!



December 8th is the Feast Day of Clondalkin Village Parish -

Few teachings of the Catholic Church are as misunderstood as the that of the **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, the holy, solemn day celebrated among Catholics. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but rather the birth of Mary to her mother, Saint Anne. To become the mother of God's son, Mary was deemed "full of grace" at the moment of her conception, meaning she was free of sin. Another misconception people have is that Mary's Immaculate Conception was necessary to ensure that Original Sin would not be passed on to Christ. This has never been a part of the Church's teaching ; rather, the feast represents Christ's saving grace operating in Mary. In other words, the Immaculate Conception was not a precondition for Christ's act of redemption but the result of that act! It is the concrete expression of God's love for Mary, who gave herself fully, completely, and without hesitation to His service. - **Make sure to wish everyone a Happy feast day!!**



Advent is a time of preparation....as always it is some four weeks in length with four candles highlighting this preparation. What or who are we preparing for? It is the Birth of the Child Jesus. Words like Waiting, Watching and Longing are repeated in the prayers and readings of the coming days.

Week 1 *And what I say to you I say to all: Stay Awake !*

As we watch and wait for Christmas, we can make a prayer of thanks to God each day, for our faith and the love we find and give in life.

Week 2 *Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight !*

Advent is a time of committing ourselves to the joyful lifetime of service....the family in one room in a hotel or a hob or on the street are our brothers and sisters....

Week 3 *He sent me to bring Good News to the Poor.*

The Giving Tree is a wonderful yet simple way to reach out, to share with others. How will you be Good News for a family this Christmas?

Week 4 *Mary, do not be afraid, you have won God's favour.*

The Son of God was sent to us through Mary....and now through each of us again this Christmas Day and every day....

We extend to all of you a Christmas Blessing and a life of Hope and Joy for 2018. *Fr. Pearse. Fr. Vincent. Sacred Heart Church, Sruteen.*



The Meaning behind our Advent Wreath

Set on the branches of the wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. In

the centre of the wreath sits a white candle. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "**Prophecy Candle**" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming

Messiah. Each week on Sunday, an additional candle is lit. On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the "**Bethlehem Candle**" symbolizing Christ's manger. On the third Sunday of Advent the pink coloured candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the

"**Shepherds Candle**" and it represents joy.

The fourth and last purple candle, oftentimes called the "**Angels Candle**" represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent. On Christmas Eve, the white centre candle is traditionally lit. This candle is called the "**Christ Candle**" and represents the light of Christ that has come into the world.



Practice the Art of Waiting

We live in a world of instant gratification. We hate to wait in line; wait for the fever to break for a sick child; wait while our computers & tablets "buffer;" wait to hear from the college of our choice; wait for our child to come home safely from the disco; wait behind slower runners or walkers at the 5k; waiting in traffic. We spend a fair amount of time waiting and losing our cool over it. We also spend a fair amount of time teaching our children how to wait ("No, you can't have sweets just before dinner"). So, we already know that there are benefits to waiting. So, what if we changed our thinking about waiting from an annoyance into a VIRTUE? Waiting then becomes an activity, and a pretty helpful one at that. By actively waiting, we are able to reflect more fully on what really matters during Advent. By actively waiting, we are preparing our hearts for Christ to be born anew in them. The next time you're waiting in line at the bank, shop or on the M50, take that time to be reminded that God is waiting, too. The God who loves you deeply is waiting for you to open the doors of your heart.



Make sure to pick up Your copy of our **Advent Scripture Calendar!!** It can be downloaded & printed from www.Clondalkinparish.com (Advent Resources Button)

or Facebook page @TheCCPCDublin



Beithilín Beo / Live Crib will take place on Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th Dec 2017 in in Áras Chrónáin a magical experience for all the Family, please go to www.araschronain.ie & www.facebook.com/Aras.chronain for update information on all times of performances.



Have you taken our Christmas Doorstep Challenge Yet?!

Imagine how many Christmases could be brightened by a simple kind gesture.

