



St. Paul's Parish Ayrfield

Third Sunday of Advent – A 15th December 2019

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Pastors Desk

THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. Today we light the pink or Rose-coloured candle on our Advent Wreath as a sign of our Joy in the Lord.

While he is in prison, John hears about the work that Jesus is doing. Typical of his outspokenness he sends one of the disciples to ask Jesus directly if he is the one, they have been waiting for or will it be someone else in the future. Jesus reply is equally forthcoming. He tells the disciples to go back and tell John what they have seen and heard themselves. People who were blind can now see, some have had their hearing restored, lepers are healed, and the dead are raised to life once more. He basically tells John 'Judge for yourself' adding the line 'Happy is the one who does not lose faith in me'. John rightly concludes from that answer that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited messiah.

The season on Advent is a time for each one of us to assess the impact this has on our lives as followers. It's that time of good will towards others, especially those who may be less fortunate than we are. Jesus always had great care for those living on the 'margins' of society. He embraces wounded hearts and bruised souls. His work continues throughout time through us his followers.

In these weeks of preparation for Christmas may our deeds of kindness make Christ's presence felt in a special way in the lives of others.

Fr. Gerry.

The Annual Christmas collection for the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** was held last weekend. This collection supports the work of our local Conference of the Society as they reach out to the most vulnerable in our community on our behalf. **The amount collected was €3,480.** Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

Do This In Memory

We welcome the children who are preparing for their **First Holy Communion** and their families to the **12:30pm 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.

Gaudete /Joy Sunday



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 and are very much alive in another life. One way to remember our loved ones at Christmas time is to list their names on any of the **Remembrance Discs** that are available in baskets at the doors of the church. These are hung on the Christmas tree in the Church over the advent and Christmas period to help us remember our departed loved ones.

Christmas Mass

Bouquet Cards

are available in the Sacristy, €5 each.

Christmas Dues

Envelopes

available at the church doors.



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:

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St. Paul's Parish Annual Carol Service



Our Annual Carol Service was a great start for all to get into the Christmas spirit. Our sincere thanks to all who took part in our Carol Service on Wednesday night. Thanks to Fr. Gerard for getting it started with the congregational hymn "O come all ye faithful". The Christmas tree was blessed and was followed by reflection & prayers by Noreen Delaney & Breeda Kivlehan to begin the evening.

The Nativity play, 'I'm Gonna Shine', was performed by St. Paul's 4th Classes under the direction of their drama teacher Gerry Herbert and the guidance of their teachers Ms. McLoughlin & Ms. Tighe. The two 3rd classes enhanced the play with their performance of songs during the nativity play, directed by Ms. Fallon and guided by their teachers Ms. Rogers & Ms. Downs. We are sure Séan O'Seaghdha is very proud of their magnificent performance.

Thanks to our **church choirs**, The **Ayrfield Youth** led by Brian Creaner and music by the **Nowakowska Family**, **St. Paul's Community Choir** led by Freda Kane, **Voices of Ayrfield** led by John Fahey and **St. Paul's Folk Group** led by Alan Creaner, who all performed so well on the night.

Thanks to Freda Kane who organised the event from start to finish by collaborating with all the groups involved on the night. Thanks also to the gentlemen who assisted with organising the stage and lightening, Liam Donnelly and Robert Woods from St. Pauls Schools and our own caretaker Peter Igoe.

Advent Traditions Around The World

The two most common Advent practices around the world are the Advent wreath and candles and the Advent calendar. The wreath is a circle representing God's continuous love and the soul's immortality.

China: Chinese Christians light up their homes with colourful lanterns during Advent.

Croatia: Some Croatians begin Advent on November 25th, St. Catherine's Day.

Germany: Families set up their Advent wreath and gather each Sunday to sing Christmas carols and light a candle.

Mexico: A beautiful tradition in Mexico is Las Posadas Uthe Inns. The nine day celebration marks the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

Scandinavia: Families light candles around a wheel and offer prayers to the God of Light (Christ Our Light)

The Philippines: Misa De Gallo, the mass of the rooster, is celebrated in the Philippines beginning on December 16th at 4am.

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



Saturday 14th (Vigil Mass) 6:00 pm

Shay Mahady 34th Anniversary
Joseph Rock Anniversary
Gerry Kane 1st Anniversary
Larry, Catherine & John Ryan Anniversary
Bill, Kathleen & Helen Cullen Anniversary

Sunday 15th 12:30 pm

Eileen Doyle 25th Anniversary
Billy & Liam Doyle Remembrance
Conor McCormack Anniversary
Deceased Members of the McCormack & McCarthy Families
Thomas Eivers 7th Anniversary

*Your prayers are also requested for the
happy repose of the soul of
Pierre Wearen recently deceased.*

Monday 16th 10:00 am

Patricia Matthews 3rd Anniversary
Deceased Members of the Matthews & Wynne Families

Tuesday 17th 10:00 am

Peter Chendo Recently Deceased

Thursday 19th 10:00 am

Emer Harmond Anniversary

Friday 20th 10:00 am

Annie Brodigan Birthday Remembrance

May they rest in peace. Amen

St. Paul's Junior School will have a **Christmas Carol and Prayer service** in the church on **Tuesday the 17th December at 11:00am.**

Copies of **St. Paul's Parish Calendar 2020** are available on the church stands.

Ayrfield Parish Grand Christmas Hamper Draw



Lots of Turkey & Ham Prizes

Draw Takes Place this Sunday 15th

Tickets €5 each or Book of 5 for €20, available from the sacristy. Please take a book between family and friends.

All Proceeds go to our Local St. Vincent De Paul.

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.*