



The Catholic Parish
of
Celbridge
and
Straffan



Priests of the Parish:

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PLANNED GIVING: PLANNED GIVING Weekly Envelope Collection: €2,585. Your continued support is very much appreciated. Thanks also to the collectors. The Planned Giving Envelopes for the New Year are now being circulated and parishioners are being asked to consider giving by Standing Order.



The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. (Holly also has a special Christian symbolism. The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly).

The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. and, a fifth, white candle in the centre. The fifth, "Christ" candle which can be lit at Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming, three purple and one pink. They are lit in the following order; week 1 and 2 purple, week 3, pink and week 4 purple. By the last Sunday before Christmas, all four candles are lit. The candles remind us that Jesus is the light of the world.

The colour purple is used because long ago purple dye was very expensive and purple became a colour that was associated with royalty. Advent is the season of the coming of the King. The pink one is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. Long ago Advent was a time of fasting like Lent. On the Third Sunday there was a break from this fast and the priests wore rose or pink coloured vestments. So that tradition became a part of the Advent Wreath. As we light the candles each week we are made aware of our journey through this season. Placing the candles in a circle is symbolic of God's love for us, a love that has no beginning or end. The use of the evergreen leaves around the candles reminds us that God's love is everlasting.

The Archbishop of Dublin Dr. Diarmuid Martin will celebrate the 6pm Mass Saturday the 10th December in St. Brigid's Church, Straffan to mark the 225th Anniversary of the opening of the Church.

Footprints Gospel Mass. We rejoice that ten young adults will be commissioned as new Ministers of the Eucharist at our Footprints Gospel Mass this weekend. Three of these young adults take part also in the John Paul II Award.

The Parish Radio is out of order at present. We will inform you when its reinstated. We apologise for the inconvenience.

For your attention: The school car park closes 15 minutes, sharp after evening Mass ends. Please ensure all cars have vacated the car park immediately after Mass as the Sacristan will lock the gate.

Outside Toilet

This facility is available for your use, situated towards the back of the Church on left hand side, through the gate.

St. Patrick's Church Celbridge: Saturday (Vigil) 6.30 pm, Sunday: 8.30am, 9.30am, 11am, 12.30pm & 7pm.

Weekday Mass: 10am & 7.30pm **Holy Days:** 8am, 10am, 12am, 7.30pm. **Bank Holidays:** 11am

St Brigid's Church Straffan: Saturday (Vigil) 6pm, Sunday 11am. **Week day Mass** 9.15am. **Holy Days and Bank Holidays:** 10am

Confessions: Celbridge: Saturday 10.30am. **Straffan** Saturday After 6pm Mass

Baptisms: St Patrick's Church – Sunday 2pm St Brigid's Church. Last Sunday of the month at 12.15pm

Pre- Baptism meetings: To book contact Christina 085 8519110.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament : Every Friday morning before 10am Mass (9am - 9.50am) in St Patrick's Church St. Brigid's Church Friday morning after 10am Mass.

Weekend Mass Intentions:

St Brigid's Church

Saturday 6pm Pat Doyle.

Sunday 11am Dermot Darlington.

St. Patrick's Church:

Saturday 6.30pm Michael and Kathleen Anderson.

Sunday

8.30am Derek Nolan, Bridget Cummins (month's mind),

9.30am Albert Baker,

11am Paul Darlington,

12.30pm Kathleen Ward,

We welcome into our faith community the children recently baptised: Zoe Uzice, Lily Walsh, Oliver Marriott, Molly Carey, Kallie Herbert and Evelyn Curry.

"Remembering a loved one at Christmas" in aid of St. Brigid's Hospice Kildare.

Please support our fundraising event by sponsoring a Light in Memory of a deceased loved one this Christmas.

Pick up a special envelope at the back of the church.

Envelopes can be placed in the church collection baskets at all Masses in November.

Lighting of the Tree Remembrance Service & Carol singing will take place in St. Patrick's Church on

Sunday 4th of December at 5pm.

You can also donate online at

www.mycharity.ie/event/rememberingalovedone

Santa is coming to Vincent's Celbridge

On **Sunday 11th December**, the man himself will be in the **Vincent De Paul shop** (beside the Post Office) on the **Main Street** arriving at **1pm**.

A visit to Santa is **free** and **all children are welcome**.

In the meantime, Santa Letters are available in the shop, which children can complete and post in the magic post box. A chance to colour a picture is also on offer and the pictures will be on show in the shop during the weeks before Christmas.

Avoid the city rush, and visit Santa at **Vincent's**. Entertainment, face painting and surprises are assured and Santa is looking forward to meeting you.

You can contact Vincent's on 01 6012752.

Christmas Mass Intentions

Christmas Cards will be on sale from this week end at the back of the Church. All Masses on Christmas Day will be offered for these intentions. Cost €5



Weekday Mass Intentions

Monday 28th 10am Julia and John Tallon, 7.30pm Dora Purcell,

Tuesday 29th 10am Pat Doyle
7.30pm Tienan Brabazon Carton, Peg Van Lonkhuizen

Wednesday 30th 10am Donal O'Dwyer
7.30pm Thomas and Ellen Behan

Thursday 1st 10am Eileen Ferguson 7.30pm Catherine Ryan

Friday 2nd 10am Altar List 7.30pm Altar List

Saturday 3rd 10am Sean Gibney.

Confirmation Preparation 2011/2012 - "You Shall Be My Witness"

The Candidates who are journeying towards the Sacrament of Confirmation will celebrate their Enrolment Service on Tuesday 6th December @ 7.45pm in St. Patrick's Church, Celbridge. All who wish to be confirmed in their faith must present themselves at this service.

The celebration of Eucharist will be @ 7pm that evening.

The Training session for parishioners who have signed up for the "You Shall Be My Witness" Programme will be on Saturday 10th December from 10.30-1.30pm in the Hall of Scoil Brid.

Any enquiries please contact Parish Pastoral Worker Christina Malone, 085 -9519110.

Play & Pray. On Sunday 27th November and 11th December the children's liturgy group will be offered for all the boys & girls between 4-7years of age @ 11am Eucharist in Celbridge & Straffan. At the moment, due to the number of volunteers we have, we can only invite 25 children for the play & pray. If we have more volunteers we could offer the play & pray for more children. If you wish get involved please contact Christina Malone, Parish Pastoral Worker 085 – 8519110 or/and come along for the next planning meeting on 14th December @ 8pm in St. Patrick's Church in Celbridge.

Celbridge and Straffan Gospel Choir

Fundraising Gig

In aid of Dara Residential Services

Tuesday 6th Nov

In St. Patrick's Church at 8pm.

Please come along and support.

SILVER THREAD CLUB are running a Christmas Sale in the Mill Celbridge on Saturday 3rd December at 10.30am - 2pm.

Your support would be greatly appreciated

SNOOZE FEST

Is it just that **MASS is BORING for young people?**



Some thoughts from Fr Kevin ...

www.celstra.ie

Or might it be something else?

Children's Corner

The word "Advent" means **coming**. During Advent the readings tell us how God's people longed for the arrival of a Saviour. During this season we think about when Jesus will return and remember the first coming of Christ as a baby.

Loving God, Bless these candles and make them a sign of your love for us and our hope in you.

May our Advent Wreath be a source of joy in our Church, school and in our homes.

As light comes from these candles, may it guide us and brighten our way as we wait for your coming. May you bring light into our schools, homes and communities as we wait and prepare this Advent season. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen