

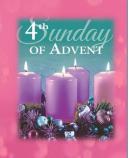
# Clondalkin Village Parish

Immaculate Conception & St. Killian Church

# Clonburris & Knockmitten

Sunday 20th & 27th December 2020

## Christmas Newsletter



### CHRISTMAS 2020

There are almost no light-hearted aspects to the situation we find ourselves in this Christmas. The loss of life with families unable to grieve properly, the loss of jobs and business failures, the stress that many frontline workers find themselves under and the restrictions on worship has left us little to laugh about. On Thursday morning I did break out in a smile when a medic suggested that we would celebrate Christmas at Eastertime.

I think she realized what she had said as she suggested that families might not visit particularly elderly parents and grandparents as the vaccine will be rolled out shortly and that we could meet up at Eastertime. I recall hoping on the feast of the Annunciation that this difficult situation may be resolved by Christmas, well here we are nine months later and although the vaccine is developed, we are still far from how life was pre COVID-19.

You may recall my phrases that I use this time of the year. Keep Christ in Christmas, Jesus is the reason for the season and faith is for life and not just for Christmas. Parishioners have suggested to me that this Christmas the phrases are more appropriate than ever. I am aware of many parishioners will be away from home unexpectedly this Christmas and people will be with us here in Clondalkin who in other years would have travelled to be with their families.

Christ is born every day in our community if only we have eyes to see Him and ears to hear Him. Maybe the challenge is to realize that we make Christ present every day, the first Christmas was not exactly glamour and glitz. Its simplicity contrasts with the consumerism of today.

You might remember in your prayers Fr. John Wall and Fr. David Lumsden who went to their eternal reward during the year. We give thanks to God for their ministry here in Clondalkin and extend our sympathies to their families.

Thank you to all who supported the Parish with time, talent, and treasure, it is very much appreciated. Thanks particularly to Julie our hard-working secretary, John our caretaker and the ministries of the Eucharistic, the Word, sacristy, collectors and counters, Saint Martha's Guild, shop, flower arrangers and this year the new ministry of COVID-19, I really cannot think of a name for this group who have had to deal with a lot. Best wishes to Deirdre our bookkeeper who moved

on to pastures new. The work of our two Parish pastoral Workers Frank and Christina opened new horizons not just to parishioners but introduced Clondalkin Parishes to a worldwide congregation. To my brother priests, Des, Shan and Padraig thanks for your ongoing support and cooperation.

No matter what happens in 2021 the Lord is present in all our moments especially when we cannot see His presence immediately. I wish you and yours all the absolute best and be open to the God of Surprises. Happy Christmas to one and all.

Thanks to the anonymous proof-readers and contributors who assisted me in writing this piece.

### 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 Women's Refuge - tel. 01 496 1002 St Vincent de Paul - tel. 01-8550022

May you and yours have a peaceful Christmas

Fr. Damian Farnon



### Corona Virus Prayer

We pray for all those in our country and throughout the world suffering from the Corona Virus. May its victims and their families be strengthened by the support of our community of faith and restored soon to full health. We also pray for our leaders and medical personnel who deal with the virus. May we keep calm and may we join together in solidarity with care and compassion to tackle this emergency. This we ask in confidence through Christ Our Lord. Amen

### Contacts

### Village

Office/Sacristy of 459 3520 office@clondalkinparish.com www.clondalkinparish.com



Fr. Damian Farnon, Moderator 01 459 2665

Fr Padraig O'Sullivan, Co-P.P. 01 464 0441

### Knockmitten

Fr. Des Byrne CC 01 459 2323

### Clonburris

Fr. Shán O Cuív CC 01 459 3520

### **Parish Pastoral Workers**

Christina Malone 085 7162152 Christina.malone@dublindiocese.ie

Frank Brown 086 101 8173 frank.brown@dublindiocese.ie

Send a copy to a friend or neighbour or to relatives overseas!

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

As people will be well aware, the Government has imposed certain restrictions regarding attendance at Mass in all Churches in Ireland in an effort to ensure the

safety of people during the Covid epidemic. In Clondalkin Village Church, we are only permitted to admit 50 people for each Mass. The Parish will continue to adhere to this requirement over Christmas.

