

**RONCALLI RANT 15**

**DREADING CHRISTMAS ?**

How many shopping days left? How many sleeps?

Still time left to get Confession

Not sure yet which Mass, maybe Midnight in St. Patrick's, Celbridge or earlier in St. Brigid's, Straffan?

Do you remember last year? To think that all that started over soggy sprouts

Trying to remember that it's about making others happy

Going to surprise a few people with a little gift or at least a card

So much for the season of good will.

I think it was nearly St Patrick's day before they spoke again

I am writing to Susan it's been too long,

Life is too short for bitterness

Do we have to invite him? Ah come on love he is my brother

If I miss the birthday of Jesus I miss Christmas

I don't care, it's ridiculous money for a toy!

Yea, but she has her wee heart set on it

Presents are lovely but you cannot beat being present to each other

That's what the kids should be learning from us

I wish I could ban drink for Christmas it caused murder last year

It'll be grand they learned their lesson

There was two things caused huge rows last year, drink and phones

Would it be a big deal to say a couple of drinks each at dinner and no phones until after

We'll be paying for Christmas until the summer

At the very least and within a week the presents will be lying around the house

What kind of giving puts people under pressure and forces them into debt?

Should we have a 'present truce' or a limit of twenty euro on present cost?

I wish it was all over, the sheer tension of it, the pressure to enjoy!

We should go away for Christmas but imagine how that would go down

In the scramble for mushy peas, the brown of the turkey and the mince pies

Don't miss Silent Night, the Crib, Christmas Mass and the quiet prayer of thanksgiving

The best bit for me is getting a feed of drink

No for me the best bit is the dinner and a good siesta after it

Don't be afraid to lead a short prayer before tucking into Christmas Dinner

For our loved ones in Heaven, for those who need our prayer, for those who have nobody

I'm just afraid of forgetting something important

Yea, what about the moaning last year because there was no cranberry!

Christmas without Jesus is the wedding without the groom

Christmas without Jesus is the party without the guest.

Fraternally, JoeMcD

**Gaudete by Brad Reynolds**

Because Christmas is almost here

Because dancing fits so well with music

Because inside baby clothes are miracles.

Gaudete

Because some people love you

Because of chocolate

Because pain does not last forever

Because Santa Claus is coming.

Gaudete

Because of laughter

Because there really are angels

Because your fingers fit your hands

Because forgiveness is yours for the asking

Because of children

Because of parents.

Gaudete

Because the blind see.

And the lame walk.

Gaudete

Because lepers are clean

And the deaf hear.

Gaudete

Because the dead will live again

And there is good news for the poor.

Gaudete

Because of Christmas

Because of Jesus

You rejoice.

"Gaudete," which is the Latin word for

"rejoice," is the Third Sunday in Advent.

Deacon Frank will offer Rosary devotions from Monday to Friday after 10am Mass, using his reflections on "The Mysteries of Salvation"

**The Christmas Mass Cards** are on sale in the Sacristy and from the Parish Office. The intentions for both the living and the deceased will be remembered at all the Masses on Christmas eve and Christmas day. The card cost €5

**PLANNED GIVING BOXES FOR 2020**

The Planned Giving Envelopes are ready for distribution. It would be greatly appreciated if Collectors and any other parishioners would pick up their boxes from the **Parish Office**.

Anyone who is willing to distribute boxes no matter how many, would be very welcome. It doesn't necessarily have to be your own estate. If you are out walking it might suit you to drop a few boxes.

Thank you.

**Weekday Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church**

**Mon 16th 10am:** Brendan O' Toole, Noeleen Bashford, Brendan Cawley, John McHugh

**Tues 17th 10am:** Paddy Murphy, Claire O' Leary, Fred Price, special intention

**Wed 18th 10am:** Elizabeth Kelly, Patrick, Edward, Thoams, Peter & Paddy Kelly

**Thur 19th 10am:** Tommy & Eileen Ferguson, Johanna & Michael O'Sullivan, Iwona, Dadera, John & Alice Peppard, Matthew, Molly & Josephine Meade, Sheila Collins

