



Priests of the Parish:
 Fr. Paul Taylor P.P. tel 6275874
 Fr. Kevin Doherty C.C. tel: 5031429
 Fr. Brian McKittrick C.C. tel: 6288827
 Fr. Douglas Zaggi P.C. tel: 6012303



LETS GET IN CHRISTMAS SPIRIT
as we celebrate together our
Parish Carol Service with
our Parish Choirs



This Monday 21st December @ 7.30pm
 The evening will consist of our traditional
 Carols which we can all join in and a repertoire performed
 by all of our parish choirs.

**Let this evening gets us into the Christmas spirit as we come to
 prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ in harmony with each other.**
Everyone Welcome

To mark the Jubilee of Mercy initiated by Pope Francis, at 11am on Sunday 20 December next Archbishop Diarmuid Martin will open a Door of Mercy at St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Marlborough Street, Dublin. The door chosen by Archbishop Martin [an entrance to the left of the main door on Marlborough Street] leads into an area of the Pro-Cathedral that has two confessionals, a statue memorial to Venerable Matt Talbot, whose life was healed from addiction when he encountered God's mercy. The Door chosen also looks to the altar of St Laurence O'Toole, patron of the Archdiocese, celebrated as a man of mercy. Holy Doors of Mercy will also be opened at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Sean Mc Dermott Street, Dublin, where the remains of Venerable Matt Talbot lie; the Church of St. Francis Xavier in Gardiner Street, which holds the Cross of Venerable John Sullivan; and also at the House of Mercy in Baggot Street.

It is Pope Francis' desire that it becomes a "Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instils hope."

When Pope Francis opened the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, he said: "To pass through the Holy Door means to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of them."

See more at: <http://www.dublindiocese.ie/archbishop-opens-holy-door-of-mercy>

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.

Parish Office:

Parish secretary: Bernadette 6288827 Parish Mobile 0858662255
The Parish Office will be closed from 23rd Dec until the 4th January
Sacristy: 0858662255
 Website: www.celstra.ie email: celbridgeparishoffice@gmail.com
 Information about Baptisms ring Bernadette 085 8662255

Weekend Mass Intentions

St. Brigid's Church

Saturday 6pm: Ann Doran

Sunday 11am: McCusker, Boland, Quinn & Talbot families

St. Patrick's Church

Saturday 6.30pm: Bill & Paul Burke, Tommy & Jeanie Burke

Sunday

8.30am: Fred & Mary Griffin

9.30am: Val Farrell

11am: Michael, Mary, Billy, Tommy Dunne

12.30pm: Mary & Patrick Kilduff

7pm Donal O'Dwyer

Advance Notice: There will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

St. Stephen's Day Mass 11am and 6.30pm.

Sunday Mass as normal times.



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

Weekday Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church

Monday 21st 10am: Agnes Brophy **7pm** No evening Mass

Tuesday 22nd 10am: James Teague **7pm:** Bill Lee, Phyllis & Anne Greene, deceased members of Greene, Lee, & Conway families. Maureen Byrne

Wednesday 23rd 10am: Michael McLoughlin **7pm** Rose O'Grady. Ittera

Thursday 24th 10am: Special intention **Christmas Eve** Masses Novena intentions

Friday 25th 11am: Christmas Day Novena Mass intentions **No evening Mass**

Saturday 26th 11am: Hilary Shannon

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 01 6288827 / 0858662255.

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.

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. Each Mass card cost €5 and can be purchased in the parish office or in the sacristy. When purchasing the card give the name of the person for whom the Masses will be said.

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 perfect family doesn't exist, nor is there a perfect husband or a perfect wife, and let's not talk about the perfect mother-in-law! It's just us sinners."
 A healthy family life requires frequent use of three phrases:
 "May I? Thank you, and I'm sorry" and "never, never, never end the day without making peace."
 Pope Francis

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.



Sacrament Of Reconciliation

Come back to me with all your heart

(Hosea 14:1)



A Thought

'Jesus in the confessional is not a dry cleaner. Confession is an encounter with Jesus, with this Jesus who waits for us, who waits for us just as we are.' (Pope Francis)

St. Patrick's Church: Christmas Eve Rite 2 at 10.30am.

Individual Confessions: Christmas Eve 11am - 12.30pm.

St. Brigid's Church: Confessions 10.30am - 11.30am

Congratulations to the Boys and Girls of 6th class from Straffan school who raised €6664.79 for St. Vincent De Paul in their recent cake sale. Well done.

Advance notice: New Years Day there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 10am to 11am in St. Patrick's

The Christmas Timetable is at the back of the Church.

A Holy Year of Mercy pack is at the back of the Church for each family in the parish to take home. We encourage people to put the images in the pack on the window / door of your house or on your car.

PLANNED GIVING:

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 0858662255. 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 €1847.01**