

PLANNED GIVING: Weekly Envelope Collection: Our financial year ended on 30th Nov and new boxes have been distributed. The envelope known as the planned giving is the only way in which the running of the Church and parish facilities is funded. Your support is important and appreciated. You can contribute through the boxes of envelopes or direct debit. Contributions of €250 and over during the financial year qualify for a tax refund, which makes an important contribution to reducing the parish debt. Please consider supporting our parish. For further information please contact by texting your name and address to 085 8662255. Receipts showing the total amount donated in the year to 30/11/2015 will be issued in Jan 2016. The amount contributed last week was **€2955.92**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

Confirmation Candidates of Year 2 present
Confirming the Gift of Christmas.
 A staging of THE NATIVITY with Favourite Carols and Christmas sing-a-long
Thursday 10th December 8 – 9 pm, St Patrick's Church, Celbridge.
 Everyone welcome

A Holy Year of Mercy : A Holy Year of Mercy has been announced by Pope Francis beginning on Tuesday 8th December.
A Holy Year of Mercy pack is available at the back of the Church for each family in the parish to take home.

 **Huge congratulations** to all our Year 2 Confirmation Candidates for the way you took part in our Parish preparation this week. You should be very proud of your efforts. And, of course, a huge **Thank You to all our volunteer catechists** — for your time, your witness and your joy. All of this is a sign of the Holy Spirit at work in our parish.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society monthly meeting will take place on Wednesday **9th December** (earlier in the month due to the Christmas season) in the meeting room beside the Sacristy, directly after the 7pm evening Mass. New members very welcome.

Annual St Vincent De Paul - Christmas Appeal.
 The Society of St Vincent de Paul will hold their annual Christmas Appeal the weekend 12th and 13th Dec. This collection will take place inside the Church at all Masses instead of the Share Collection. All proceeds will be used locally to help people who are experiencing hardship at this time. Please give generously.
There will be no collection this weekend.

What to do in the case of a Medical Emergency
 Join us on Monday December 14th at 11am in Straffan Community Hall for a First Aid Awareness Presentation. C.P.R. Adult and Child AED's and Defibrillator. First Aid etc. Everyone welcome.

The Immaculate Conception Of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Tuesday 8th December
 Masses at 7pm - (Monday vigil), Tuesday 8am, 10am 7pm.
 We celebrate Mary who, from the first instant of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, was 'by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved free from all stain of original sin.

Rosters for 12th / 13th December 2015
Ministers of the Word (Readers)
6.30pm: Gerry Fogarty **8.30am:** Michael Donavan
9.30am: Roisin Kavanagh **11am:** Carmel Kelly Wright
12.30pm: Ann McHugh **7pm:** Mette Lebech

Eucharistic Ministers
8.30pm: S. Herrero, L. O' Connor, P. Donohoe
8.30am: B. McGee, N. Buckley
9.30am: A. Melinn, R. Melvin, D. McDonnell
11am: M. Blessing, J. Murphy, G. O'Callaghan
12.30pm: L. White, A. Condell, M. O'Shea, B. Ryan
7pm: M. O' Fiannachta, H. Van Der May, W. Lynch

Celbridge and Straffan Mother's Prayer Group: The next meeting of the parish mother's prayer group takes place on Tuesday 8th Dec at 8pm in St Brigid's Church, Straffan. Mothers of all ages are very welcome. We will pray for our children, the children of the parish and children worldwide. We hope to see you there!

Letter from Archbishop Diarmuid Martin
 As this Jubilee Year of Mercy begins, I am asking you to once again help those most in need in our Diocese by assisting in the collection of vital foodstuffs for the Cross-care Food Banks. These Food Banks give food directly to individuals and families in need through local community food banks and also to over 70 other charities in Dublin who are working with those most in need. Throughout 2015 demand on the Food Banks remained high, with more and more families turning to Crosscare for support with basic food items. I am asking parishes to repeat last year's Food Appeal parishioners to bring non-perishable food items to Masses in their local parish Church on the weekends of 5th/6th 12th/13th of Dec. As Pope Francis encourages us, *"Think through once again the works of mercy, they are the work of the Father."* With prayerful good wishes,
 +Diarmuid Martin
 Archbishop of Dublin

