



BOOTERSTOWN PARISH

WEEKLY NEWS

23rd December 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

In Brief

Booterstown Parish Website is regularly updated. Visit www.booterstownparish.ie for comments, news and events.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Annual Appeal: Members of our local conference extend their sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to their recent indoor church collection in response to the Annual Appeal. It is still possible to make a contribution to SVP if you did not have an opportunity to do so. SVP Donation envelopes are available in 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 the 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.

The Parish Office will be closed from Monday 24th December to Tuesday 1st January inclusive.

Weekday Masses: Please note Mass on St. Stephen's Day will be celebrated at 11am and at 10am for the remainder of the week. Weekday Mass at 7.30am will resume on 7th January.

Stewarding at Christmas Masses

Please leave your name with the Assistant Sacristan, Tom Colgan, after Mass today if you can assist with stewarding. Please indicate your preferred Mass. Our volunteer stewards provide a great service guiding visitors and parishioners to their seats and ensuring the Health & Safety of all who are in attendance. It will be appreciated if volunteers can check in at the Sacristy a half-hour before your respective Mass and obtain a stewarding armband from Paul or Tom. If you can assist with putting out additional chairs on Christmas Eve, please come to the church at 4pm.

Reaching out

Have you ever wondered why Mary travelled to visit Elizabeth? Caught up in her wonderment at being pregnant and the news that her cousin is also expecting, Mary hurries off as quickly as she can. Perhaps the journey gives her time to reflect on everything that is happening. The precious moment when Elizabeth greets her is a lovely glimpse of the close friendship between the two women.

We know that Elizabeth is advanced in years, and that she and her husband Zechariah had not expected to ever have a child. After this encounter, we are told that Mary stays on with Elizabeth for three months; as a younger woman, it is fair to assume that she is there to help and support her cousin.

Pope Francis has described the visit as a lesson in service and joy, as well as demonstrating great courage.

'Being of service and reaching out to others both require going out from themselves: going out to serve and meet others, to embrace another person. Through Mary's service towards others, through that encounter, our Lord's promise is renewed and makes it happen now, just as it did then.'

With just two days to go until Christmas it is a busy time. But it is also a time that offers many opportunities to reach out, whether it is to build bridges with family members, offer our time to someone who is lonely, or support a friend or neighbour who finds this time of year difficult.

Triona Doherty
Athlone, Co Roscommon

Email trionad@gmail.com



LITURGY NOTES

Advent Wreath: the Liturgical Season of Advent continues and today is the fourth **Sunday in Advent**. You will notice that the celebrant's vestments, the Lectionary cover and the church banners are purple covered. We light the last purple candle today which symbolizes PEACE and we relight the candles of Love, Hope and Joy. Christ is the Prince of Peace who helps us to realize that Peace is possible. The **Jesse Tree** symbols which are added today are: Ruth and Boaz (grain tree), **Jesse** (staff) and Isaiah (scroll).

Eucharistic Adoration: the co-ordinators of Eucharistic Adoration wish all their volunteers, who are inspired by the Adoration of the Shepherds and the Magi, a happy and peaceful Christmas. Eucharistic Adoration will resume on Tuesday 8th January.

Our Memory Tree: already has many names remembering our loved ones, at home and abroad, living and deceased. Nametags and pens, kindly provided by the Altar Society, are on the small table to the side of the Altar if you wish to record the name(s) of loved ones and hang them on the tree.

Anniversaries next week

Fri 28th Dec. 10am: John King, (2nd).
 Saturday 29th: Vigil: Des McHale.
 Sun. 30th 10.30am: Catherine Cotter; 12pm: The Knowles and Flood Families; Eithne Carroll.

Christmas Dues

Many thanks to all those who have sent in Christmas Dues or contributions to Parish Funds. These will be acknowledged in the New Year.

Delivery of Christmas Cards

I extend my sincere gratitude to all those who so kindly offered to assist in the delivery of the parish Christmas cards and the timetable. I greatly appreciate your assistance with this marathon task. *Therese*



Advent Reflection

O Lord, in this season of Advent, open my eyes to see where you would lead me. Awaken my ears that I would hear your voice guiding me. Inspire my mind that I may comprehend your love for me. Soften my heart that I would offer grace to those I meet. Watch my feet that I would tread upon your kingdom paths. Guard my heart from selfishness that I would give freely. Inspire my words that I may speak of hope and healing. O Lord, I follow you.



The New Pastoral Centre

More furniture has been delivered to the Pastoral Centre during the past week, including chairs for the Café and fitted cabinets for the ground floors. Enquiries are very positive with a number of confirmed bookings for January including Ballet, Lego Club, Pilates, Stress-busting, Yoga and a number of Residents Associations meetings. We will resume our Sunday morning hospitality after 10.30am Mass on Sunday, 13th January, the Feast of Our Lord's Baptism. You are invited to call in to the Pastoral Centre have a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit. This will allow you a good opportunity to look around the centre and to meet fellow parishioners and friends.

The new Pastoral Centre café is open for business! Initially, the opening hours are from 10am-Noon from Tuesday-Thursday inclusive until more volunteers are available and have their Garda Vetting clearance and have attended the mandatory Information Session on Safeguarding. Commencing **8th January**, there will be a **€2 charge** for tea/coffee (including a re-fill and a biscuit!). We hope you will understand that we need to make this charge as there is outlay to buy tea/coffee/sugar/biscuits and the Pastoral Centre needs to be self-financing.

Boosterstown Pastoral Centre Fundraising Committee invites you to buy a Christmas Gift with a difference: This weekend, raffle tickets will again be on sale at the Reception Desk in the new Pastoral Centre for a **Car Draw!** The car is a **2019 Toyota C-HR Hybrid Sport!** The cost of a ticket is €100 and it will make a most original gift!- A Godchild, an unusual birthday present, a special anniversary....there is a very good chance of winning in this small, exclusive raffle!.....and you have an opportunity to support your parish! The Raffle will take place on Sunday, 3rd March at the formal opening ceremony.

World Meeting of Families - a behind the scenes documentary

Over an eight month period, World Meeting of Families opened its doors to Moondance Productions who filmed some of the team for a fly-on-the-wall style documentary. Over the course of the programme, you will see, through the eyes of the clergy, the event managers, volunteers and Gardaí, part of the planning, obstacles and emotions associated with the momentous Papal visit to Ireland. The documentary only reflects a small percentage of the work done. We are certain that it will remind you of the visit of Pope Francis in Ireland and we hope you enjoy it. The screening will be on RTE 1 on Tuesday, 31st December at 6.30pm.

<i>Priests of the Parish</i>		<i>Confessions</i>
Rev. Gerry Kane	P.P.	After 10 am Mass & 6 pm Vigil Mass every Sat
52 Booterstown Ave.	Tel: 086 822 0956	After 10 am Mass on Thursday before the First Friday
Mgr. Seamus Conway,	Pastor Emeritus	Other times by arrangement with parish clergy
Booterstown Ave.	Tel. 01 288 2889	Special arrangements are available for those with a disability. Please contact clergy
<i>Email & Website</i>		<i>Baptisms</i>
info@boosterstownparish.ie		Third Saturday of the month @ 12 noon
www.boosterstownparish.ie		<i>Marriages</i>
<i>Mass Times</i>		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
<i>Rosary</i>		(Mon - Fri: 9-10 am & 10.30-1.30 pm)
Mon – Sat at 9.40 am		Sacristan: Paul Lyng 288 8586
<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>		St. Marys Boys School 288 6830
Tuesday after 10 am Mass – 10 pm		Our Lady of Mercy Girls School 288 4223