

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)*

**OPENING PRAYER**

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 35: 1 - 6.10

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*  
Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them, and sorrow and lament be ended.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 145: 7-10

**R. Come, Lord, and save us. or Alleluia!**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,

who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. [R]

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. [R]

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. [R]

**SECOND READING** James 5: 7-10

*A reading from the letter of St. James*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Matthew 11: 2-11

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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

**NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,



**focus on sunday**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE) 11th December 2016

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.

of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

*All bow for following three lines:*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

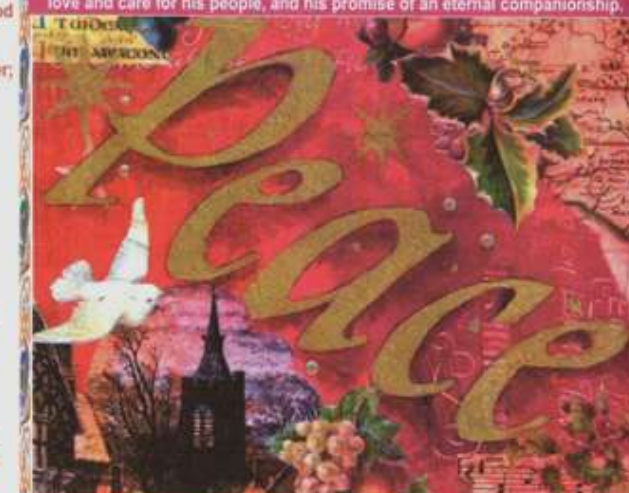
May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**

*The mystery of faith.*  
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



They were wondering about signs – the people who were expecting the Messiah, 'the one to come'. John, in prison, was having some doubts, so he sent others to find out was this man really Jesus. Jesus was never one for magic signs – all the signs of his coming among

us would be for our good and for the good of the ones who needed him. So John would know when he heard of the healings of Jesus that he was the One. The same for us today.

**A BETTER WORLD**

The signs of Jesus in the world are the signs of love, generosity, healing, peace, reconciliation and all that goes to make for a better world, in ways large and small.

Jesus also knows that we sometimes lose faith; we are blessed if we do not lose faith in him or in the church, even when we are sorely tempted. Faith is at its best when there is no other reason for belief but faith. Faith that our loved ones are with God, that he will see us through our struggles, bereavement and troubles.

The joy of Jesus, as in the first reading, is what he offered in his healing; it is what is offered to us as we prepare for the Christmas season of joy. Pope Francis (December 2013): Christian joy, like hope, is founded on God's fidelity, on the certainty that he always keeps his promises. Our faith brings a joy that lasts. May we find this and share it at this time of the year!

*Lord, be with us this time of year, cause of our joy and hope. Mary, mother of all, pray for us.*

*Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger*

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**St. Paul's Parish Ayrfield**  
**Third Sunday**  
**of Advent**  
**11<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm  
**Maria Foley** Birthday Rem.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 10:30am  
**Mary & Albert Purcell** Anniv.

12:00 noon  
**Thomas Eivers** 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**Shauna Dowdall** 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 11:00am  
**Bridie Brennan** Birthday Rem.  
**Anne Brodigan** Birthday Rem.

*May they rest in peace*

**St Vincent De Paul**  
 The Annual Christmas Collection for St. Vincent De Paul will be held this weekend **10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> December** at all masses. *It replaces the Share collection.*

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

**Meeting for the Ministers of the Word & Eucharist** will take place at **11:30am on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December** in the Pastoral Centre.

**Thought for the day: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**'Do this in memory of Me'**

John the Baptist was a great man, there is no doubt about that. He was great because he was true to himself and used all the gifts and talents God had given him to serve God and to do what was the very best for his neighbour. Each one of us is a unique gift from God though none of us is an island we need one another. We pray today that we use the gifts God has given us in the service of our neighbour.  
*Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you!*  
*Do not be afraid to dream of great things!*  
 (Pope Francis)  
**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, Teach me to know you, to love you, and to serve you.

**Carol Singing for S.V.P.**  
 You local conference of St. Vincent De Paul are carol singing on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec** in **Clarehall Shopping Center**, from **3pm – 6pm**. They are looking for singers and collectors to join them on the day.

**Ayrfield Parish Grand Christmas Hamper Draw**  
 Draw takes place on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Holy Trinity, Donaghmede** invite you to join them for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent Penance Service on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm**

**Do This In Memory**

We welcome the children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion and their families to the 12:00 noon Family Mass this Sunday. As we come closer to Christmas, the pace of things speeds up, so that often the spiritual side tends to get lost. Let us pause to make room in our hearts and minds so that, with Mary, we may say 'Yes' to Christ during the Eucharist.



**Joy Sunday**

This Sunday at 12noon Family Mass the leaders, children and parents of the Cool Side of God and Ayrfield Youth bring gifts for the less well off children and teenagers in our locality.

**St Paul's Parish Annual Carol Service**

Our Carol Service will take place on **Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> December** at **7:30pm** in St. Paul's Church. All our choirs will be taking part as will children from St. Pauls' Schools. The **4<sup>th</sup> class** children from St. Paul's Senior school will perform "**The Bossy King**" accompanied by singing from **3<sup>rd</sup> class**.



**Service of Reconciliation** will take place on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December** at **6pm** mass and there will be an opportunity for individual confessions after the mass.

St. Paul's Church Christmas Timetable			
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	6 pm		Mass & Service of Reconciliation
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Confessions		11am – 1pm
Date		Time	Choir
Christmas Eve 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Mass	5 pm	Cool Side of God & Ayrfield Youth Choir
	Mass	7 pm	Voices of Ayrfield
	Mass	9 pm	Folk Choir
Christmas Day 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Mass	10:30 am	
	Mass	12 noon	Cool Side of God & Ayrfield Youth Choir

**Ayrwaves**  
 By now you should have received your copy of the Christmas edition of Ayrwaves including our 2017 Parish Calendar. Renewed thanks to our contributors, sponsors, advertisers, proof reader and all who helped in collating and distribution of this issue. Special thanks to Freda Kane who managed to get this issue organised on a tight time schedule. There are 2,500 editions produced each edition. Spare copies are available in the church porch.

**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.*