Weekend Mass Intentions:
St. Brigid' Church
6pm: Patrick & Bridget Campbell & Patrick Jnr
11am: Deceased members of the Straffan GAA Club
St. Patrick's Church:
Saturday
6.30pm: John Keegan, Kit Sherry
Sunday
8.30am: Maurice Barrett
9.30am: Albert Baker
11am: Moynihan & Doyle families
12.30pm: Margaret & Con Gaffney & Donovan Family
7pm: Michael Cotter

A Special Collection in St. Brigid's Church, Straffan towards the cost of the flowers for the Christmas period the weekend of the 20th December in St. Brigid's Church. Your contribution is appreciated. Thank you.

"Remembering a loved one at Christmas"
 in aid of Little Way Cancer Support Centre, Clane.
 A Lighting of the Tree Remembrance Service & Carol singing will take place in **St. Patrick's Church this Sunday the 6th of December at 5pm.**
 Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Abbey Community Project
 The Abbey Community Project was co-founded by Gerard Byrne and Cait O'Keeffe. They are both experienced psychotherapists and addiction counsellors. They are based in The St. Eustace's Centre at the Parochial House, on The Main street. This is due to the support of Fr. Taylor P.P., Fr. Brian and Bernadette. Since we opened our doors in June 2014 200 people have visited us. Currently we have over 100 clients on our books. We assist people and families with issues such as suicide prevention, child sexual abuse, homelessness, various addictions, mental health & advocacy. They have forged links with over 25 other services and this is constantly growing. We prepare people for detox and offer aftercare. *All our services are free, immediate and indefinite.* There are NO waiting lists. We have no funding, we are constantly overlooked by the powers that be. Today we make the appeal for any contributions you may be in a position to give or put your donation in an envelope, marked Abbey Community Project and place in the collection bags next week. If you are in a position to become a benefactor to the centre that would be fantastic. Finally, if you or a family member need our services visit our website www.abbeycommunityproject.ie

Weekday Mass Intentions
Mon 7th 10am: Dick, Annie Paddy & Peggie Bolger **7pm:** Elizabeth Maher
Tues 8th 8am: Margaret Barrett **10am:** Bill Devaney
7pm: Sean & Mary Dillon, James & Alice Flynn, Phyllis & Eddie Hughes
Wed 9th 10am: Brian Blackwell **7pm:** Pat & Margaret Collins
Thur 10th 10am: Tom & Peg Lenihan, Mary & Sean Gavin, Tom Ryan
7pm: Mrs Chris Donovan, James & Carmel Mangan
Fri 11th 10am: Margaret Teague **7pm:** James Kavanagh
Sat 12th 10am: James Teague

Recently Deceased: We offer our sympathy to the family of Aishling Walsh, Straffan and remember in our prayers her family at this very sad time.
 We keep in our prayers Sheila O' Donohoe formerly from Dublin Rd, Celbridge whose funeral took place on Tuesday. We offer our sympathy to her children Liz, Siobhan, and John. Predeceased by her husband Sean and son Jimmy.
 We remember Josepha Murphy who died suddenly on Monday, wife of Bart and dear mother of David and Andrew. She will be sadly missed by her family and wide circle of friends.
May they rest in peace

Priests Roster for the Masses Weekend 12th / 13th December 2015
St. Patrick's. - Vigil **6.30pm:** Fr. Brian **Sunday: 8.30am:** Fr. Paul
9.30am: Fr. Brian **11am:** Fr. Brian **12.30pm:** Fr. Douglas **7pm:** Fr. Douglas
St. Brigid's. - **Saturday 6pm:** Fr. Paul **Sunday 11am:** Fr. Paul

Christmas Mass 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 give the name of the person for whom the Masses will be said.

Scoil Bhríde Straffan is having a Christmas Fair in the Straffan Community Hall 1pm to 3pm on Saturday December 12th.

Pope Francis' Prayer for the Year of Mercy
 Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!" You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God. Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.