

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit.
 Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
 You bring pardon and peace to the sinner.
 Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*
 You bring light to those in darkness:
 Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
 May almighty God have mercy on us.....*Amen.*

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Isaiah 11: 1 - 10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
 A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.



The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps. 71:1-2,7-8,12-13,17*

R. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,

to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. *[R]*

2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. *[R]*

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. *[R]*

4. May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. *[R]*

SECOND READING *Romans 15:4-9*

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans
 Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 3: 1 - 12*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
 In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'. This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and, thrown on the fire



focus on sunday



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 4th December 2016

The message of repentance during this season of Advent is a call to each one of us to look deeply into our lives, to renew and deepen our relationship with God.



I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



John highlights two groups against true religion: Pharisees and Sadducees. Since these were also hostile to each other, he presents the way of Jesus as totally new, in contrast to the high religious rituals of the day of all various groups.

John was a man who knew opposition to himself, and would eventually be martyred. There can be opposition to the way of Jesus in small and big ways. Disaffection with the church and a creeping sort of unbelief is a reality of our times. When we find ourselves in a mood like this, and it can hit all of us, we may find some ways that bring us into contact with God, the Divine, and Jesus in our lives.

We can notice in our desire for God that, at times, he is missing in our lives. This is a good desire. We can notice the goodness in ourselves like generosity, compassion, love and care for the poor and see all this as coming from God, maybe with and through many others. We must be grateful for what is good in our lives and give thanks for our many blessings.

We can also look back to good memories of religion and God. These are still operative. We can hope to find like-minded people with whom we can share realistic faith and practice of our faith. We can pray also for the gift of a strong faith.

This may be a grace of Advent. The call of the Baptist is to throw off what is bad and negative in our lives and welcome the 'one who is to come'.

Lord, welcome into our world which needs your message so badly!

Donal Neary SJ, Editor, Sacred Heart Messenger.

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St. Paul's Parish Ayrfield
Second Sunday
of Advent
4th December 2016



Mass Times
Saturday : 6 pm Vigil
Sundays : 10:30 am & 12 noon
Weekdays : Mon. – Fri. 10:00 am
 Mon. 7:30 pm Sat. 11:00 am

Contact: Co-Parish Priest Fr. Paddy Boyle 086 1011 415
 Co-Parish Priest Fr. Gerry Corcoran (Moderator) 01 847 9822
 Team Assistant Fr. Tom Colreavy (Retired) 01 848 4836
 Parish Office 8160984 Sacristy 8160981
 www.stpaulsparishayrfield.com Email : parishofficeayrfield@eircom.net

We remember at Mass and in our prayers those who have gone before us

Saturday 3rd 6:00 pm
Joanna Foley Anniversary
Joseph Buckley Rec. deceased
Kay Wyer 1st Anniversary

Sunday 4th 10 :30am
Gerard Redmond Anniversary
12:00 noon
Betty Hannigan 5th Anniversary

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*Your prayers are requested for*  
**Mary Murphy** recently deceased and  
**Donal Minnock** recently deceased

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Monday 5th 7 :30am
William Murphy Anniversary &
Deceased members of the Murphy Family

Thursday 8th 10 :00am
Deceased members of the Lyons Family
Kathleen Lamb &
Deceased members of the Lamb Family

Saturday 10th 11 :00am
Edward Boyle Anniversary

May they rest in peace

Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are available in the Sacristy, €5 each.

Tuesday 6th December is the 1st Tuesday. Mass and devotion to St. Pio at 10:00am

Thursday 8th December is the Feast of **The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary** and a Holy Day of Obligation.

The Vigil mass for the Feast will be at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday night and there will be 10:00am Mass on Thursday.

St Vincent De Paul
 The Annual Christmas Collection for St.Vincent De Paul will be held next weekend **10th & 11th December** at all masses.
It will replace the Share collection.

Advance Notice
 Our Christmas **Carol Service** will take place on **Wednesday the 14th December at 7:30pm** in St. Paul's Church.
 All our choirs will be taking part as will children from St. Paul's Senior School.

Service of Reconciliation will take place on Saturday 17th Dec. at 6pm mass.

Penance Service will take place in Holy Trinity Church, Donaghmende on **Tuesday 20th Dec. at 7:30pm**

Ayrfield Parish Grand Christmas Hamper Draw
 Draw takes place on Sunday 18th December in O'Tooles GAC. Tickets €5 each or a book of 5 for €20. All proceeds go to our local St. Vincent De Paul. Tickets available in the Sacristy or Parish Office.

Thought for the day: 2nd Sunday of Advent "The straight way"

'John the Baptist was a man on one mission – to be the messenger of the one he did not know. His life had a vision and a purpose, like when we are really committed to people or to causes or to the poor or to peace in the world. John was the man of desert food and desert dress;; he took time out to find what the biggest thing in life was and then kept following it, often not knowing where it would go. The human heart is complicated and we know that. We need that one who will touch our hearts with love and forgiveness and guide us himself in ways that are straight, and whose hand will guide us along straight paths when we need it.'
 (Donal Neary, S.J.)
 Jesus came among us, as the good shepherd to guide us on the straight path that lead to God. He is truly the way and the truth and the life.

Prayer: *Lord clear a way in my heart, in my mind and in my soul for your Son, the Christ-Child born of Mary in the stable in Bethlehem*

Dublin Diocesan Food Appeal
 The diocese programme to replenish the stock of the **Crosscare Food Banks** takes place this weekend, we are asking you to bring non-perishable food items to the church and place them in the boxes provided. The Food Bank gives food to services for homeless people and young people, to local community food banks and charities. Please give what you can.



Christmas Remembrance discs
 Remembering is a fundamental dimension of our Christian tradition, which we call 'the communion of saints'. We believe that our loved ones have only departed this life but are very much alive in another life. One way to remember our loved ones at Christmas is to write their names on one of the Remembrance Discs to be hung on the Christmas tree in the Church in time for the Carol Service. Christmas Remembrance Discs will be available from **Sunday 11th Dec.**



Cameron Horticultural Society
A Christmas Demonstration By Margaret Curtis.
 Venue: The Hall, St. Eithnes School, Edenmore.
Tuesday 6th December at 8:00pm (Doors open at 7:30pm)
 Admission : €10 to include light Supper. Donation to Charity



Notice to Coeliacs: *If you have been advised to abstain from Gluten, please contact the Priest before Mass so that we can try to accommodate your requirements.*