

**Parish Team**  
 Fr. Paul Taylor P.P. tel 6275874  
 Fr. Kevin Doherty C.C. tel: 5031429  
 Fr. Brian McKittrick C.C. tel: 6274971  
 Fr. Douglas Zaggi P.C. tel: 6012303  
 Christina Malone tel: 085 8519110

**Parish Office** 01 6288827 Office hours Mon - Fri 9am - 3.30pm.  
**Sacristy:** 01 6275942 Mon - Sat 10.30am -11am, Sun 9.30am -1.30pm  
 Information about Baptisms please ring 085 8519110  
 email celbridgeparishoffice@gmail.com  
 Parish website: www.celstra.ie

**Weekly Envelope Collection:** (Planned Giving): €1,921. Your continued support is very much appreciated. Thanks to the collectors.

*We wish all our Parishioners and their families a Joyous and Happy Christmas.*



**Christmas dues:** The Christmas Dues envelopes are available at the back of the Church. The contributions made you, for the support of the priests of the parish is deeply appreciated. THANK YOU.

**A Big Thank You to ...**

The ladies who decorate and clean the Church, and those who do the flowers and the Altar, the parish choirs and all involved in music ministry in the parish, the sacristans, Bernadette and Josie, the stewards and all those Parishioners who assist in any way at Christmas time.

Parishioners who distributed the planned giving envelopes. All those who contributed to the Christmas Offering envelopes. The men who have worked so hard to keep the Church grounds looking great.

**ADVENT WREATH — 4th Sunday**

God's love endures forever.  
 Through acts as simple and common as the birth of a baby, God transforms the world, and God's promises are kept.  
 It is that expression of faithful love we anticipate and celebrate this day.  
 It is that promise that brings light to our deepest night.  
 So, as we light the fourth candle in eager anticipation of God's greatest promise fulfilled,  
 what else can we do but name this candle ... LOVE?

Mass Times	Baptisms
<b>St Brigid's Church, Straffan</b> Saturday (Vigil) 6pm. Sunday 11am. <b>Weekday Mass</b> 9.15am. <b>Holy Days</b> 10am. <b>Bank Holidays</b> 10am.	<b>St Patrick's Church:</b> Sunday 2pm <b>St Brigid's Church:</b> Last Sunday of the month at 12pm <b>Pre- Baptism meetings:</b> To book contact the parish baptismal team 085 8519110.

Mass Times
<b>St. Patrick's Church, Celbridge</b> Saturday (Vigil) 6.30 pm Sunday: 8.30am, 9.30am, 11am (Family Mass), 12.30pm & 7pm. <b>Weekday Mass:</b> 10am & 7pm <b>Holy Days:</b> 7pm (vigil), 8am, 10am, 7pm. <b>Bank Holidays:</b> 11am. <b>Confessions:</b> Saturday after 10am Mass



**POPE FRANCIS ... ON CHRISTMAS**

During his weekly public audience Pope Francis said Christmas is an occasion of joy but also a lesson in humility.

"God abases himself, descends to earth as someone small and poor, which means that to be like him we should not put ourselves above others, but on the contrary, abase ourselves, give ourselves in service, make ourselves small with the small and poor with the poor," he said. "It is an ugly thing when one sees a Christian who will not abase himself, who will not serve, a Christian who struts about vainly everywhere," Pope Francis added. "That is not Christian, that is pagan." A Christian is obliged to serve, the pope said, because the incarnation means God is to be found in every person.

Earlier, to mark his 77th birthday, Pope Francis had breakfast with three people who live on the streets near the Vatican. A small dog belonging to one of the homeless men was also on the guest list.

**POPE FRANCIS ... THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL**

**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?  
**Pope Francis @Pontifex**



**Weekend Mass Intentions**

**St. Brigid's Church**

**Saturday**

**6pm** John & Maureen Hannon

**Sunday**

**11am** Annie Doran

**St. Patrick's Church**

**Saturday**

**6.30pm** Mary Kilduff

**Sunday**

**8.30am** Liam O'Riordan

**9.30am** Thomas & Janice Burke

**11am** Deceased members of Egan & Fitzpatrick families

**12.30pm** Matt Tyndell, Jeremiah O'Dwyer, Jim Clyne(m.m)

**7pm** Brigid Moroney

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

**Mon 23rd 10am** Dick Crofton **7pm** Rose O'Grady

**Tues 24th 10am** Aaron Moore

**Christmas Eve & Christmas Day - Novena of Masses**

**Thurs 26th 11am** Gerry Galvin, Annie Newman, Seamus Newman

**Fri 27th 10am** John Burke, Special Intention **7pm** Aaron Moore

**Sat 29th 10am** Mary & John Burchill

**Christmas Mass Intentions**

**Christmas Cards:** All the Masses in the parish (12) 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 sacristy,

**Change to Post Christmas Timetable**

**There will be** an evening Mass on Monday 30th of December at 7pm in St. Patricks Church.

**Senior Help Line is open over Christmas** and is a confidential listening service for older people provided by older volunteers and is open 365 days of the year. The help line is open every day of the Christmas holiday and New Year season from 10am till 10pm. So don't be alone. We are there. Phone Senior Help Line LoCall 1850 440 444, (no call costing more than 30 cent).

**Confessions** will take place On Christmas Eve in:

**St. Patrick's Church** from 10.30am - 12.30pm.

**St. Brigid's Church** from 10am - 10.30am

**The Christmas Mass Timetable** is available at the back of the Church. Please feel free to take one home. Thank you.

**House Keeping**

We ask you at the end of Mass to put the Mass leaflet back on the stand near the door of the Church, in order to keep our beautiful Church tidy.

**Traditions: Christmas Trees and Ornaments**

The fir tree has a long association with Christianity, it began in Germany almost 1,000 years ago when St Boniface, was said to have come across a group of pagans worshipping an oak tree. To put a stop to this he cut down the tree. Yet, to his amazement, a young fir tree sprung up from the roots of the oak tree. St Boniface took this as a sign of the Christian faith. It was not until the 16th century, however, that fir trees were brought indoors at Christmas time.



And so, the Christmas tree in our homes became such a part of family Christmas tradition. For many of us, some of our earliest memories are of gathering around the tree on Christmas Day: we remember the sharing of gifts, the excitement of children (and of those not so young!), the love of family. Each year as we place the decorations and ornaments on our tree, we remember why they are priceless to us, how, often, each one was chosen in years past (or brought home from school), and added to the story of our family Christmas.

All this is an echo of the gift of the Christ Child, Emmanuel, "our God is with us". So it is, that, for many of us, the Christmas Tree stands in our homes as a symbol of the love that is at the heart of Christmas.

**Children's Corner**

*Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
 The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
 But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
 I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
 And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus,  
 I ask thee to stay.  
 Close by me forever,  
 And love my I pray.

Bless all the dear children,  
 In thy tender care.  
 And take them to heaven,  
 To be with thee there.

