



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



Advanced notice: The new **Planned Giving (Thanksgiving) Envelope** will be distributed before the end of the year. Parishioners will note that the envelope now has 2 parts. In order to maximise the tax back on donations for the parish, parishioners are encouraged to put their offering for the support of the Priests (1st collection) in the right hand side of the envelope and place in the collection bags. Anybody willing to give an hour or two to help distribute the boxes of envelopes to the collectors should contact the parish office. Your assistance will be gratefully received. *"Many hands make light work"*. Thank you
The Planned Giving amount this week was **€1352.90** Thanks to all who contributed and the collectors.

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

COLLECTION 1

This money the 1st Collection whether you put it in the envelope or directly in the collection bags goes to the **Common Fund of the Diocese to support the Priests of the Diocese including sick and retired Priests.**

COLLECTION 2

This money the 2nd collection (SHARE) goes to the Diocese to pay for **Diocesan Development & Services and contributes to initiatives of the Irish Bishops' Conference.**

ENVELOPES / STANDING ORDERS

PLANNED GIVING: This money is the **MAIN** source of income for the Parish covering: **Parish Operational Costs, Sacramental Programme's, Parish Maintenance and Development.**

I would like to thank parishioners who support our parish through the Thanksgiving Envelope or by way of Direct Debit payment. Apart from paying the priest's of the parish and supporting old, sick and retired priests and those working in challenging places through the **FIRST COLLECTION** at Mass; the maintenance, running and provision of services in our parish is entirely dependant on the income given through the Thanksgiving Envelope or Direct Debit. If you are new to our parish or up to now have not supported the Thanksgiving Appeal, I urge you to consider joining in. All the heating, insurance, supplies, maintenance and payments to organists, musicians, choir directors, secretarial services and sacristans come from the Thanksgiving Appeal. We have a vibrant faith community and all of us who worship here together, need to keep our shoulder to the wheel. If everyone gives a little a lot can be done.

Weekly Parish Lotto

The profit from our Parish Lotto will go to developing our Parish and its outreach.

The prize fund is now **€1650** and will increase weekly until won.

The lotto envelopes are available at the back of the church in St. Patricks & on the top of the safe in St. Brigid's
One line (you pick four numbers between 0-30) at just €2, 3 lines cost €5.

This weeks numbers are First Jackpot: 18, 7, 23,6 Second Jackpot: 28, 17,22,11

No winners of our 1st or 2nd Jackpot but our 3 consolation prize winners are: D. Coyne, Kathleen Price, Joe Gallen

Prizes can only be collected in the Sacristy during weekend Mass times

Our next draw will take place on Monday evening. Please have your lotto envelopes submitted before 10.30am on Monday

Uncollected envelopes will be resubmitted into the lotto fund after 1 month of draw

Weekend Mass Intentions

St. Brigid's Church

Saturday 6pm:

Sunday 11am: Pdraig Rafferty (1st An-niv)

St. Patrick's Church

Saturday 6.30pm: Madeline & Joseph Darlington, Mary Gorman

Sunday 8.30am: Fred & Mary Griffin, O' Mahoney family

9.30am: Rose Grady, Margaret, Edward, Michael & Peter Concannon

11am: Mary & Patrick Kilduff, John, Janie & Thomas Burke, Madeline & Joseph Darlington

12.30pm: Dick Lawlor, Noel Doolan, Joe & Kathleen Young, Tommy & Eileen Ferguson

7pm: Donald Shanahan, Rosaline Doyle James & Carmel Mangan,

Christmas Flowers: Donations towards the cost of the flowers for the Christmas period this weekend can be left in the sacristy of both churches. Your contribution is appreciated.



Christmas Novena Mass Cards

Christmas Cards: All Masses (13 Masses) will be offered on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for the intention of those named on the special Mass cards. Mass card cost €5 and can be purchased in the sacristy after all Masses. When purchasing the card give the name of the person for whom the Masses will be said.

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.



Weekday Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church

Wednesday 26th 10am: Peg & Paddy Egan, Peg & Hugh Fitzpatrick, Rosaline Doyle

Thursday 27th 10am: John Burke, Margaret Murray, John Birchall, Rosaline Doyle

Friday 28th: 10am: Margaret & Maurice Barrett, Michael Bradley

Saturday 29th 10am: Michael Collins, Patrick Crowe

Visitation of the Sick: If you or a family member are housebound, unable to come to Mass, and wish to receive Holy Communion, a Minister of the Eucharist will call to your home. Contact the parish office.

Christmas Dues

The Christmas Dues (Offerings for the Priests of the Diocese) envelopes are available at the back of the Church. The contributions made by you, include the support of the priests of the parish and is deeply appreciated. THANK YOU.

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?

The Christmas timetable for Masses and other services in Celbridge and Straffan is available at the back of the Church.



Parish Office: 01 6288827

Parish Mobile 0858662255 (out of hours emergencies only).

The Parish Office will be closed from Dec 21st until the 7th January

Website: www.celstra.ie

email: celbridgeparishoffice@gmail.com

Information about Baptisms contact Parish Office.