**Fri 20th 10am:** Brady & McKenna Family, Andrew & Emily O' Neill

**Sat 21st 10am:** Edward & Mary Murray, Frank & Agnes Brophy.

**Weekend Mass Intentions**

**St. Brigid's Church**

Sat 6pm: Sean Doyle,

Sun 11am: Joe O' Brien (1st anniv)

**Remembering a loved one at Christmas**

PLEASE SPONSOR A STAR FOR €5in aid of **THE ABBEY COMMUNITY PROJECT** (Caring for individuals and families struggling with addiction, homelessness, & other areas of mental health). Lighting of the Tree Ceremony & Carol Service in St. Patrick's Church, Mon 16th Envelopes available at the back of the Church, Parish Office and sacristy.

**Weekend Mass Intentions**

**St. Patrick's Church**

**Sat: 6.30pm:** Bill Lee, Phyllis & Anne Greene, Greene, Lee & Conway family, Nancy & Maurice Murray, Dermot Stack (1st anniv).

**Sun: 8.30am:** Gerry & Sheila Ryan, Monica O'Neill, Monica Kelly

**9.30am:** Patr & Teresa McNamara

**11am:** Rose & Luke Fitzgerald, Lil & Dan Logan

**12.30pm:** Fred Price, Charles Callis, Kathleen & Jim Rellis

**7pm:** James, Bridget & Helen Doyle, Ellen Kelly, Philip Wright.

**CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS**

There is a special day set aside here in St. Patrick's and St. Brigid's, Celbridge and Straffan, during which you are invited to come and celebrate the beautiful and much undervalued Sacrament of Reconciliation, to go to confession.

**That day is Saturday December 21st.**

Please note this is the last day for Confessions before Christmas.

On Saturday December 21st Confession will be available in:

**St. Brigid's, Straffan** from 9. 30 - 10. 30 am

**St. Patrick's Celbridge** from 10. 30 am - 9 pm

**Please Support our Weekly Parish Lotto**

The profit from our Lotto goes to developing our Parish.

The prize fund is now at €3450

The lotto envelopes can be placed in the safe at the back of the Church in St. Patricks & St. Brigid's & the collection bags at the Masses.

You pick four numbers between 1 - 30. One line just €2, 3 lines €5.

This week numbers were: 1st draw: 11,14,22,23 2nd draw: 29,10,30, 4 3 consolation prize winners: Liam White, Pat Molloy, M. Ellis

Prizes can be collected in the Sacristy during weekend Mass times. Prizes have to be collected within 30 days of the draw.

Our next draw will take place on Monday afternoon.

Envelopes must be submitted before 10.30am on Mondays



**Weekday Mass Intentions St. Brigid's Church**

**Mon 16th 9.15am:** Peter Buckley & special intention for sister Laura.

**Tue 17th 9.15am:** Kathleen & Denis Donoghue

**Planned Giving**-amount was €1057.42.

Thanks to all who contributed through the standing orders and the Planned Giving.

Thanks also to the collectors and counters.

**LEGION OF MARY**

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation in Mary's and the Church's work. The unit of the Legion of Mary is called a Praesidium, which holds a weekly meeting, where prayer is intermingled with reports and discussion. Persons who wish to join the Legion must apply for membership in a Praesidium.

The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, both in their homes and in hospitals and through collaboration in every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by the parish. Every legionary is required to carry out a weekly apostolic work in the spirit of faith and in the union with Mary.

**A DAY FOR LIFE AND FAITH IN IRELAND -JANUARY 1ST SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD**

To register your church, and to print off the Prayer Programme: visit: [www.coastalrosaryireland.ie](http://www.coastalrosaryireland.ie) Or call/text 0872786552.

1 in 10 Rosary Crusade for Ireland.

Will you help Our Lady to transform Ireland by praying the Rosary or one decade every day, if so, please sign the 1 in 10 Rosary pledge at the back of the Church after Mass.

**CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE**

The schedule for the Mass times and other services is available on the table at the back of the Church

**Christmas Dues** envelopes available at the back of the Church and can be placed in the baskets at Mass time or dropped into the Sacristy.

Thank you for your support.