The rules:

1. Pick someone who has had a tough time or would simply benefit from some festive goodwill.
It doesn't have to be someone you know well
2. Choose a gift for them - big or small.
3. Write them an anonymous note, some kind words about why you were thinking of them.
4. Leave it all at their doorstep.
5. Knock on the door and leggit! -
make sure they don't see you!
6. Feel happy knowing that you have spread some Christmas cheer with no expectations of anything in return.



when you Choose joy

You feel good & when you feel good, you do good & when you do good it Reminds others of what joy feels like

& it just might inspire them to do the same.

The Excitement is Building!

Let's share and see if this catches on and we can spread a bit of Christmas magic. Miracles really do happen!

#Christmas #Doorstepchallenge

Share your Christmas Doorstep Challenge photos with us CCPC.Clondalkin@gmail.com



Monday 11th December Carol Service in the Village Church featuring the Clondalkin Youth Band at 7.30pm

Wednesday 20th December Gaelscoil Cluain Dolcain will host a Carol Service in the Village Church at 7.30pm



KERALA CHRISTIAN UNION
Dublin - Ireland

Ecumenical Christmas Carol



H.G. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Yulios Metropolitan

Saturday, 2nd December 2017 @ 4.30 pm
Kilnamanagh Community Centre,
Treepark Road, Dublin - 24



Cllr. Ms. Breeda Bonner Mayor



Mrs. Vijay Thakur Singh Ambassador

Inauguration: **Cllr. Ms. Breeda Bonner**, Hon. Deputy Mayor

Chief Guest: **Mrs. Vijay Thakur Singh**, Hon. Ambassador Of India To Ireland

Christmas Message: **H.G. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Yulios Metropolitan**, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

Participating Churches

Syro Malabar Catholic Church, Dublin, Nazareth Mar Thoma Church, Dublin, Holy Trinity CSI Congregation, Dublin, St. Gregorios Syrian Orthodox Church, Dublin, St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church, Dublin, St. Peter's & St. Paul's Indian Orthodox Church, Drogheda, St. Mary's Indian Orthodox Church, Lucan, St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church, Rowlagh, St. Ignatius Noorono Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Tallaght, St. Mary's Syrian Orthodox Church, Waterford, St. Ignatius Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Swords, St. Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church, Waterford.

Fr. T. George
President

Joji Abraham P.Jacob
Secretary

Empty manger

When you set up your Crib at home **don't put any straw in!**

Encourage your children to make Jesus' bed as "comfortable" as possible through the good deeds they do! The idea is that when acts of service, sacrifice, or kindness are done, your child receives a piece of straw to put into the manger. Then, on Christmas morning, "Baby Jesus" is placed in the manger and they can see how comfortable they made him by all the kindness they did!!



A little Christmas Peace in the Valley

Liffey Valley Shopping Centre

Priests will make themselves available - facing Penny's - for people who would like to avail of the opportunity for Confession, a chat or a blessing before Christmas

Saturday 9th Dec from 12 pm to 4:30 pm

JOY NOEL ANGEL JESUS PEACE HOPE WISEMEN CHRISTMAS BELIEVE FAITH PRINCE OF PEACE THANK YOU

A Prayer for those travelling home this Christmas - Loving God protect and watch over all our loved ones who are travelling home to be with us this Christmas. May they arrive safely to share this season of joy with us. We ask this in your care. Amen



Make sure to pick up your **FREE** copy of ...



Something Different for Advent 2017

MY ADVENT RETREAT



A collection of short prayers, reflections and exercises for **BUSY PEOPLE** to help aid you on your Journey through Advent

Gift yourself a bit of time each day this Advent
In your own time at your own pace as you prepare for Christmas

May God's blessings this season, light your way!

AVAILABLE IN ALL OUR CHURCHES

CHRISTMAS in Bawnogue!

in Bawnogue!

