

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE) 12th December

The coming of Jesus is joyful news for all his people.

Our Hope at Christmas is to be bearers of his joy.

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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Happy 3rd week of Advent!



Feast days of the week

Monday 12th St. Lucy. Born to rich and noble parents in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 283 she lost her Roman father in infancy, desiring to remain consecrated to Christ alone, was martyred in 304 in Sicily during the persecution of Diocletian. She is the patron saint of the blind.

St. Finnian, studied in Idrone (Co. Carlow) and later in Wales and on his return he settled in Clonard, Co. Meath, around 520, where he established a famous school. His pupils, among whom were Canice, Colum Cille and Brendan, were the initiators of the great monastic expansion in Ireland. He died in 549 and is remembered as the tutor of the saints of Ireland.

Tuesday 13th St. John of the Cross, 1542-1591, a Carmelite who, despite opposition and imprisonment, worked for spreading the reform of the Carmelites. He was a man of prayer, an outstanding poet, and a spiritual writer declared doctor of the Church.

Saturday 18th, St. Flannan, lived in the seventh century and was the son of an Irish chieftain, Turlough. He entered Molua's monastery at Killaloe and became abbot there. He is remembered as a great preacher. He made a pilgrimage to Rome where Pope John 1V consecrated him as the first Bishop of Killaloe, of which he is the Patron Saint.



Deaths.

We remember in our prayers Maura O'Connor, Ballinlough Road, Imelda Hurley, Beechwood Park, Eileen Dullea, Douglas Hall Lawn, Frances O'Riordan, Browningstown Park, and Marnie Lawton, late of Ardfallen Grove, may they rest in peace, our sympathies to their families, friends and neighbours.

Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western churches. The Latin Gaudete is translated as Rejoice. The lesson we can take from this is that Christians to be the most hopeful and cheerful of people, bringing both joy and peace into their homes and families.



We light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.



CHRISTMAS

Join us to celebrate Holy Mass this Advent Season on this Sunday December 12th at the Cathedral of Saint Mary and Saint Anne at 3.00p.m.

Sacrament of Penance for Christmas

Confessions will be available on Saturday 18th December at 10.30a.m. and at 5.30p.m. Also Monday 20th until Friday 24th at 10.30a.m. each morning.

CHRISTMAS MASSES.

Christmas Eve Friday 24th
10.00a.m. Morning Mass.
Eve: 6.00p.m. and 8.00p.m.

Christmas Day Saturday 25th
Masses: 8.00a.m. 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.

Sunday 26th Feast of the Holy Family (St. Stephens Day)
Mass 9.00a.m.



Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be ticketed in order to limit numbers (To a maximum of 150 people) and to maintain appropriate social distance.

Tickets will be available from next weekend 18th/19th December onwards.



2020

Mass Attendance Guidance.

Thank you for observing the very important guidance and safety measures which were introduced in our church for the safety of all.

In the current climate, it is more important than ever to maintain the Health and Safety Guidelines in keeping with Government and Public Health recommendations.

Let light Shine out of darkness.

Once upon a time there was a man who looked upon Christmas as a lot of humbug. He wasn't a Scrooge. He was a kind and decent person, generous to his family, upright in all his dealings with other people, but he didn't believe all that stuff about Incarnation, and he was too honest to pretend that he did. "I am truly sorry to distress you," he told his wife, who was a faithful churchgoer. "But I simply cannot understand this claim that God becomes man, it does not make any sense to me."

On Christmas Eve his wife and children went to midnight Mass. He declined, "I'd feel like a hypocrite, I'd rather stay at home." Shortly after his family drove away snow began to fall. He went to the window and watched the flurries getting heavier. He went back to his chair beside the fire and read his paper. A few minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. He thought that someone must be throwing snowballs at his living room window. When he went to investigate, he found a flock of birds caught in the storm and in search for shelter. "I can't let these poor creatures lie there and freeze, but how can I help." The he remembered the barn where the children's pony was stabled. It would provide a warm shelter.

He put on his coat and boots and went to the barn, turned on a light, but the birds didn't come in. He thought food would lure them in. He went back to the house for bread, to his dismay, the birds ignored the crumbs. He tried shoing them by walking around and waving his arms. They scattered in every direction, except the warm lighted barn.

"They find me a strange and terrifying creature," he said to himself, " and I can't seem to think of any way to let them know they can trust me. If only I could be a bird myself for a few minutes, perhaps I could lead them to safety."

Just at that moment the church bells began to ring. He stood silent for a while, listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. Then he sank to his knees in the snow. "Now I do understand," he whispered. "Now I see why You had to do it."

God is with us, every one of us, full of empathy and kind compassion. Let God's light shine brightly this Christmas.



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