Should more than 50 seek to attend, we will be obliged by the health regulation to refuse entry. Those who failed to gain admittance might consider waiting in their car and join via the Parish webcam or participate through the outside speaker. Holy communion will be distributed not only for those in the Church but also to those attending outside at communion time. We appreciate that this may cause considerable inconvenience to those who fail to gain admittance. But we ask people to be patient and cooperate respectfully with the stewards. In an effort to accommodate as many as possible, we are putting on extra Masses this Christmas

**Mass on Christmas Eve** will be at 5.30pm, 7.30pm and 9.30pm.

**Christmas morning Masses** will be at 8 am as Gaeilge, 10am, 12 midday and 2pm.

Mass at 10am on **St. Stephen's Day** in Village Church

You may listen to Mass on Parish radio, watch via Webcam or Facebook or stay in your car and listen via speaker from Church or webcam.

Communion will be brought to you in your car in the carpark.

### **COVID-19 Support Line for Older People**

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

To volunteer for the helpline - www.alone.ie

The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024

He who trusts in himself is lost, he who trusts in God can do all things

St. Alphonsus Liguori



Santa's Prayer on Christmas Eve

By Warren D. Jennings

The sleigh was 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.

'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.

I will visit each household before the first light,
I'll cover the world and all in one night.

With sleigh bells a-ringing, I'll land on each roof,
amid the soft clatter of each little hoof.

To get in the house is the difficult part, so I'll
slide down the chimney of each little heart.

My sack will hold toys to grant all their wishes,
the supply will be endless like the loaves and the
fishes.

I will fill all the stockings and not leave a track, I'll eat every cookie that's left for my snack. I can do all these things Lord, only through You. I just need your blessing, then it's easy to do. All this is to honour the birth of the One that was sent to redeem us, Your most Holy Son. So to all of my friends lest your Glory I rob, please Lord, remind them, who gave me this job.'



### Clondalkin Village Church

### Sunday 20th December

**6.30pm Vigil** Elizabeth & Nicholas West & dec'd members of the West family (Rem), Patrick & Mary Hendley & Danny & Kathleen O'Neill (Rem)

Gretta Gallagher, Kathleen Nolan, Patrick Kelly, James & Kathleen Gallagher (Rem)

10.00am James (Snr) & Bridget Norton, Jack & Katie Fitzgerald (Rem), Patrick & Mary

Cosgrove (Rem), Moya Riordan (An), Geraldine Lernihan, Mary Kirwan & all

dec'd members of the Lernihan & Kirwan families

12noon Eilis Hynes, Aileen Hynes and Aon Shield (An), George McDonnell (An), Paddy

Delaney (5th An), Liam Callaghan & dec'd members of the Callaghan family,

Deceased members of the Shannon family

### Monday 21st December

7.30am Joseph Cleary (Rem)

10.00am Mary, James, Sylvia, Barbara and Reg Thornberry & Theresa Scott (An)

Tuesday 22nd December

7.30am Patrick, Sara, Brendan, and Frank Byrne (An)

**10.00am** Brigid Leonard (2nd An)

Wednesday 23rd December

**7.30am** Seamus Egan (13th An)

10.00am Patrick & Pauline Murphy (Rem)

Thursday 24th December

7.30am Pro Pop

10.00am Seamus Egan (13th An)

Saturday 26th December

10.00am Maureen Thomas (20th An)

6.30pm Vigil Maureen Egan (RD)

Sunday 27th December

10.00am Doreen Rackley (An), Brendan and

Esther Callaghan (An)

Nora Sheridan (An), Tony O'Neill (An), Derval Connell (5th An), Gerlinde Will,

Johnny Delaney (An) & Rosaleen Delaney (MM), Madeleine Hodgins (An),

Donal Moffat (16th An),

John Fleming (7th An), Lilian Fleming (1st An)

# May They Rest in Peace

### The Clondalkin/D22 online Book of Remembrance

RECENTLY DECEASED

James Kelly,

Ann Curtis

has been launched on the website www.clondalkincares.com for all connected with our community who have lost a loved one during these most un-normal of times. You can register, put up a photo and details of your loved one, a short word about them and a few words of encouragement for others. This is a great tribute and memorial from our community. So encourage all to take a look and add to the

book of remembrance because as a community we acknowledge & share the loss, we feel the grief and we offer support & care.

