

**PARISH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

Fr. Damian McNeice Parish Priest – Tel: 089 4453987

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Fr. Dan Joe O’Mahony OFM Cap. 01-8200915 / 086-8090633

*27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> November 2021*

**Mass times for the coming week**

MONDAY TO FRIDAY AT 10.00 A.M.

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: 6.30PM SUNDAY MASSES: 9.30 A.M. 11 A.M. AND 12.30 A.M.

(ST PHILIP THE APOSTLE, MOUNTVIEW - 6PM)

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

**Introduction**

**ADVENT HELPS US FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON THE COMING OF CHRIST. ONE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS UNLESS WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE HISTORY OF OUR SALVATION.**

'On the First Sunday of Advent our Church, and many others, begin a new Church year. The Church begins its year with a time of hope, and Advent—so frequently ‘lost’ in the preparation for Christmas—is the season of hope *par excellence*. It is the season of hope, because our God who gave himself to us by creating us, and who came to us in the coming of his Son, will come again. Our God “*comes to enrich our personal and collective histories, our dashed hopes and our sterile yearnings.*” (Pope Francis, *Homily for the First Sunday of Advent, Bangui Cathedral (CAR), November 2015*). Our God comes to save us. “Unless the Lord comes to us, we are completely helpless,” as St Maximus the Confessor, so dramatically put it. In Advent, we proclaim and celebrate our hope and our trust that our God is faithful: that the Lord will come again and again to rescue us, to heal us, to console us, to be with all that he has called into life. God calls us forward to a new world, to embrace a new future.'

**First Reading: (Jer. 33:14-16)**

THE PROPHET ASSURES THE PEOPLE THAT GOD WILL SEND THE PROMISED ONE, THE MESSIAH.

**Second Reading: (1Thess. 3:12-4:2)**

PAUL PRAYS THAT THE LORD MAY DEEPEN THE LOVE THE THESSALONIANS HAVE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND PREPARE THEM FOR THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

**Gospel: (Lk. 21:25-28; 34-36)**

IN LANGUAGE BORROWED FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT, LUKE DESCRIBES THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

CHRISTIANS SHOULD PREPARE FOR IT WITH CONFIDENCE.

**REFLECTION**

For each of us life is a journey. Birth is the beginning of this journey,  
And death is not the end but the destination.

It is a journey that takes us from youth to age,  
from innocence to awareness, from weakness to strength and often back  
again; from loneliness to friendship, from pain to compassion.

Until looking backward or ahead we see that victory does not lie at some  
high point along the way, But in having made the journey, stage by stage.

**BAPTISMS**

A member of the Baptism Team will be in the Parish Office on Sunday mornings (not bank holiday weekends) from 11.30 to 12.15 to take bookings for baptisms.

**THE JESSE TREE - CHILDREN’S LITURGY GROUP**

The Jesse Tree is an Advent tradition that introduces Jesus’ ancestors, and tells the story of God and of God’s people in the Old Testament. It connects the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history. The image of the Jesse Tree originates from the words of the prophet Isaiah: “*A shoot will spring from the stock of Jesse, and from his roots a bud will blossom.*” (Isaiah 11:1)

On this first Sunday of Advent our decorations symbolise:

*Adam and Eve – A RED APPLE*

*Noah and the flood – A RAINBOW AND A DOVE*

*Abraham, father of God’s people – A MAN LOOKING UP AT THE STARS*

*The sacrifice of Isaac – A DAGGER*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Una Meenan, Jim Coleman, Declan Fitzpatrick, Mary Finnigan, Thomas Quinn- (Month's Mind)</b>
<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Malachi Faughnan – (Anniversary)</b>
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Anne Noonan – (Anniversary)</b>
	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Maisie Harte (Recently Deceased)</b>

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Audrey Merrigan, Philomena Harte, Peter Ellis, P.J. Reidy, Tom Fleming  
(Recently Deceased)

**Remember Also:** Michael Doody, Bartley O’Flaherty, Tony Reilly, Joe Ryan

*Whose anniversaries occur at this time*

***MAY THEY REST IN PEACE***

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**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

A representative from the local conference of the St. Vincent de Paul will make an appeal this weekend as the Annual Christmas Collection will take place next weekend the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> December, replacing the Share collection.

Thank you for your generous support.

**ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK**

The annual pilgrimage to Knock for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will take place again this year. The bus leaves from Church Avenue, Blanchardstown on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30 p.m.

Contact Michael Frawley on (086 8650708).

**Adoration**

**Adoration takes place in the Church every Wednesday from 8p.m. to 9p.m. All welcome.**

**Also available on the parish webcam: [www.laurelodgeparish.ie](http://www.laurelodgeparish.ie)**

**OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CASTLEKNOCK**

**MASS TIMES**

Saturday: Vigil Mass at 6pm

Sunday: Mass at 10am and 12 noon

(St Philip the Apostle, Mountview - 6pm)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: Mass at 10am

Tuesday, Thursday: Mass at 7.30pm

**TAP AND GO**

You will notice in our church that a new possibility of making 'cashless' donations to the Dublin Diocese is now available to you. This is not replacing our usual Sunday church collections. It's just another way of contributing for those of us now more used to not carrying cash with us and paying in shops by tapping a credit or debit bank card.

You can select one of the pre-set amounts offered or choose a custom amount, and pay by tapping your card or inserting it and entering your pin number.

The amount you donate goes straight to our Diocesan Finance Secretariat who split the contribution between supporting the Common Fund (our usual 1<sup>st</sup> collection, for the priests of our Archdiocese, including those who are sick and retired) and Share (our 2<sup>nd</sup> collection, providing essential services in the Diocese and supporting disadvantaged parishes).

**SHOULD YOU WISH TO DONATE SPECIFICALLY TO OUR PARISH, YOU CAN FIND THAT AS AN OPTION ALREADY THROUGH THE "DONATE" BUTTON ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE: [laurelodgeparish.ie](http://laurelodgeparish.ie).**

Please contact the parish office if you have any difficulty with the "Donate" button.

**THE IRISH CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER**

The Irish Catholic Newspaper is available again in our church. It is located on the table in the church porch. The cost is €2.50 and the money can be put into the shrines. Thank you.

**REMEMBERING**

All welcome to join us at the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday lunchtimes in November for: **Remembering**. The choirs associated with the Pro-Cathedral present a series of four Sunday lunchtime performances singing a varied and wide-range of choral music. At each performance, we will remember those lost during the Covid period in a special way.

**November 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th all at 1.15pm. Admission is free.**