



The Catholic Parish
of
Celbridge
and
Straffan



Priests of the Parish:

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Fr. Douglas Zaggi P.C. tel: 6012303. Christina Malone - Parish Pastoral Worker tel: 085 8519110

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Parish website: www.celstra.ie

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



PLANNED GIVING

Weekly Envelope Collection: €2,239. Standing Orders for November was €3,840 (145 paying by Standing Order). Thanks to those who recently completed Standing Order forms. Your continued support is very much appreciated. Thanks also to the collectors.

The Planned Giving Envelopes for the New Year have now been circulated. If you have not yet received your box or, if you do not already have a box and would like to support your parish, please text your name & address to 085 7021882. A standing order may also be used. Receipts will be issued in Jan 2012 to all those who contributed more than €250 in the year to 30/11/2011.

Advance notice: On Sunday January 1st and January 8th the 9.30am Mass will be celebrated at **10am**, to allow live broadcasting of Mass from Celbridge on RTE radio.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Rite 2).

This involves us gathering as a community, reflecting on God's love and the call to grow in holiness and receiving absolution as individual's. The service takes place on **St Patrick's Church: Monday 19th December at 8pm**. The service will be repeated on **Christmas Eve at 11am** with individual confession concluding at **1pm sharp**.

This service will take place in **St Brigid's Church on Thursday 22nd December at 8pm**.

Saturday 24th Christmas Eve 10.30am - 11.30am Sacrament of Reconciliation, (individual confessions).

A Big Thank You to ...

The ladies who decorate and clean the Church, and those who do the flowers and Altar, 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.



Christmas Carol Concert

DUBLIN CONCERT BAND
& Parish Choirs

Sunday 18th December 3.30 - 4.30 pm

a Christmas Festival of

Favourite Carols
Concert Pieces
Christmas Sing-a-long

AND

Mince Pies &
Refreshments



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 12pm

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 9.15am Mass.

Weekend Mass Intentions:

St Brigid's Church

Saturday 6pm Kathleen Fitzpatrick

Sunday 11am Eileen and Ned

Rowley

St. Patrick's Church:

Saturday

6.30pm Paddy Abbott and

deceased Abbott family.

Sunday

8.30am Anne Murphy.

9.30am Pro Populo.

11am Charles and Sarah Callis.

12.30pm Michael and Elizabeth

Foley.

7pm Patrick, Elizabeth, Ned, Tom

and Peter Kelly.

Christmas Mass Intentions

Christmas Cards: A novena of Masses (9 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 sacristy, or at the back of the Church after Sunday Masses. When purchasing the card please give the name of the person for the intention.

On Christmas Day morning RTE will broadcast Mass live from St. Brigid's Church, Straffan with the Parish Children's Choir singing at the Mass. The congregation needs to be in the Church and seated by 11.15am. Thanks.

Weekday Mass Intentions

19th 10am Deceased Doyle and Moynihan families, 7.30pm Margaret and Con Gaffney and deceased Gaffney and Donovan families.

20th 10am Dick Crofton, 7.30pm Michael Murphy.

21st 10am Agnes Brophy, 7.30pm Margaret and Terence Graydon, Kathleen Doyle.

22nd 10am Deceased Brady and McKenna families, 7.30pm John, Janie and Thomas Burke.

23rd 10am Rose O'Grady, 7.30pm Bill Lee, Phyllis and Anne Greene and deceased Lee, Greene and Conway families.

24th 10am Christmas Novena Masses.

We welcome into our faith community the children recently baptised:

Adrianna Araiza, Aisling Loughnane, Emmy Cantwell Downey, Emmanuel and Abigail Balogun, Elizabeth Busayo. **Congratulations.**



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.



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

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. Please contact: Parish office 01 6288827.

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 me I pray.

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