Many of you are aware of the renovations that have been

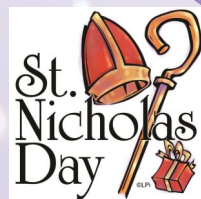
on-going for the past year at the Church of the Transfiguration, Bawnogue. The new roof has now been completed and we have done a significant amount of work on the interior of the Church. We are very grateful to the Archdiocese (Share Fund) for their assistance. Much of the work done on the interior of the Church has been funded locally and we want to express our gratitude to the Parishioners of Bawnogue for their generous contributions. We also wish to thank all the Parishes in Clondalkin that held special collections to help with the renovation of our Church. Thanks also for the private, and often anonymous, donations we received.

The official re-opening of the Church of the Transfiguration will take place on **Sunday 17th of December at 11.00 a.m. Mass.**

We will have just the one Mass on that day and His Grace, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, will officiate. All are welcome. The Parish of Bawnogue is certainly looking forward to this event and we hope it will bring Christmas joy and many blessings to our Parish and our donors. (Bawnogue PPC)

Ideas for celebrating some of the Feast days throughout Advent

St. Nicholas Day - The feast of St. Nicholas is on Dec. 6th. It is a highlight of the Advent season in places like Germany. Each child puts out a shoe the night before St. Nicholas Day in the hope that the kind bishop with his mitre, staff, and bag of gifts will pay a visit. The current Santa Claus is modelled after St. Nicholas, but commercialism has tarnished the true story a bit. Many families give small gifts on both Dec. 6 and Christmas. Day Read about St. Nicholas on line



Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Some families have the custom of decorating the Christ candle with a blue veil on December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On this great feast, others place a candle with a blue ribbon before a statue or picture of the Blessed Virgin, whose yes to God enabled our Lord's coming at Christmas. The candle is lit during meal times to serve as a delightful reminder of Mary's eager expectation of the Light of the World. It can also serve as a reminder to each family member to keep their own light of love burning as a preparation for Christ's coming.



St. Lucy cakes - The feast of St. Lucy, virgin and martyr, is on December 13th. This marks the opening of the Christmas season in Sweden. Her life story can be found in most saints books or online, as can the recipe for the traditional cakes. The symbolism is rich and her life story worthwhile reading.



Candle at the Window. This is one of the most well-observed of Irish Christmas traditions and has changed little over the years except in its increasing popularity. Just one candle used to be placed in a window as a sign of welcome for Mary and Joseph on Christmas Eve but it is common these days to see lit candles, usually electrically or battery powered, in all downstairs street-facing windows throughout the festive season. In some homes they are also placed in upstairs windows.



But always remember to be fire-aware & safe!!

Srúleen Parish are hosting their **Christmas Bingo** on **Friday 8th December**, Parish Centre at **8pm**. Book €10 - Jackpot and this month there will be a **Christmas Raffle**. Come along have a game of Bingo, a chat and a cuppa. Bingo is on the first Friday of every month.





The members of St Damien Mission Group, Sruleen are holding their annual **CAKE AND CHRISTMAS SALE** on the weekend of the 9th and 10th December. There will be bread and cake stall, a good as new stall, a Christmas stall, a bling stall and of course a

Monster Raffle. The group are looking for bakers and donations of good as new items and Christmas items for sale. Ladies if you have unwanted items of jewellery please donate it to us. **No books or toys please.** Items can be dropped into the Presbytery at St. John's Drive or you can contact Mary McCoy on 087 2431848.

All monies raised goes entirely to help Mission areas where Bothers and Sisters of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary work. Please come along and support us.

Week 1 - Hope

*Listen in the silence. Listen in the noise.
Listen for the sound of the Spirit's voice.*

Before we begin: This is the first week of Advent and there are four candles! We are focusing on the work of quieting and silencing in order to listen for God's voice. We begin with all the lights lit, the four candles of the Advent wreath, the four candles in our illustration, then each week quiet another candle to our goal of focusing and listening only for God-with-us: Emmanuel. Listen to the God who brings HOPE!

Invocation

God of hope, we are going to listen for you as we start this new church year. Help us to quiet all the other sounds and commotion around us and listen only for you as we wait in hope for the day when we will celebrate your incarnation.

