

PARISH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

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December 2nd/3rd 2017 – First Sunday of Advent

❖ **Mass for the coming week: Monday to Friday at 10.00a.m.**

Friday next 8th December is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Vigil Mass on Thursday 7th December at 6.30p.m.

Rite II of the Sacrament of Penance will be held on Saturday 9th December after the 6.30p.m. Mass.

❖ **First Sunday of Advent**

The season of Advent prepares us for Christmas. In order to understand the message of Christmas it is well to start with the history of salvation. Advent introduces us to this history.

❖ **First Reading: (Is.63:16-17;64:1.3-8)**

The prophet recalls God's goodness to his people, and pleads with God to save his people from their present sinfulness.

Second Reading: (1 Cor. 1:3-9)

As we await the coming of Christ in glory, the Holy Spirit keeps us steadfast in bearing witness to him.

Gospel: (Mark 13:33-37)

We need to stay awake at our appointed tasks, because we do not know the hour when Jesus will return.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's annual **Christmas Appeal** will take place during all Masses **next** weekend. It will replace the Share collection. Thank you very much for your continued support.

❖ **Ecumenical Advent Service will be held this Sunday at 4p.m. in St. Brigid's Church Castleknock. All welcome.**

❖ **Christmas Pastoral Offering Envelopes (Dues)**

An envelope containing the Christmas Schedule is in the process of being distributed to parishioners homes. If you are not from the parish and would like to know our Mass times please take an envelope from the tables at the back of the church. Thank you.

Advent Reflection:

Spiritual Preparation for Christmas

On the 6th, 13th and 20th December from 7.15pm to 8pm in the Day Chapel followed by Adoration from 8pm to 9pm. All welcome.

On Monday, 11th December at 7.30p.m. a special Christmas Carol Service will be held in our church. Everyone is welcome to this wonderful opportunity to join all our Parish Choirs and enter into a Spirit of Prayer and Joy as we await the birth of Jesus our Saviour. Mince pies and a cuppa in the Day Chapel following the Carol Service.

A crib which was designed and made by the Le Chéile Group and which for the past number of years families have been invited to keep for one day in their home and say a prayer (prayer with crib). The crib is then brought back to the sacristy and passed on to another family and so on from now until Christmas. The crib is in the Sacristy and is available from today. Please leave your name and contact details on the sheets at the back of the church for the crib to be passed on.

Lions Club Recycle for Sight Appeal

Castleknock Lions Club would be very grateful if you would consider donating any unwanted reading glasses to their project **Recycle for Sight**. The glasses will be shipped to a developing country where they are graded by opticians and given to people in need of reading glasses. The reading glasses can be dropped into the Parish Office during opening hours within the next two weeks. Thank you.

As part of the parish preparation for the World Meeting of Families, children are invited to make small cribs and bring them to Mass on the 3rd Sunday of Advent (16/17 Dec) to be blessed. Leaflets are available at the back of the church. They contain an Advent Prayer, instructions on how to make the crib, and a set of figures which can be cut out, coloured and attached to a small box i.e. cereal box.

❖ **MASS INTENTIONS:**

Saturday:	6.30pm	Kay O'Neill Anniversary
Sunday:	10.00am	Dan and Martha Kelly Anniversaries
	11.00am	Michael Donnelly 10 th Anniversary
	12.15pm	William (Billy) Aspil Birthday Remembrance

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

We extend our sympathy to the families of William McGrath, Victoria Izogie, and Phil O'Rourke and Louis Cuypers, all recently deceased. Also, Breda Smith (birthday remembrance), Patricia Hill, and Thomas and Sheila Curran whose anniversaries occur at this time and all those whose names are on the November Altar List of the Dead.