# Home Condision Remembers Book of Remembrance in Condision and who has lost a loved one, and for argone who lives first the office of the state of th

### Free Covid Bereavement Counselling

If you have lost loved ones through bereavement during the Covid period and would like to talk to someone in confidence, contact Eileen at covidbereavementcounselling@gmail.com

Because of H&S restrictions, Sessions are online through Zoom Mon.-Wed. 10-5pm

You can make a donation if you wish



Open every Monday to Friday
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Closed Christmas Day only

### Margaret Dillow First Anniversary Remembrance

Mass will be offered for Margaret on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am in Knockmitten Church. May She Rest in Peace





### We are inviting you to join with us for

# **Walking Advent with the Scriptures**

# Journeying Together through Advent

# Each week Download and Share

The Daily Scripture Calendar With the scripture reference and a short
thought, focus for each day

&

 A short video input for each day from representatives of the different Christian Denominations from around Ireland

### **Week 4 Contributors**

**20th Dec** Christopher Lach, Parishioner from the Sacred Heart parish, Sruleen

**21st Dec** Mairin Keegan, Parish Pastoral Worker in Blanchardstown

**22nd Dec** Revd Anne Skuse, Col Chaplain, Bandon Grammar School

**23rd Dec** Prof Sam McConkey, Deputy Dean Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and a Presbyterian Elder

**24th Dec** Revd Ken Rue, Assistant Priest, Wicklow & Killiskey Col

Download/print the Daily Scripture Calendar from <a href="www.clondalkinparish.com/?page\_id=3747">www.clondalkinparish.com/?page\_id=3747</a>
and then join us for a short video input for each day at 12:30pm on our Facebook page from representatives of the different Christian Denominations from around Ireland - <a href="https://documents.com/representatives-page-id=3747">@theCCPCDublin</a>

# A thought for this Sunday for our Polish Parishioners Thanks Chris

The same Holy Spirit who came upon Mary, came upon us in our baptism. Our hearts have been prepared for this moment. The moment when we will have enough courage and faith to say "Yes" to God. And the fruit of a human "Yes" to God could only be one. Jesus, the Living Word, Love which changes the world.

Ten sam Duch Święty, który zstąpił na Maryję, zstąpił na nas, podczas naszego chrztu. Nasze serca zostały przygotowane na tę chwilę. Czas, kiedy będziemy mieli dość odwagi i wiary, by powiedzieć Bogu "tak". A owoc ludzkiego "tak" wypowiedzianego Bogu może być tylko jeden. Jezus, Żywe Słowo, Miłość która zmienia świat.

# A FAMILY PRAYER BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS MEAL

Loving God, on this Christmas day we give thanks that Jesus, your Son, has come into our world bringing us gifts of peace and joy. Bless us as we sit down together at this table for our Christmas meal. Bless the food we share and help us to remember those who are hungry. Be with our neighbours and our friends, those who are lonely, sick or away from home. We pray that our departed loved ones may now sit at your table in heaven. May the joy of this feast give us strength and light, now and in the days ahead. We ask this prayer through Christ, Our Lord. Amen





A huge thank you to the members of Clondalkin Men's Shed for erecting our crib (which they built and donated last year) - Well worth a visit!

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

cross 🖒 care

oy Appeal

Neal A Maxwell

### SEASON'S GREETINGS

We would just like to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again in the new year when we can all meet and socialize safely. I hope you all get to spend time with your families at this time. Keep safe and look after yourselves. You can keep in contact with us on WhatsApp each day

> Geraldine Lanigan, Villagers Senior Group

### 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

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





Before Christmas Day Read **Sunday's Gospel**, two or three times **(John 1:1-18)** It's one we know very well. Read it a few times – come back to it again over the next few days. **Is there something about the story that maybe you never noticed before? Is there a word, phrase, idea that strikes you? In the stillness repeat that word or phrase in your mind. Stay with this for a few moments and let its meaning sink into your heart.** 



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

As 2020 is coming to an end, and it has been a difficult year for all. Take a moment to call to mind and to think of all the things you are thankful for.