Confession

God, it seems like it started even earlier this year. All the ads and the decorations, the special songs and the movies on tv. The sound of the season is deafening. This year we want to quiet the input a little more each week until we can hear your Word speaking to us. Please be patient with us as we try to listen for your Spirit's voice.

Psalm 80:1a, 19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we might be saved.

1 Corinthians 13:9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer

Creator God, restore our hope even when we can't quite hear you. Sometimes it seems like you are far away. Give us hope that you are present in every bit of your creation, every flower, animal, every single person.

Help us to listen in the silence.

Christ, restore our hope even when there is so much chatter that we struggle to hear which voice is yours. Give us hope that we can help one another. Give us hope that we will find ways to feed and care for all people and, above all, treat everyone with respect.

Help us to listen in the noise.

Holy Spirit, restore our hope that you are with us and will help us. Give us the ears to hear those who are speaking out in love. Give us wisdom to know your voice when we hear it.

Help us to listen for the sound of your voice. Amen



Monroe's Health & Beauty

in The Mill Shopping Centre Clondalkin are running a little initiative up to Christmas - Please Support

Christmas is about helping others bring it back to basics!!

Pick up one extra item in your shopping for someone else!!

Help

Weve a food donation box for Clondalkin helping homeless

Pick up something extra in your shopping for a family and drop it into us

Monroes Hair & Beauty
4577211

We are offering you **Four Gifts**, for this Advent - 1 each Sunday of Advent - and asking you to Gift yourself a little bit of time and use your creativity - Our First Gift is Hope - This one page reflection sheet can be downloaded, view shared and printed from www.clondalkinparish.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Week1Advent2017Hope.pdf as a 'gift' from the parishes of the CCPC to all our parishioners both here and online!

These and other free resources for all ages, background, etc for Advent can be download from our site - www.clondalkinparish.com/?page_id=1924

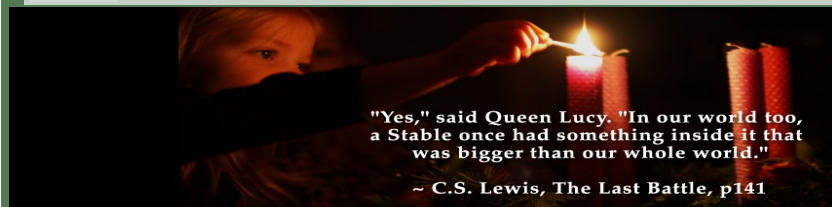


Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus!

Neal A Maxwell

"Yes," said Queen Lucy. "In our world too, a Stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world."

~ C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle, p141





Christmas is a family time and it is very appropriate to be thinking of families as we are in the run-in period to the World Meeting of Families which will take place in our Diocese this coming August. While it has not been confirmed yet there is great hope that Pope Francis will visit Dublin for the World Meeting of Families. The World Meeting of Families started in 1994, by Pope John Paul II. The aim of it is to be an international event of prayer, catechesis and celebration that draws people from around the globe so as to help strengthen the bonds between families and bear witness to the importance of marriage and the family to all of society. About every three years it is held in a different city. It's been in **Rome, Rio de Janeiro, Manila, Valencia, Mexico City, Milan & Philadelphia.**

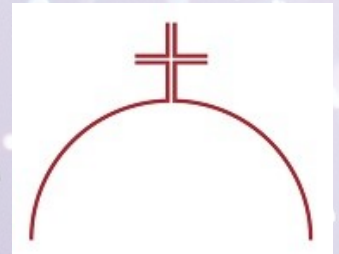
We all come from families. In our world today there are many different types of families; families with many children, families with few children, families of two parents, families with one parent; families where parents live apart, couples who have not been fortunate to have children, families where unfortunately parents have separated, or where one parent has passed away, families of just one person, families of two Dad's or two Mam's, there are wonderful families with foster children and adopted children. There are extended families, there are families that work very well and unfortunately some that don't work so well. But we all come from families and the World Meeting of Families is for everyone. Everyone is welcome and everyone is cherished. The Logo presents the hopes for what the World Meeting of Families will be.

