



BOOTERSTOWN PARISH

WEEKLY NEWS

18th December 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

In Brief

Weekday Mass: There will not be a 7.30am weekday Mass from Monday 19th December until Friday 6th January inclusive.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Booterstown – Members of the society extend their sincere thanks to all of those who contributed to their indoor church collection last weekend. It is still possible to make a contribution if you did not have an opportunity to do so. Prepaid Envelopes, addressed to the SVP are available from the church porch.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul If you are experiencing difficulties with your living expenses, food and energy costs or medical expenses, especially at this time of year, you can make a fully confidential approach to the Society at their Head Office 01 – 855 0022 and a member will respond to you.

Christmas Mass / New Year timetables: additional copies of these are available in the church porch. Please note that the weekday Mass times on Monday 26th December and Monday 2nd January (both public holidays) will be at 11am. On all other weekdays there will be one Mass only at 10 o'clock.

Ministers of Holy Communion ... please collect your Christmas roster from the Sacristy. We request that you will kindly assist also with stewarding at the Christmas Mass for which you have been rostered.



THE DEEP END

While Luke focuses on the birth of Jesus from Mary's point of view, Matthew's Gospel tells the story from Joseph's. Joseph must have been extremely confused when he learned of Mary's pregnancy. He plans to quietly 'dismiss' her so as not to put her in danger. Mary's options were bleak without Joseph; her fate is very much in his hands. He is immediately obedient and says yes to his call. Joseph welcomes Mary and gives this child the name he is instructed: Jesus.

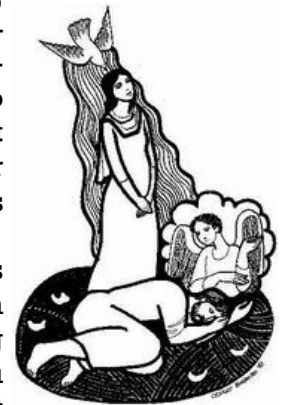
We hear very little about Joseph in the Gospels and he is sometimes a forgotten figure in the Jesus story, yet his decision to follow God's call is hugely important as he fulfils his promise to protect Mary from danger. Joseph's 'yes' to God sets him on a dangerous path. He must protect his family and this will mean later leaving their homeland, becoming refugees fleeing the terror of Herod.

Each time God speaks to Joseph, it is through his dreams. The Word of God which comes to Joseph gives him a new meaning and a new mission in life. Today, can you reflect on how God speaks to you? In what ways do you hear God's word? And when you hear God's word, what is your response? When you have said 'yes', where has that led you?

Today we can pray for those who are faced with tough decisions and who must chose the more difficult path. It requires strength and bravery.

Jane Mellet

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LITURGY NOTES

Eucharistic Adoration important note: Eucharistic Adoration will conclude on Tuesday 20th December and will resume on Tuesday 10th January 2017. The Saturday evening Adoration concludes this weekend and will resume on Saturday 7th January. Many thanks to all those who have committed to periods of Eucharistic Adoration during the past year and to those who have visited also. Our Lord loves you to keep him company.

Weekly Prayer of the Faithful and rosters for Ministers of the Word and Holy Communion are now available on the parish website. Click on Parish Groups, then click on Liturgy and click on the appropriate link.

Advent Wreath: We light the fourth (purple) candle today which symbolises PEACE and we relight the candles of Love, Hope and Joy. Christ is the Prince of Peace, coming to reconcile us with God. Christ helps us to see that Peace is possible. The **Jesse Tree** symbols which will be added to the tree today are **Ruth and Boaz**, (grain tree) **Jesse**, (staff) and **Isaiah** (scroll).

Rest in Peace

We pray for those who have died. We especially pray for Michael Horan, late of Trimleston Gardens who died on 29th November and whose funeral took place quietly. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, Joan and family, in particular his daughter, Karen, a former member of the parish folk group.

Month's Mind: Frank Johnson – Thursday, 22nd December at 10am.

Anniversary Masses during the coming week: Tuesday 20th December at 10am – Mary Spain; Friday 23rd December at 10am – Declan Burke (1st A); Saturday 24th December at 10am - Jim O'Dwyer, remembering his mother, Margaret; also Gretta Owens (3rd A).