YOU ARE BLESSED! Do you let yourself believe this, really feel this? In what ways has the Lord visited you, your family, and your community this year? How are you asked to be and bring the 'true light' to others? What is this gospel challenging you to do, to be?

### **Something to Consider**

It was once said "there has been only one Christmas. The rest are anniversaries." It's a time for keeping the memory of God's greatest gift alive in our hearts... In recent years many people have expressed concern that Christmas has drifted far from its religious roots. We have also witnessed an attack on religious displays in public places while watching the corporate world hijack the Christmas celebration as an excuse to sell their latest wares. Massive traffic jams, packed shopping malls, and lines stretching around the block have become hallmarks of today's Christmas activities. Ad campaigns for holiday sales can lead to pandemonium as shoppers are knocked down and trampled in their frantic efforts to buy the latest gadget. However, I suggest this is a good time to reflect upon the distinction between what we want and what we need or what we give instead of what we get.

The true value of a gift isn't necessarily measured by its price tag. In fact some of the most precious gifts cost nothing at all... and can be life changing. Many people simply need to be loved, listened to, or appreciated. Some gifts, such as taking time to listen to someone who is hurting emotionally or giving a word of encouragement, can make a tremendous difference in a person's life and bring joy to the giver. This holiday season consider how our community would be affected if everyone looked for opportunities to give someone a life-changing gift for Christmas. As Helen Steiner Rice wrote; "Bless us Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind." May we receive this most precious of gifts ourselves and be that gift for others!



Mary – her yes, our yes! One song can spark a moment, One flower can wake the dream. One tree can start a forest, One bird can herald spring. One smile begins a friendship, One handclasp lifts a soul. One star can guide a ship at sea, One word can frame the goal. One vote can change a nation, One sunbeam lights a room. One candle wipes out darkness, One laugh will conquer gloom. One step must start each journey, One word must start each prayer. One hope will raise our spirits, One touch can show you care. One voice can speak with wisdom, One heart can know what's true, One life can make the difference

You see, it's up to you





Over Christmas, when you visit the crib, pick up one of the colouring pages and bring it back to us before the Feast of the Epiphany (6th Jan) and we would love to display all your art work in the Church on that day!!

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Maybe CHRISTMAS, he thought. doesn't come FROM A STORE. Maybe CHRIST MAS, 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

### 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.

yummy gingerbreed men ★ 350g flour ★

1tsp ground cinnamon

↑ 1 EGG ★

4TBSP GOLDEN SYRUP 130a Butter

1tsp bicarbonate of soda

175g light soft brown sægar Metsp ground ginge

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



New Year's Resolutions

HAVE hope

TRY new things

BE active

SEE the good

**SAY** "I Love You," more

**CHALLENGE** yourself

**CHOOSE** to be happy

EAT better

**ENJOY** today

FORGIVE more readily

**READ** more often

**BECOME** your best you

RESOIVE to do one thing each

day that will lead you to know your loving God who is with you always!

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

SANTA

TOYS

REINDEER PRESENTS

STOCKING SNOWMAN

WREATH

CANDLE

ANGEL

BOW BELL

CANDY CANE

CHRISTMAS TREE

Fr Des Byrne, Fr Damian Farnon, Fr Shan Ó Cuív, Fr Padraig O' Sullivan, Fr Vincent Fallon, Fr Ultan Naughton, Fr Brian Starken, Fr Pat Coughlan, Fr Edvaldo, Fr Hugh Kavanagh, 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



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re Laureston, Monastery Road, Clondalkin Village Dublin 2.

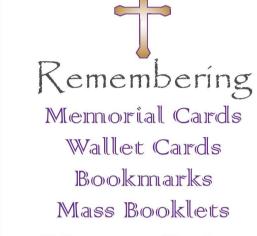
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Requiescat in Pace



# The images were painted by the artists in Headway.

All proceeds from the sale of these cards will be donated to Headway.

Contact
Derek Cummins
087 2489124 or This Office







**€5.00** per pack

This pack contains 8 Christmas cards +8 Envelopes