AT THE HEART OF THE LOGO At the heart of the logo is the family. Family members are represented in different ages and roles while walking together in communion and love, helping one another through the journey of life. **No one is excluded, no one is left behind.** Couples, elderly, single, widowed, consecrated, clergy, children, all are important members of our families and all are invited to participate.



AN INTERNATIONAL AND ECOLOGICAL EVENT The map of the world shows that families from all around the globe will come to Ireland for what will be a truly international event. While we see only a glimpse of the continents, they represent the whole world: the common home of all families, entrusted to us by God. In his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis reminds us that families have a vital role to play in caring for our common home. He reminds us that Saint Francis of Assisi described our earth itself as "like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us". The World Meeting of Families will explore how families, as our first home, can help us to care for our common home.

THE CHURCH, THE FAMILY OF FAMILIES The red semicircle with the cross on the top echoes the logo of the Archdiocese of Dublin, which is the host diocese. As well as representing God's love, flowing from the cross, embracing all the families of the world, the semicircle and cross also represent the 'dome' of the Church, "a family of families". In the logo, as in real life, the Church embraces the family, protects the family and supports the family. When our families are stronger, society is stronger, and the Church is stronger.



THE CROSS The cross is the ultimate symbol of the self-sacrificing love of Jesus. Self-sacrificing love is at the very heart of marriage and family life. The rays represent the grace of the Holy Spirit, flowing from the cross and uniting our families in love. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus dwells within our families and gives us the strength to take up our own crosses and follow him. The cross used in the logo is also a symbol of Ireland's Christian roots and history. The Papal Cross that stands in the Phoenix Park from 1979, where over one million Catholics gathered for another major occasion to welcome, listen and pray with Pope John Paul II when he visited Ireland.

THE HOLY TRINITY In *The Joy of Love*, Pope Francis speaks several times of marriage and the family as the "living icon" of the Most Holy Trinity. As the family, through marriage, comes together in mutual self-giving, communion and love, it reflects the mystery of the Holy Trinity and immerses itself in "the mystery from which all true love flows." The tri-spiral swirl in the logo draws from ancient Celtic imagery, to reflect this truth. These triple spirals are found on ancient stones and monuments around Ireland. As Christianity came to Ireland, the tri-spiral, began to be used as a symbol of the Holy Trinity, together with the well-known shamrock, associated with St Patrick. St. Patrick, tradition has it, used the shamrock to explain the mystery of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit united, as one family: one God and three Divine Persons, in a perfect communion of love.



I pray for all the families in our parishes this Christmas. I pray especially for all who find Christmas a lonely or sad time, in particular those who are bereaved, and those who have lost loved ones this year. I pray for all our parishioners who are ill at this time. I pray for those who are away from home, either because of emigration or other reasons. I pray for any of our parishioners who are in prison. I pray for all the children of our parishes. The Message of Christmas keeps hope alive in our hearts because it is a message of truth that tells us God-is-with-us, God is Emmanuel. I'd love to see you at our various celebrations over the Christmas period.

I pray that the presence of the Christ-Child will grace your home during this Christmas season and throughout the coming year. Wishing you every blessing. May God bless you, your Families and all who are dear to you. **Fr David Halpin**



MAD (Make A Difference)

