



The Catholic Parish  
of  
Celbridge  
and  
Straffan



**PLANNED GIVING:** Weekly Envelope Collection €1,921. Last weeks amount was incorrect the figure should have been €1,990. Your continued support is very much appreciated. Thanks also to the collectors.



**Parish Choirs Carol Service**

**This Sunday 15th December @ 4pm**

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| * Favourite Carols | * Mince Pies  |
| * Mulled Wine      | * Soft Drinks |

**Everyone Welcome**

**Please come along and support. It will be a wonderful evening**



Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel), described as the 'I Have a Dream' speech of Pope Francis, is causing quite a stir. In January we hope to use it as our 'Food for the Soul' Book Club offering, looking at different aspects of the 'dream' of Pope Francis for the Church.

Copies of The Joy of the Gospel are now available in St Patrick's church, at a cost of €5. Perhaps a thought for a Christmas gift, even to yourself?

**WELCOME HOME THIS CHRISTMAS!**

It may be quite a while since we've come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (or 'confession', as it's sometimes called). There can be different reasons for this. For example ...

- Maybe we had a difficult experience before. The priest gave out to us, or did not treat as sacred the spirit in which we came, and the courage it took us to come. Understandably, this can make us afraid to risk our vulnerability again. If this is your experience, I apologise ... because it is the complete opposite of what it should have been.
- Another reason, perhaps, is that we know we are good and decent and loving people. We don't really have 'sin'. And, even if we do, we don't need to go to 'confession' to a priest ... we can just say sorry to God. If this is your experience it might help to remember that 'Reconciliation' is not about us telling God how bad we are ... it is about God reminding us how wonderful we are, and unburdening our spirit. Like any relationship of love, there are times we need to ask forgiveness, and to seek healing.



At the heart of Christmas is the sharing of gifts, and, if we're fortunate, 'making a memory' of time spent with family. And this is, perhaps, the greatest of all reasons why we should come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Christmas. Because, it is Jesus himself who calls us 'Family', his sisters and his brothers in the Holy Spirit. And it is Jesus himself who gives us the greatest of all gifts ... the gift of himself. Because it is Jesus himself who is the Christ Child that came that first Christmas, the one who puts 'Christ' into Christmas.

It will take courage of heart, and sacrifice of time, to join in our parish family celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. But it is the Lord Jesus who calls us to it, to remind us of the gift that is Christmas: **that to God, we are everything.**

Our communal service of Reconciliation is on next

**Saturday (21st December), at 10.30 am, in St Patricks Church.**

Please think of coming as a family. **Do not be afraid.** Don't worry if you're not sure what to do. And please pray for the priests of our parish that, in our weakness, we may speak the presence and the words of the Christ Child.

Welcome home, at Christmas

Fr Kevin

**Weekend Mass Intentions**

**St Brigid's Church**

**Saturday 6pm** Patrick & Briget Campbell

**Sunday 11am** Nora McSweeney

**St. Patrick's Church**

**Saturday 6.30 pm** Patrick Swayne

**Sunday**

**8.30am** Brendan Crawley

**9.30am** Elizabeth Logan

**11am** Anne Murphy, Phyliss and Michael Grant

**12.30pm** Charles Callis

**7pm** Margaret and Susan Teague

Please pray for Michael, Mary and Rita Sloan.

**Weekday Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church**

**Monday 16th 10am:** Sean Doyle **7pm:** Claire O' Leary

**Tuesday 17th 10am:** Michael and Alice Hart, Gartana Macari

**7pm:** Teresa McNamara

**Wednesday 18th 10am:** Noeleen Beshford

**7pm:** Jim Clyne, Michael and Maureen Dignam

**Thursday 19th 10am:** Marie Murphy

**7pm:** Ellen Kelly

**Friday 20th 10am:** Agnes Brophy, The Graydon Family, Kathleen Doyle

**7pm:** Deceased members of the Greene and Conway families.

**Saturday 21st 10am:** The Doyle and Moynihan families, Ita O' Dwyer.

Pope Francis's Questionnaire: Copies of the questionnaire on family life which the Holy Father is seeking the views of Catholic members is available at the back of the Church and can be returned in the next couple of weeks to the sacristy/ parish office.

**Benefit Night for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in Barberstown Castle**

**Tonight Sunday December 15th 2013**

**Dinner and entertainment €40 per ticket**

All proceeds will be given directly to the relief effort. To purchase tickets or make a donation contact Gretchen at 6288157 or sales@barberstowncastle.ie

**3 KIC Boy Scouts**

are holding a cake sale this Sunday 15th December in the Church Courtyard

Cakes, buns, breads etc.

**Advent Wreath Candle—3rd Sunday**

We rejoice in the Anointed One who came and who comes.

With Christ, we, too, will bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.



For us, God has replaced our mourning with the oil of gladness, so we light this third candle and name it ... "JOY".

**Christmas Mass Intentions**

**Christmas Cards:** All Masses (12 Masses) will be offered on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for the intention of those named on the special Mass cards. Each Mass card cost €5 and can be purchased in the parish office or in the sacristy after all Masses.

When purchasing the card please give the name of the person for whom the Masses will be said.

We welcome into our faith community the children recently baptised Noah James O'Gorman, Cian Patrick Shortt, Joshua Desmond Morrison, Amy Louise Cowler, Nona Faith Aparicio - Sheehan, Liam Francis Clooney



The local conference of the St Vincent De Paul would like to thank all the parishioners who gave so generously to the Christmas appeal last weekend. The amount collected was €12,584. Without your contributions and support their work could not continue. Thank you.

The Christmas Timetable is available at the back of the Church.

Fr. Paul expresses his thanks for all the good wishes and prayers he has received since been unwell. He is making steady progress but will not be back at work for a couple of weeks at least.

**Spiritual Preparation for Christmas**

The fourth session of 'Expecting Christ' will continue next Wed after the 10am Mass and Wednesday evening after the 7pm Mass in St. Patrick's Church and Thursday mornings after the 9.15am Mass in St. Brigid's Straffan. The session lasts 1hr. This week we will be thinking about "Expecting Christ in the end".

Everyone Welcome.

Parishioners who wish to make a donation towards the cost of flowers for the Church over the Christmas period and beyond can do so by leaving it in the sacristy or writing flower donation on an envelope and placing it in the basket during Mass. Your contribution is appreciated. Thank you

The Acre Project will hold a Christmas food and craft fair in Salesian College this Sunday from 12noon till 5pm .