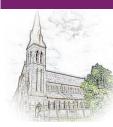
MONKSTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER



Parish Secretary Ann Acres T: (01) 538 2542

E: secretary@monkstownparish.ie

Parish Priest

Fr Kevin Rowan (Parish Priest)

Mobile: 087 224 2230 E: revkevmonkstown1@gmail.com Deacon Dc. Eric Cooney

Mobile: 087 668 3499

E: eric.g.cooney@gmail.com

Mass Times: Weekdays (Mon – Fri) @ 10 AM 🛾 Saturday. Vigil Mass @ 6 PM 🛮 Sunday. 10 AM & 11:30 AM Sacristan: Ciarán Ryan

Safeguarding contacts: Alice O'Connell & Denise Beardmore - Office 01 538 2542 E: CP@monkstownparish.ie

First Sunday of Advent

30th November 2025

Mass Intentions

We remember in our prayer at mass this weekend the following whose anniversaries and month's mind occur at this time:



- · Alison Kenny (A)
- Margaret Delahunty (A)
- Paul Delahunty (A)
- Jim Cronin (A)
- Frederick & Olive Hudson (A)
- Lily & Lisa Horan (A)
- Jack Hudson (RD)
- Jane O'Hare (A)
- Mervyn Smith (1st A)
- Daniel Dwyer (A)

We pray also for those whose funerals took place this week:

- Raymond Travers Jnr (Mon 24th)
- Elizabeth (Betty) Murray (Wed 26th)

Parish Office Closed

The parish office will be closed next Friday - Dec 5th

Friday Morning Hospitality



There will be no tea / coffee next Friday morning (5th Dev) after the 10 am mass as the parish office will be closed.

WEEKDAY PRAYER SERVICES

Deacon Eric will lead a prayer service on weekdays at 10 am. Fr. Denis Sandham will celebrate mass for us at the weekend. as per our normal schedule.

Dun Laoghaire Choral Society

MESSIAH FOR ALL

Sunday 7th December 5 pm

Monkstown Church of Ireland

Handel's Messiah for All is an experience not to be missed. A perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon as Christmas draws nigh. Tickets €30 / Concessions €25 Get tickets on eventbrite.ie

REMINDER

HAVE YOUR SAY

The current Department of Education survey on the future of patronage in the primary sector. It is important that those who wish for a Catholic education for their children, and the support for sacramental preparation available in Catholic schools, would have their voice heard also. Please participate in this survey if you are a parent or a prospective parent of a Primary school student.

The survey can be accessed at: www.gov.ie/primaryschoolsurvey/. It closes on Tuesday, December 16.

A Light in the Darkness **Advent Service**

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Blackrock, will be holding a Reflective Advent service called "A Light in the Darkness." on Sunday, 30th November at





next weekend December 6th / 7th

TAIZÉ SERVICE BOOTERSTOWN

(Church of the Assumption) Sun 7th Dec. 4pm to 5 pm

All Are Welcome

PARTNERSHIP PARISHES

KILL O' THE GRANGE (Holy Family)

Mon - Sat @ 10 am Sat Vigil 5 pm Sun 10 & 12 Web: www.holyfamilyparish.ie Parish Office Tel: (01) 284 5299

Email: admin@holyfamily.ie

BLACKROCK (St. John the Baptist)

Mon – Fri @ 1:05 pm Sat Vigil 6:30 pm Sun 10 & 12

Web: www.sib.ie Parish Office Tel: (01) 288 2104 Email: office@sjb.ie

NEWTOWNPARK (Guardian Angels)

Mon - Sat @ 10 am Sun 9:30 10:45 & 12 noon

www.newtownparkparish.com Parish Office Tel: (01) 283 2988 E: parishoffice@newtownparkparish.com

FOXROCK

(Our Lady of Perpetual Succor)

Mon, Tue, Thurs & Fri @ 10 am Sat Vigil 6 pm Sun 10 & 11:30

Web: www.foxrockparish.ie Parish Office Tel: (01) 289 3492 Email: secretary@foxrockparish.ie

Commentary on the readings

Today we begin the Advent season in which we make our preparations for the Lord's birth into our lives at Christmas. The theme for today is very much of waiting but also of being ready for the moment which will arrive at a time we do not expect.