Family Advent Poster

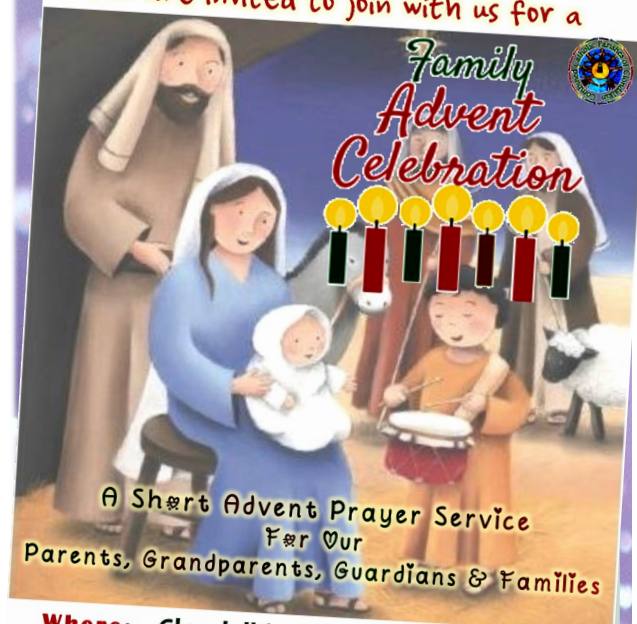


May God's blessings this season. light your way!



Celebrate International Day of People with Disability on 3rd Dec and help break down disability barriers and celebrate abilities.

You are invited to join with us for a



Where: Clondalkin Village Parish Church

When: Thurs 14th Dec

Time: 3pm

Join Us!

Dear Santa,
I already have everything I could possibly wish for this year. Got my family, good friends and LOVE. Please take care of those who need you. THANK YOU!! XX



Parish of the Travelling People - Liturgy times this Advent and Christmas

St. Oliver's Park Chapel of Ease (Clover Hill Rd):

3rd December at 7pm and Christmas Eve at 7pm



A Prayer for Families

We pray for our families, big and small,
For all our children, small and tall.
It is our family that gives us strength
And time together is time well spent.
As we sit and listen to our grandparent's
sharing, We thank God above for their part in

our caring.

Father, son, sister and brother, Nephew, niece, uncle
and mother.

Each member of the family has a part to play,
And is loved by God in a special way.

We pray for families this Christmas time,
That love and peace, they all may find. AMEN



Advent can be a time to build magical memories for families & for children, even without Christmas parties, decorations and lights because it has its own beautiful symbols and traditions. As we prepare for the World meeting of Families next year get a copy of Our little Family Advent Book with some ideas for how you can establish & strengthen lasting family traditions and spiritual practices related to Advent and Christmas. Don't feel like you have to do them all – and do bring your own!! View, download & share it from our website

www.clondalkinparish.com/?page_id=1924



International Migrants Day

Celebrate International

Migrant's Day 18th December - In order to celebrate International Migrant's Day, we can throw a party to give blessings to the migrants who made the trip to come to our country. We can also celebrate the contributions that the migrants have given to our country by going out and giving food and supplies for those who need them the most, to help them get through the tough times that most of have to face.

KEEP CALM
AND BE THE
CHANGE YOU WANT
TO SEE IN THE WORLD

Prayer for those sitting Exams this Christmas

Lord, as I prepare to sit my exams send your Holy Spirit to guide me & be with me.

Thank you for the many talents & gifts you have given me & for the opportunity of an education.

Keep me calm.

Help me do the best I can on the day of my exam.

Help me to remember all that I have studied,

to express it clearly & to answer the

questions as best that I can.

Give me peace, understanding & wisdom.

Be with me today & always, Amen



Make & Gift a MAD (Make A Difference)

Giving Plate as a Gift this Christmas

What you'll need:

- Sharpie (permanent) markers (bold or metallic colours work best)
- Round or Square white ceramic plate
- Acetone nail polish remover
- Paper towels

Round plates seem to be best. You don't have to worry about getting the font in the middle of the plate and the inner circle of the plate makes a great guide for keeping everything centred.

Here is the full poem we suggest – Be creative & why not create your own

This Plate shall have no owner, for it's journey never ends
It travels in a circle of our family and friends
It carries love from home to home for everyone to share.
The food that's placed upon it was made with love and care.
So please enjoy what's on this plate then fill it up again
Then pass it on and the love it holds to your family and friends



If you make a mistake....NO WORRIES. Break out the acetone nail polish remover and put a little bit on a paper towel. Apply to the area of mistake and voila, mistake erased.

After finishing the poem on the front and the doodles turn the plate over and write "hand wash only" (& maybe "Keep Making A Difference") on the back of the plate.

