

## RONCALLI RANT 14

Attend a tea making ceremony on Mount Koyasan in Japan, address Leinster House, appear in Fair City, travel Route 66.....and so on. You may have seen the movie, The Bucket List? Perhaps not. Whether you have or you haven't, no doubt you will be familiar with the idea of things to do before you die. You know how it goes, 'if God forbid you found out you had a year to live, what five or ten things would you feel you would have to do?' Certainly with such news things are put into perspective.

Advent can be a bit like that, but not in a morbid sense. In fact there is nothing morbid about Advent, but it tends to put things in perspective. What exactly does this mean?

Well if you notice the Advent readings they speak about getting ready, about staying awake, about being alert. The theme of waiting, of preparation is very prevalent in this beautiful season. It is so important that we do not waste Advent. In this sense our Advent waiting is not a twiddle the thumbs waiting, a bored, how shall I put in the time waiting. No rather one of the great and beautiful things about Advent is that the waiting is an active, joyful, busy period of getting ready.

However for us, who are trying to be faithful followers of Jesus of Nazareth, it is good to name what exactly we are waiting for, what's all this preparation about? Christmas? Yes of course.

Are you looking forward to Christmas? I certainly am! I absolutely love Christmas. Now when I say that I appreciate that it can be a sad and lonely time of year and yes I certainly miss my loved ones who have gone before me. I especially miss my Dad, gone such a long time now and so early, much too soon. Gone at sixty after a battle with stomach cancer. Most of all I miss Bridie. My ma! Gone only a few years. What a woman! What laughs we had...a few fights...very few....and almost none of them serious. Yea I miss Bridie and especially at Christmas. Yet I still love Christmas? I sure do. Perhaps more than ever. Bridie loved Christmas. Bridie would want me to keep loving Christmas.

I look forward to the carol service, to Christmas Confession, to turkey, ham and especially mince pies! Wouldn't it be great if there was snow? I can't wait for the children's Masses. Christmas cards are good.

Sometimes I worry that this might be the year that Santa doesn't come to me and then I smile and say to myself well this is my fifty eighth Christmas and he hasn't let me down yet. Santa is cool.

Yea Santa is cool and Jesus is King! So my friends happy Advent. May it be our best yet. Get busy and get ready for the special day. The birth day. The birthday of Jesus. And when you are ready sit down and just wait. Wait with a big smile and an open heart and wait on the little baby we know as Wonder Counsellor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace!  
Fraternally, JoeMcD

### CLOSER ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

As a way of preparing for the beautiful feast of Christmas we are having a special Advent Retreat Day

CLOSER ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS OF NAZARETH led by Fr Joe McDonald  
10 am - 4 pm on Saturday December 14th. Venue the Abbey Centre, Clane Road, Celbridge. Donation optional **No places available.**

### Weekend Mass Intentions

#### St. Brigid's Church

**Sat 6pm:** Alec Sweeney, Monaghan & Doyle families.

**Sun 11am:** Peg Doran

#### St. Patrick's Church

**Sat: 6.30pm:** Christy Sherry, Angela & John Higgins

**Sun: 8.30am:** Mrs Chris Donovan, Fred & Mary Griffin

**9.30am:** Fred Price, Christeen McCann

**11am:** Paul, Billy, Janie, & Tommy Burke, Michael & Mary Dunne

**12.30pm:** Philip Wright, Bernard Collins, Michael Murray

**7pm:** Brian Kinsella, Columb McBride, Mary Brennan

**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 (12 Masses).  
The card cost €5 each

### St. Joseph Young Priest Society meeting this

Wednesday at 7.30pm in Sacristy.

New members for 2020 meeting welcome

### 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** between 10am - 12pm Monday / Tuesday / Wednesday this week. Anyone who is willing to distribute boxes no matter how many, would be very welcome indeed.

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

**Mon 9th 10am:** Frank Keane, Mary Clasby, Susan Melady, James & Susan Teague

**Tues 10th 10am:** Margaret Teague, Tom, Peg & Dan Lenihan, John Doyle

**Wed 11th 10am:** Ita, Donal & Jeremiah O' Dwyer, Special intention, James Kavanagh

**Thur 12th 10am:** Paddy Murphy, John & Kathleen Murphy, Elizabeth Doherty James & Eileen Kavanagh,

**Fri 13th 10am:** Fred Price, Jackie Doyle, Margaret & Maurice Barrett, John Walsh

**Sat 14th 10am:** Noel Galvin

### THE UNCONQUERED AIR AND OTHER POEMS (1912) BY FLORENCE EARLE COATES

HE stood alone, despairing and forsaken:  
Alone he stood, in desolation bare;  
From him avenging powers e'en hope had taken:  
He looked,—and thou wast there!

Why hadst thou come? Not profit, no: nor pleasure,  
Nor any faint desire of selfish gain,  
Had moved thee, giving of thy heart's pure treasure,  
To share a culprit's pain.

In that drear place, as thou hadst lonely waited  
To greet with noble friendship one who came  
Handcuffed from prison, pointed at, and hated,  
Bowed low in mortal shame,

No thought hadst thou of any special merit,  
So simple, natural, seemed that action fine  
Which kept alive, in a despairing spirit,  
The spark of the divine,

And taught a dying soul that love is deathless,  
Even as when its holiest accents fell  
Upon a woman's heart who listened, breathless,  
By a Samaritan well.

### 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

### Mother's Prayers Group.

The next meeting of the parish mother's prayer group takes place on Tuesday 10th December at 8pm in St Brigid's Church, Straffan. Mothers of all ages are very welcome. We will pray for our children, the children of the parish and children world-wide. We hope to see you!

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

**Thur 12th 9.15am:** Gerry Sweeney & family intentions

**Planned Giving**-amount was €1972.15.  
Thanks to all who contributed through the standing orders and the Planned Giving.  
Thanks also to the collectors and counters.

**PLANNED GIVING BOXES 2020 AVAILABLE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE all next week.**

### TOMORROW, MONDAY DECEMBER 9TH HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Tomorrow is 9th December and this year is a Holy Day of Obligation on which we celebrate The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Masses for the Holy Day are as follows: **St. Patrick's**, Vigil Mass this evening, Sunday, at 7 pm and tomorrow, Monday at 10 am and 7 pm in St. Patrick's.

**In St. Brigid's**, Straffan Masses for the Holy Day is the Vigil, this evening Sunday at 6 pm and tomorrow Monday at 10 am.

### CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

St. Brigid's, Straffan, Carol Service Sunday Dec 15th & 5 pm.

St. Patrick's, Celbridge, Carol Service Monday December 16th at 7. 30 pm

### Please Support our Weekly Parish Lotto

The profit from our Lotto goes to developing our Parish.

The prize fund is now at €3400

The lotto envelopes can be placed in the safe at the back of the Church in St. Patrick's & 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: 9,14,18,27 2nd draw: 2,3,13, 15  
3 consolation prize winners: Anne O'Sullivan, Niall Molloy, Michael Coleman

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 Mon afternoon. Envelopes must be submitted before 10.30am on Mondays



**The annual SVP Christmas Appeal** will replace the Share Collection this weekend (7th & 8th Dec). Many people in our community are less fortunate than some. No money for food – no money for heat - no money for bills. Peace, joy, family and celebration are replaced with worry, stress and fear of disappointment. Please help your local St Vincent de Paul to assist in making Christmas special by giving generously to our 'in Church' collection. All proceeds will go to those who need it.

### 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.