

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE)

11th December

The coming of Christ is a message of joy: a joy founded and rooted in God's love and care for his people, and his promise of an eternal companionship.

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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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.

Advent is a reminder of the importance of growth.

Each of us stands at the fork of a road in life. This season of Advent coming into Christmas is no exception. You can travel the Advent Road or as some people call it, 'the road less travelled.' Or you can travel the main road to Christmas, the dual carriageway of busyness, rushing here and there, deadlines, parties, running out of time, to the point of exhaustion. The Advent Road invites us to take a closer look at our lives, to see what areas we could change. It also encourages us to look at areas where growth could take place. The Advent Road is making time to prioritise what is essential and important in our lives. All main roads are attractive and important but the Advent Road, even if it is less travelled, gives us many options.



SVP Christmas Collection this weekend
10th / 11th December.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS

Will take place in our church on Monday 19th December at 7p.m.

Feast days during the week

Monday 12th 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 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. 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 patron saint of the blind.

Wednesday 14th 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, and outstanding poet, and a spiritual writer declared doctor of the Church.



We are delighted to welcome the Frankfield Gospel Choir to sing the 11a.m. Mass today Sunday 11th December.

St. Pio Prayer Group of Our Lady of the Rosary, Ardfoyle Convent, Blackrock will take place on Wednesday December 14th. Rosary at 7.45pm followed by Mass at 8pm.
ALL WELCOME.

BALLINLOUGH TEXT ALERT

We have a successful Text Alert system in operation for the last nine years. It is operated by Muintir na Tíre in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and Ballinlough Community Association.

Anyone wishing to join can leave their contact details in our letterbox at the Community Centre. Cost is €10 annually.



May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen*

EDEL QUINN Prayer Group

We meet every Thursday in the Pastoral Centre at 8pm. All welcome.



Deaths

We remember in our prayers May Lucey, Ballinlough and Michael Ellard, Ballinlough may they rest in peace.

Our prayerful condolences to their families, relatives, friends, and neighbours.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