After adding the message on the back of the plate you are basically finished. The last thing that you need to do is to bake the plate in the oven at 180 for 30 minutes. This will "set" the Sharpie so that it will no longer be easily removed with acetone. (Note that if you scrub hard enough and long enough you can still remove the marker with acetone! Fill plate with Cake, Biscuits, Buns or Sweets or whatever and gift it to someone you like.

A couple of things:

Using dark colour or metallic markers works best & When you bake the plate the lighter colours tend to turn a different shade. Yellow becomes brownish, orange becomes red, and pink becomes orange.

You can't really mess this up. Your neighbour or family member or friend or co-worker will marvel at your ability to create such a thoughtful gift, and let it go on it's way to keep **Making A Difference!**



MAD

(Make-A-Difference)

Christmas Countdown Kindness Calendar

1 COMPLIMENT A STRANGER	2 hold the door open for someone	3 e-mail encouraging words to a friend	4 show off your best smile all day	5 Volunteer
6 leave a great big tip!	7 Doorstep Challenge? give someone a "just because" gift	8 help a friend wrap gifts	9 *shower someone with compliments like confetti	10 Donate to a shelter
11 Write letter or send Christmas cards to people in Hospital	12 Donate used books to a library	13 Leave some change in a vending machine	14 take dinner to another family	15 go Christmas Caroling
16 give out free hugs	17 leave a kind note on the hood of a stranger's car	18 Pay for the car behind you in a drive thru line	19 Bring baked treats to your local police or fire station	20 support local business
21 Babysit for free	22 Help a neighbour Tidy Their garden	23 Help clean snow off cars	24 Let someone skip ahead of you in line	25 keep acts of kindness going year-round!

We're celebrating the 25 days of Christmas by **Making a Difference each day.** May God's blessings this season, light your way!

Some Useful Numbers

Aware - tel. 1890 303 302 Console - tel. 1800 247247
Childline- tel. 1800 66 66 66 Samaritans - tel. 116 123
Women's Aid - tel. 1800 341 900
Womens Refuge - tel. 01 496 1002
St Vincent de Paul - tel. 01-8550022



Reconnect: is an event inviting young people who have travelled to World Youth Day, Lourdes or other pilgrimages and who wish to try to stay connected to others in Faith. This Advent, we are inviting people to begin again and Reconnect in Faith with friends and fellow pilgrims on the path. We are inviting people who have attended any youth pilgrimages from 2000 to the present. **St. Paul's Church Arran Quay on December 9th at 3pm-6pm.** It will be led by a team of volunteers and will be child friendly. More information email evangelisation@dublindiocese.ie

or

www.facebook.com/events/323268834749273/?active_tab=about



The sleigh was all packed,
the reindeer were fed,
But Santa still knelt
by the side of the bed.

"Dear Father," he prayed
"Be with me tonight.
There's much work to do
and my schedule is tight.

I must jump in my sleigh
and streak through the sky,
Knowing full well
that a reindeer can't fly.

Santa's Prayer



Kids' Corner



Pick-a-Card Prayer Time

A favourite Christmas traditions is to put all the Christmas cards we receive into a basket on the dining-room table after you've read them. After Christmas, when life is less rushed, pull one card each day and take the time to truly cherish it and the message from its sender. Then we say a prayer of thanks for the person or family who sent the card. It is a way to truly cherish the gift of being remembered.



