



The Catholic Parish
of
Celbridge
and
Straffan



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

Parish Office:

Parish secretary: Bernadette 01 6288827 / 0858662255
Office Hours: 11am - 3.30pm Mon - Fri
except Wednesday - Office is closed.

Sacristy 01 6275942
Parish Pastoral Worker: Christina Malone 0858519110
Website: www.celstra.ie email: celbridgeparishoffice@gmail.com
Information about Baptisms ring Bernadette 085 8662255

PLANNED GIVING:

Weekly Envelope Collection €1,807. Our financial year will end on 30th Nov and new boxes will be distributed to you over the coming weeks. We sincerely appreciate your generosity to the Planned Giving collection which is the only collection used for the maintenance of the parish.

Contributions of €250 and over qualify for tax refund and if you wish to confirm the amount paid by you to date please text your Name and Box No to 085 7021882.

A big THANK YOU to all who fed **Percy Pig** with the small change over the last two weekends. Percy received €1801 and this money will be used to help maintain and develop our Parish.



Thought for the day

Beginning again is an invitation to look in two directions. What happened for me in the last year, both in my ordinary life and in my life as a believer, a person of faith? For what do I ask forgiveness? For what do I give thanks? We also look forward and the new beginning gives us a chance to start again on the Way of discipleship. Both thanksgiving and renewal are to be found in today's readings. The Gospel is an invitation to wake up, to keep watch, to live fully the present moment under God, in whom we live and move and have our being.

Prayer: Wake us up, O God, and rouse us from the slumber of the everyday that we may recognise you in every moment and in every person, today and every day of our lives.

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 wreathes 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 wreathes 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). 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.

Weekend Mass Intentions

St. Brigid's Church
Saturday 6pm: Pat Doyle
Sunday 11am: Carmel Delaney

St. Patrick's Church

Saturday
6.30pm: John Keegan

Don Reynolds m.m. & Rita whose anniversary occurs at this time.

Sunday

8.30am: Rose O'Hea
9.30am: Albert Baker
11am: Paul Darlington, pray for Peg & Cor Van Lonkhuyzen

12.30pm: Pat Doyle, pray for Theresa O'Brien

7pm Tiernán Brabazon Carton

Date for your Diary

The Annual Christmas Fair of The ACRE Project will take place this Saturday and Sunday, 29 /30 November from noon to 6 pm indoors at the Salesian College, Maynooth Road, Celbridge.

The Parish Christmas Carol Service will take place on Monday 22nd December at 7.30pm in St. Patrick's Church. All of the parish choirs will participate.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Forgiveness Rite 2 will take place Tuesday 23rd December at 7.30pm.

The St. Patrick's Church Folk Choir are looking for new members and musicians. They sing at the 7pm Sunday evening Mass and practise every Wednesday evening at 8pm in the room off the Sacristy.

If you love to sing or play an instrument, and are interested in meeting new people too, then please give your name to Karen or leave your name in Church Sacristy.

Our Parish Mission Statement:

"As Believers in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek to live and share the joy of His Gospel message".

Weekday Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church

Monday 1st 10am: Special intention **7pm** Thomas & Ellen Behan
Tuesday 2nd 10am: Brian Blackrock, pray for Joseph O'Shea **7pm:** Nancy Murray
Wednesday 3rd 10am: Special intention **7pm:** Special intention
Thursday 4th 10am: Tony Ryan **7pm:** James Mangan & Carmel Mangan
Friday 28th 10am: Altar List of the dead **7pm:** Altar list of the dead
Saturday 6th 10am: Thomas Shanahan

Recently deceased:

We remember in our prayers **Geraldine Walsh** whose funeral took place on Thursday the 27th, and we offer our sympathy to her husband Raymund, sister Bernie and her family, neighbours, and friends. Geraldine was a proud Waterford woman, and was very gifted at knitting and stitching, she made little dolls and their clothing. She was house proud and loved gardening and cooking and spending time with her close group of friends whom she loved to cater for. She worked in St. Raphael's on a voluntary basis. She was a woman of great faith. She has been battling illness since spring this year and her death at the age of 57 years leaves her husband and many friends with a deep sense of loss.

Mary Hoey: We offer our sympathy to the family of the Mary Hoey who died on Tuesday and whose funeral took place in Castle Jordan. She was a devoted wife and mother and was wonderfully looked after in the later years of frailty by her daughter Faela and other family members.

May they rest in peace.

The Miraculous Medal Novena will be recited every Monday morning after the 10 am Mass starting on November 24th. Novena booklets will be on sale at the back of the Church for 20c each. Legion of Mary.

"Remembering a loved one at Christmas" in aid of ARC Cancer Support Centres.

A Lighting of the Tree Remembrance Service & Carol singing will take place in St. Patrick's Church on Sunday the 7th of December at 5pm.

Please support this fundraising event by sponsoring a light on the Christmas Tree of Remembrance in memory of a deceased loved one. Pick up a special envelope at the back of the church. Envelopes can be placed in the church collection baskets at all masses up to and including Sunday the 7th of December; or in the special drop-box in Celbridge Credit Union.

Your support is greatly appreciated. You can also donate online at: <http://www.mycharity.ie/event/rememberingalovedone2014>

Volunteers needed: We are looking for more volunteers to assist the "Play & Pray" leaders during the 11am Mass in St. Patrick's Church. Play & Pray is for children between 4 -7 years of age. If you are interested please contact Christina Malone on 085 8519110.

We welcome the recently baptised children into our faith community:

Gavin English, Evie O'Brien, Olivia Wall, Hannah Burke, Riona Foley, Finn Browne, Sadhbh Meagher, Clara Hayden
Congratulations to the families.