Crosscare Food Appeal

Many thanks to all those who have so generously responded to Crosscare's Annual Food Appeal. Food donations were delivered to Crosscare last Tuesday.

Book Launch

Our versatile Sacristan, **Paul Lyng**, recently launched his new book **'From the Sea to the Mountains'**. Copies of this book are available from the Sacristy after Mass – just call into the Sacristy and Paul will personally sign a copy for you. Cost of book €20.

St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society

The next meeting of the Society will take place on **Thursday, 22nd December at 10.30am** in the Parish Centre, Room 3. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Faith for Life

A 'Faith for Life' Course will take place in Benildus Pastoral Centre, Kilmacud Road Upper over 4 week-ends (Saturdays 9.30am – 5pm and Sundays 9.30am – 1.30pm) on 28th /29th January, 11th/12th March, 8th/9th April and 27th/28th May. Cost is €200. The course is arranged by the Diocesan Office for Evangelisation & Ecumenism. Application Forms are available from the church porch.

Stewards and Ushers for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

If you can assist with the stewarding at Masses on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, we would be very grateful if you can attend a short meeting in the Parish Centre today, Sunday 18th December at 11.15am. Stewarding is a very important ministry at Christmas Masses to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all those attending the church. If you can assist with stewarding, you will be very welcome to attend the planning meeting. If you are unable to attend, but would like to assist with stewarding, kindly leave your name and contact number with the Parish Secretary. **Important Notice:** We request Ministers of the Eucharist to assist, if possible, with stewarding at the Christmas Mass for which they are rostered. Thank you.

Annual Service of Reconciliation

Wednesday 21st December

The Annual Service of Reconciliation **-Wednesday 21st December at 7.30pm-** offers a quiet, reflective service with scripture readings, a helpful Examination of Conscience, a Homily, background music and individual confession with visiting priests. There will be no queuing at the service. We will remain seated, approaching a Confession point, as it becomes available. We will be led in prayer and song while awaiting our turn. **Note:** (If you cannot attend on 21st December, alternative services are available in our Pastoral Area – St. John the Baptist Church, Blackrock – Monday 19th December and Church of the Guardian Angels, Newtownpark Avenue on Tuesday 20th De-

Packing, Labelling and Delivery of Christmas Cards

A sincere Thank You to all those who assisted with this marathon task. I could not have managed without your kind and cheerful help! A small number of areas remain outstanding for delivery. Please call to the Parish Office if you can assist with delivery, -Therese.

Prayer for Syria

Lord, our God, Father of all humanity, change the hearts of all peoples and their rulers, so that peace may be established among the nations on the foundation of love and righteousness. May the Spirit of Peace descend upon the people of Syria and upon our world until all conflicts cease and peace reigns on earth. Amen (*Caritas*)

Priests of the Parish		Confessions
Fr. Cormac McIlraith, Parish Administrator 52 Booterstown Ave. Tel: 01 288 2162		After 10 am Mass & 6 pm Vigil Mass every Sat After 10 am Mass on Thursday before the First Friday
Mgr. Seamus Conway, Pastor Emeritus Booterstown Ave. Tel. 01 288 2889		Other times by arrangement with parish clergy Special arrangements are available for those with a disability. Please contact clergy
Email & Website		Baptisms
info@booterstownparish.ie		Third Saturday of the month @ 12 noon
www.booterstownparish.ie		Marriages
Mass Times		By arrangement, 3 months notice required
Saturday: 10am & Vigil Mass at 6pm		
Sunday: 9am, 10.30am and 12 noon		Parish Secretary: Thérèse O'Donoghue
Mon - Fri: 7.30 & 10 am		Parish Office: Tel & Fax 01 283 1593
Rosary		(Mon - Fri: 9-10 am & 10.30-1.30 pm)
Mon – Sat at 9.40 am		Sacristan: Paul Lyng 288 8586
Eucharistic Adoration		St. Marys Boys School 288 6830
Tuesday after 10 am Mass – 10 pm		Our Lady of Mercy Girls School 288 4223