



St. Paul's Parish Ayrfield



First Sunday of Advent – A 1st December 2019

Webstreaming : www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-paul-s-church

www.stpaulsparishayrfield.com

Email: parishofficeayrfield@eircom.net

Pastors Desk



With the arrival of the First Sunday of Advent we begin our journey through this special season of preparation before Christmas and the first Sunday of the church's liturgical New Year. At mass today, we light the first purple candle on our Advent wreath to symbolise that our journey has begun in earnest.

For many weeks already, the commercial world has been bombarding us with advertisements on television, radio and in print media trying to convince us that we need to buy their products in order to be prepared for their idea of the true celebration of Christmas.

But rather than get caught up on the commercial worlds notion of what's needed for us to have a 'Happy Christmas' we need to focus on what Advent actually means to us as Christians and then use these days to take stock and reflect on our lives and maybe the direction we are going. Perhaps to ask the question 'what do I really need to have a happy Christmas'? Is it the number of gifts I will give or receive or is it more importantly about family coming together to celebrate the Holy feast of the Nativity of The Lord?

Advent challenges us to waken up and shake off the routineness of our usual daily living and let Christ come alive in our lives once more.

Fr. Gerry.

1st Sunday of Advent

3 points to remember from today's Mass to help us prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas



1. The birth of Jesus Christ is a cause of the greatest joy and happiness for all the human race. Pray slowly and carefully the third Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, the Birth of our Saviour at Bethlehem.



2. Advent is a time of prayer. Take time each day to spend time with God, pray, in your own way.

e.g. Go to Mass, listen to, or read the Word of God. Pray for others, particularly those most in need of our prayers.



3. Give alms, help others, be kind and considerate of those closest to you, give an hour or two of your time each week to works of charity.



You Shall Be My Witnesses

Next Sunday, at the 12:30pm Family Mass, we welcome the children who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We also welcome their families, friends and teachers for the **Enrolment Ceremony**. This is their first step in the "**You Shall Be My Witnesses**" programme in preparation for receiving the **Gift of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation on Friday, 24th April 2020.**

St. Vincent De Paul

The Annual Christmas Collection for St. Vincent De Paul will be held **next weekend 7th & 8th December** at all masses. *It will replace the **Share** collection.*



Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards

are available in the Sacristy, **€5** each.

Mass Times

Saturday : 6 pm Vigil

Sundays : 10:30 am & 12:30 pm

Weekdays : Mon, Wed, Thu & Fri. 10 am

Service of the Word with Communion : Tuesday 10am

Contact:

Fr. Gerard Deegan	Co - Parish Priest	01 8674007
Fr. Gerry Corcoran	Moderator, Co-P.P.	087 24 08 428
Fr. Matthias Jjooga	Curate	089 94 10 262
Rev. Gerard Reilly	Deacon	01 847 9822
Parish Office: 01 - 8160984		Sacristy: 01 - 8160981

A copy of St. Paul's Year End Income & Expense Report for 2018 is available on our Church Stands.

Dates For Your Diary :

Annual Christmas Carol Service

Our Annual Christmas Carol Service, which is a festive highlight for many, will take place on **Wednesday, 11th December** at 7:30pm in St. Paul's Church, Ayrfield. This Carol Service heralds the arrival of Christmas with classic carols and seasonal favourites by our parish choirs : **Coolside of God, Ayrfield Youth, Community Choir, Voices of Ayrfield, & Folk Group** will be singing a selection of seasonal favourites, seasonal reflection and nativity play "I'm Gonna Shine" performed by children from St. Paul's Senior school



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



Saturday 9th (Vigil Mass) 6:00 pm
William Murphy & Deceased Members of the Murphy Family Anniversary
Eddie McDowell Months Mind

Sunday 10th 10:30 am
Gerard Redmond 12th Anniversary

Sunday 10th 12:30 pm
Christopher Elliott Anniversary
Violet Byrne Birthday Remembrance
Sheila O'Farrell Birthday Remembrance
Margaret & Eddie Sutton Anniversary

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*Your prayers are also requested for the happy repose of the souls of **Thomas Brown** and **Elizabeth "Betty" Collins** recently deceased.*

*May they rest in peace. Amen*

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** is the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday. 10am mass will be offered for all on the **Mass Bouquet** List. The **Miraculous Medal Novena** will be said at the 10am Mass.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday. Service of Word with Eucharist and devotion to **St. Pio** at 10am.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** is the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday. 10am mass will be offered for all those on the Altar List of the Dead.

As the 8<sup>th</sup> Dec falls on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent this year, the Feast of **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** will be celebrated on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup>**. This is not a Holy Day of Obligation, mass at 10am.



**The evening mass for the Feast will be at 6 pm on Monday night in Ayrfield and at 6:30pm in Holy Trinity.**

**The Capuchin Day Centre**  
**Carol Singing for the Homeless**

This Annual event will take place outside the **G.P.O.** next **Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December** from 9am – 6pm. Singers, musicians and especially collectors are welcome. **Ayrfield singers** will be there from **11am – 12pm**. For more details, parishioners wishing to join in the singing can contact **Joe Kelly** on **086 2619 113** and collectors can contact **Claire Cusack** at **087 2326911**.



**Ayrfield Parish**  
**Grand Christmas Hamper Draw**

Lots of Turkey & Ham Prizes  
**Draw Takes Place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019**



Tickets €5 each or Book of 5 for €20, available from the sacristy and Parish Office. Please take a book between family and friends. **All Proceeds go to our Local St. Vincent De Paul.**

**Important Notice from** 

Dear Parishes  
For the last number of year we have benefited greatly from the overwhelming generosity of parishes in the amount of food we received from the appeal. We have been learning every year and are looking to improve our ability to deliver high quality food to those who need it *consistently* across the full year. With this in mind **we are not holding the large appeal this Christmas**. What we hope to do is hold a number of **smaller appeals throughout the year** with groups of parishes and will be in touch with you early next year to pilot this approach. On behalf of Crosscare I would like to thank you all sincerely for your support and hope that you have a great Christmas. **Conor Hickey, Crosscare**

**Notice to Coeliacs:** *If you have been advised to abstain from Gluten, at communion time, there will be a ciborium placed on a small table at the side of the altar containing consecrated hosts with very low traces of gluten in them. You are invited to help yourself to receive this instead of the congregation hosts.*