Christmas Word Search



X X B S I Z Y D R E V Y H Q D E H Z
 Q S N O W F L A K E T Z R X S K R Y
 T V Y D W X Y W D I Z C E N I R G B
 R F A M I L Y G V I Y M G V I O A C
 U E Y U Q Y P I P R L V F Y L E A F
 O G E B C J T K F P M O E M Z N S E
 G D W D Y A X S T G U A H Z D O U T
 P D A T N A S Z O F T K A Y R I S G
 R J S N S I L K U R T Y C J O T E Y
 L D C B E K E C H C F A V H Q A J J
 L M F O I K U R Q O N S A X J R Y J
 A O R G K C M P R E S E N T S B B Z
 A M M V O A T N A I T S U P J E A F
 S N Y F O X S N O W M A N W O L B M
 E L L D C V A U K A R W U N L E O Y
 X L Z E J G M A O Y L Q R X G C R Q
 W Q N E B E G S K P T S P O I X Y S
 U K Z L X C Z L T B D W M Z K M Z H

BABY JESUS
 CANDY CANE
 CELEBRATION
 COOKIES
 FAMILY
 FROSTY
 HOLIDAY
 NATIVITY
 PRESENTS
 REINDEER
 SANTA
 SNOWFLAKE
 SNOWMAN



Maybe **CHRISTMAS**,
 he thought,
 doesn't come
 FROM A STORE.
 Maybe **CHRISTMAS**,
 perhaps, means
 A LITTLE BIT MORE.
 - The Grinch

May your **Home** be warm,
 your **Holidays** grand,
 & may your **Heart** be
 held gently in the Lord's hands.

A Christmas Family Prayer

God, this Christmas, bless our family and all its members and friends;
 bind us together by your love. Give us kindness and patience to support
 each other; and wisdom in all we do. Let the gift of your peace come into
 our hearts and remain with us. May we always be aware of and rejoice
 in the blessings you have given us. Amen

yummy gingerbread men

★ 350g flour ★
 1tsp ground cinnamon

★ 1 EGG ★

4TBSP GOLDEN SYRUP

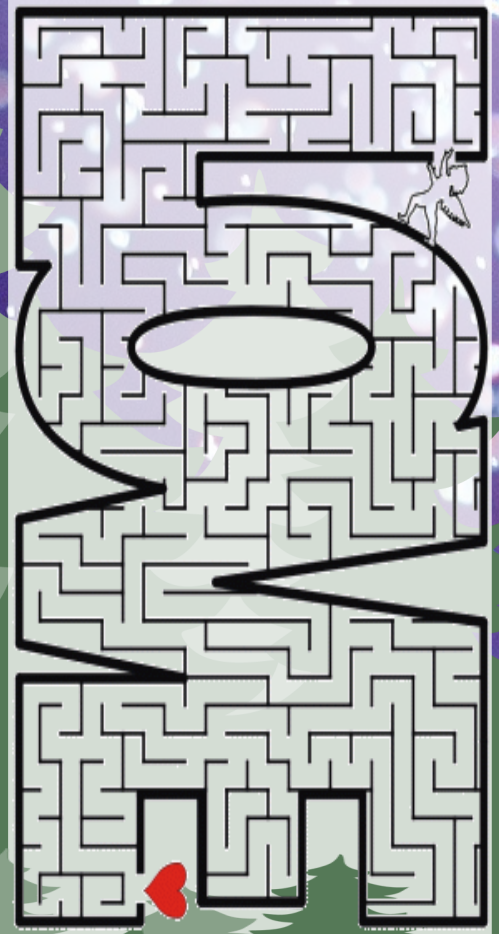
130g Butter

1tsp bicarbonate of soda

175g light soft brown sugar

1½tsp ground ginger

Mix flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger, cinnamon & butter. Then add sugar, egg & syrup.
 Cool for 15mins, roll, cut and bake - 180 degrees for 8-10 mins



Wishing you and yours every blessing for the season & a very happy Christmas from...

Fr Des Byrne, Fr Damian Farnon, Fr Shan Ó Cuív, Fr Padraig O' Sullivan, Fr Pearse Mullen, Fr Vincent Fallon, Fr Brian
 Starken, Fr Edvaldo, Fr David Halpin, Fr Abraham Pathackal George, Fr Paul O'Driscoll & Sr Carmel Earls
 Christina Malone & Frank Brown Parish Pastoral Workers for the Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin
 Georgina Jameson, Parish Pastoral Workers for the parish of the Travelling Community

Contact us - CCPC.Clondalkin@gmail.com or @TheCCPCDublin

