

PARISH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

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December 19th/20th 2015 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

❖ Mary in Advent

The presence of Mary, the mother of God, is felt throughout the whole of Advent. In the Gospel of the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the focus is on Mary. The Annunciation was the stepping stone of Mary giving life to God. The scene of the Annunciation is constantly in the Church’s thoughts at this time of year. According to Catholic tradition Mary’s unqualified ‘Yes’ was of decisive importance in bringing to fruition God’s plan of salvation for all of us. The Second Vatican Council states: “The Virgin Mary, when the angel brought the news, welcomed God’s word in her heart and in her body and brought life into the world.”

Her presence is felt during Advent but particularly in the final period. She possesses the secret of this season – waiting. Her waiting was also a bringing forth; it was the personal advent of a mother waiting for her child to be born. In the words of the preface of the Mass: “She bore him in her womb with love beyond all telling.” Advent is a time of hope, and we invoke Mary as the Mother of Hope. She is the hope of the Church and of every member in it. She is the comfort for the People of God on their pilgrimage.

❖ Mass for the coming week:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 10.00a.m. Confessions after 10a.m. Mass each morning.

- ❖ Christmas Eve: Mass at 10.00a.m.
Confessions from 10.30a.m. to 12.30p.m. & from 2p.m. to 4p.m.
- ❖ Masses:

7.00p.m.	Celebrant:	Brendan Quinlan
9.00p.m.	Celebrant:	Dan Joe O’Mahony
11.00p.m.	Celebrant:	Brendan Quinlan
- ❖ Christmas Day:

10.00a.m.	Celebrant:	Dan Joe O’Mahony
11.00a.m.	Celebrant:	Eugene Kennedy
12.15p.m.	Celebrant:	Brendan Quinlan
- ❖ St. Stephen’s Day: Mass at 6.30p.m.

❖ Thanks to all who supported last weekend’s St. Vincent de Paul collection which amounted to €17,555.

Christmas GOAL Charity Mile:

Join fellow-parishioners and friends for a run/walk/jog in aid of GOAL’S work in Syria, South Sudan and other conflict regions of the world.

- Christmas Day, Pope’s Cross, Phoenix Park, any time from 10a.m. to 12.30p.m.
- St. Stephen’s Day, MSB Athletics Club in Porterstown Park from 11a.m. to 1p.m.

❖ MASS INTENTIONS:

SATURDAY	6.30pm	John and Norah O’Reilly Anniversaries
SUNDAY	10.00am	Olive Newman Anniversary
	11.00am	Patrick McKeown 10 th Anniversary
	12.15pm	Tommy Fagan Anniversary
	5.30pm	Ann Marie Corcoran Anniversary

❖ REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Anne Lacey and Denis Bryne, both recently deceased.
Also, Christy McKeon, Michael McKeon, Margaret McKeon, Dan Kiely, Peggy and Patrick Brown, Liam Kelly and Josephine Manning whose anniversaries occur at this time and all those whose names are on the November Altar List of the Dead.