Isaiah 2:1-5;

The first reading from the Prophet Isaiah speaks of the mountain of the Temple of the Lord towering above all mountains and that in the Lord's time there will be peace and not war.

Romans 13:11-14;

In the second reading from his letter to the Romans, St Paul exhorts us to wake up and to live honest Christian lives because the Lord's time is at hand – we must show our faith in him by how we live and witness.

Matthew 24:27-44

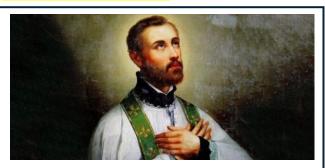
In the gospel, Jesus is warning us to be prepared and ready because we do not know when the day of the Lord will arrive. It could be today, it could be next year, but, whenever, we must not be found wanting or caught off-guard – we must be alert and ready. We do this by reforming our lives every day and living according to the Gospel precepts and commandments of God.

Psalm 121;

The Response to our Psalm is:

I rejoiced when I heard them say:

'Let us go to God's House"



Memorials for the Coming Week

Wednesday 3rd December St. Francis Xavier

On this feast of St. Francis Xavier, we remember the great missionary whose tireless journeys carried Christ's message to distant lands. His life of courage and devotion calls us to renew our own zeal, sharing God's love with all peoples and trusting His grace to guide our witness.

Fr Kevin's Reflection for the First Sunday of Advent

She was miserable: stuck in a job she hated no one special in her life. While her friends were busy celebrating weddings and having adorable children and prospering in careers they loved, she was alone, mired in self-pity.

But her perspective changed in an instant. Brittany Conkle writes about that in an article titled "**Under the gun: New life after a home invasion**"

She just had lunch with her mother. Her poor mom listened to her daughter's litany of unhappiness and tried to offer what support she could. Then she returned to her small apartment. While in the kitchen, she heard a noise in the hall - and suddenly remembered that she had forgotten to lock the door behind her. She got up and looked down the hall. At the top of the stairs a masked man was pointing a handgun at her. She had never experienced such fear in her life.

He demanded her cash. But she explained that she didn't have any that she relied on her debit card. Again he demanded money, and again she said she had none. She offered to go with him to an ATM. "You can take my computer," she pleaded.

All she could do now was wait for the stranger to determine how this would play out.

And in that moment of waiting, she felt her whole life - the beauty, the love, the darkest moments. She remembers: "The one regret, the unfinished business I had with this life of mine. My mother would always think of our conversation and believe that her only child had died a miserable person, unfulfilled and greatly at odds with life. That is what brought tears to my eyes. I realized what a beautiful life I had actually lived; I just hadn't always appreciated it . . . I'm sorry, Mom, I thought."

A second later, the intruder turned and ran.

"A meaningless act of violence" her family and friends said when they heard about what happened. But she disagrees: "Every day, I have the option to decide: Is my story going to be about anger, fear and unhappiness? Or can my story be about peace, forgiveness and walking a new path of gratitude and compassion? . . . It is only by God's grace that I am able to locate those virtues at all but they are there, bubbling along like an underground stream beneath the stony ground of my heart."

Brittany's confrontation with the intruder is an Advent awakening for this young woman. In the midst of her fear, she realizes the preciousness of her life, that life is a gift that God gives her - and all of us - in order that she might discover God in the love of others and come to realize the goodness of this world in anticipation of the next.

Advent calls us to "watch," to pay attention to such signs of God's unmistakable presence in all that is loving, in all that is beautiful, in all that is life-giving and nurturing.