

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 28<sup>th</sup> November

Advent calls on us, as we await the birth of Jesus to be a light for all who hunger for justice, peace and truth.

### MASSES

Vigil Saturdays 6p.m. Sundays: 9a.m. & 11a.m.  
Weekdays: Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.

### CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30am and 5.30pm

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### Feast days of the week (November/December)

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> St. Andrew**, from Bethsaida was a disciple of John the Baptist when he was called by Jesus. He in turn brought his brother Peter to Jesus. He is said to have suffered martyrdom by crucifixion on this date, but the tradition of an X-shaped cross comes much later. He is patron saint of Scotland, Russia and fishermen.

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

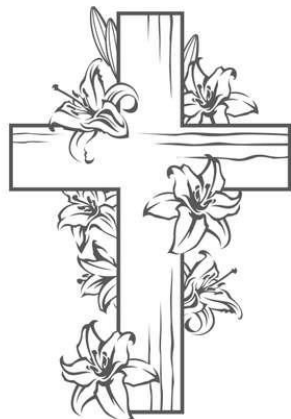
**St. Francis Xavier, 1506-52**, one of the first seven Jesuits, was sent to India by St. Ignatius. He converted many in Goa and later in Japan. He died as he attempted to enter China. A patron of the missions.

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**St. John Damascene, 675-749**, was a Syrian Christian theologian. He became a priest in the monastery of St. Sabas near Jerusalem and was a leading figure in the defence of icons in the iconoclastic controversy.

### Deaths.

We remember in our prayers;  
Ross Anderson, Corvalley Court and  
John Walsh, Carrigmore Park,  
May they rest in peace.  
Our sympathies to their families.



## East Cork Choral Society presents G.F. Handel's MESSIAH

This Sunday November 28<sup>th</sup> at 8.00p.m.  
The Church of the Ascension, Gurrabraher,  
Cork. Admission €20

Proceeds will be divided between the Gurrabraher Church Roof Appeal and St. Joseph's Church, Mayfield.  
Tickets available from both churches, Pro Musica, Oliver Plunkett St., and from East Cork Choral Society Members.



### 9 Day Rosary Novena for Ireland

We are inviting you to join in a 9 Day Rosary Novena beginning Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November and ending on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. People all over Ireland will pray the Rosary together each evening at 9pm. On the final evening at 9p.m. on

Radio Maria the Primate of All Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin will lead the final Rosary live.

If you are gathering to pray in groups we encourage you to gather safely adhering to local Covid 19 regulations.

Last week (14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November) the clergy of the diocese of Cork and Ross met together in Killarney for a "priests' gathering". From Sunday evening till Thursday afternoon, the days were packed full of discussion, prayer, and catching-up.

It was good to gather like this - the first time in seventeen years. The days marked the beginning of a much longer process which will see greater forms of collaboration emerge in sustaining vibrant parish communities. Therefore no major decisions were made: Killarney was a first step on a longer road.

Part of the process was to describe what our predictions for the future of the Church were; followed by what we think is possible; and lastly what our personal desires are: what kind of Church do I stand for?

As we enter into this season of Advent, there is an opportunity for each one of us to ask ourselves what kind of Church do I imagine in the future; what kind of Church would I like to see; and what role can I play in this? One thing's for sure: we're in this together.

The blessings of Advent be with you during this time of joyful expectation.

Ronan

**Prayer to Saint Joseph**

**God, heavenly Father, grant us the fortitude of Christ your Son to face the Covid-19 crisis with thrust, patience and compassion.**

**Give us the grace of the Holy Spirit to free us from fear and look forward together to the future with healing and hope.**

**Through the intercession of Saint Joseph, the guardian of Jesus, and Mary his mother and mother of the Church,**

**May we be guided through this time of peril?**

**Preserve us in peace; heal the sick; protect the vulnerable;**

**Keep safe our health care workers and all who serve society,**

**At home and abroad.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.....*Amen***

***The Elephant Rope (Belief)***

**A man was walking through an elephant camp, and he spotted that the elephants weren't being kept in cages or held by the use of chains. All that was restraining them from escaping the camp, was a small piece of rope tied to one of their legs.**

**As the man gazed upon the elephants, he was completely confused as to why the elephants didn't just use their strength to break the rope and escape the camp. They could easily have done so, but instead, they didn't try to at all. Curious and wanting to know the answer, he asked a trainer nearby why the elephants were just standing there and never tried to escape.**

**The trainer replied; "when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free." The only reason that the elephants weren't breaking free and escaping from the camp was that over time they adopted the belief that it just wasn't possible.**

***Moral of the story:***

**No matter how much the world tries to hold you back, always continue with the belief that what you want to achieve is possible.**

**Believing you can become successful is the most important step in actually achieving it.**

**"Moses," the bird replied. "Who the heck would name a bird Moses?" the man laughed. "I dunno," Moses answered, "I guess the same kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus."**

**A burglar breaks into a house. He starts shining his light around looking for valuables. Some nice things catch his eye, and as he reaches for them, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." Startled, the burglar looks for the speaker. Seeing no one, he keeps putting things in his bag, again, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." This time, he sees a parrot. "Who are you?" the burglar asks.**







