

MONKSTOWN (Church of St. Patrick)

Mon – Fri @ 10 am
Sat Vigil 6 pm Sun 10 & 11:30
Web: monkstownparish.ie

Parish Secretary: Ann Acres
T: (01) 538 2542
E: secretary@monkstownparish.ie

Sacristan: Ciarán Ryan

Parish Priest: Fr Kevin
Mobile: 087 224 2230
E: revkevmonkstown1@gmail.com

Deacon: Rev. Eric Cooney
Mobile: 087 668 3499
E: eric.g.cooney@gmail.com

Safeguarding
Alice O'Connell & Denise
Beardmore
T: (01) 538 2542
E: CP@monkstownparish.ie

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@hollyfamily.ie

BLACKROCK (St. John the Baptist)

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

NEWSLETTER

Fourth Sunday of Advent 20 / 21 December

Mass Intentions

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

- Donald Troddyn (A)
- Raymond Travers (Month's Mind)
- Bridget & Patrick Fagan (A)
- Bernard O'Carroll (A)
- Anne O'Donnell (A)
- Pauline Baker (Month's Mind)
- Betty Murray (Month's Mind)
- Alison (Ali) Finn (Month's Mind)
- Eleanor Wyse (A)
- Phylis Kelly (RD)
- Agnes Lawlor (A)

BAPTISM

We welcome into the Christian community:
**Stella Grace Heffernan
& Diana Neala McNeill Maza**
who will be baptised by Deacon Eric on Sunday 21st December.

CROSSCARE APPEAL

Please support CROSSCARE'S 2025 Christmas Food Poverty Appeal. Your donation – big or small – will help provide food, stability, and a pathway towards independence for those who need it most. Donate at www.crosscare.ie or call 01 8360011

VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

The annual service of Christmas Carols will be held on Sunday 21st December @ 7:30 In the [Church of Ireland](http://www.churchofireland.ie) Monkstown.

NEWSLETTER (Holiday)

As Deacon Eric will be away for a few weeks in January, there will be no newsletter until the weekend of 27th / 28th January.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The parish office will be closed from 24th December and reopen on the 5th January.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Wed 24th (Christmas Eve)

No Morning Mass
5 pm - Family Mass & Christmas Pageant
7 pm - (Night Mass)

Thurs 25th (Christmas Day)

10 am & 11:30 am (Morning Mass)

Frid 26th (St. Stephen's Day)

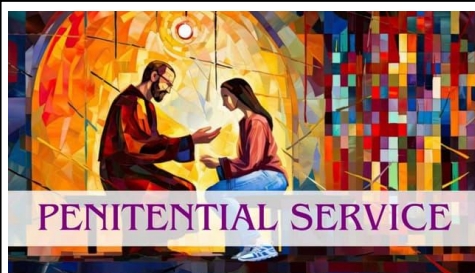
No Mass

Sat 27th St. Stephen's Day

6 pm Mass

Sun 28th (Feast of the Holy Family)

10 am & 11:30 am Mass



PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Holy Family – Kill Avenue
Monday 22nd Dec 7:00 pm

Guardian Angels – Newtownpark
Tuesday 23rd Dec 7:30 pm

WORLD DAY OF PEACE - MASS

1st January 2026 @ 11 am
Newtownpark Parish

This year Archbishop Dermot Farrell will celebrate the annual mass for the World Day of Peace on Thursday 1st January @ 11 am in the Church of the Guardian Angels (Newtownpark Parish).

NO MASS IN ST. PATRICK'S ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

To facilitate Parishioners to be able to attend the Mass for the World Day of Peace in Newtownpark Parish with Archbishop Dermot Farrell, there will be no daily mass in St. Patrick's on the 1st January.



Commentary on the readings Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14;

In our first reading for today we read of an encounter between God and Ahaz, king of Judah. In the encounter, God tells Ahaz to ask for whatever he wants but Ahaz refuses to put the Lord to the test. As a result, the Lord tells him and the House of David that a maiden will give birth to a son who will be Emmanuel.

Matthew 1:18-24

In the gospel from St Matthew, we have another encounter, this time between Joseph and God's messenger. Joseph now knows that Mary is pregnant but the angel tells him to go through with the marriage for the child was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit and his name will be Emmanuel.

Romans 1:1-7;

In the second reading from his letter to the Romans, St Paul tells his readers that he is writing to tell them about the Son of God who is a descendent of King David and who has the power of God.

These three readings all refer to Jesus Christ whose birth as a human being we are about to celebrate. It is a reminder that there is now very little time to make our real preparations to worthily celebrate the season of Christmas

Psalms 23

The Response to the Psalm is:

Let the Lord enter;
He is the King of Glory



Fr Kevin's Reflection – 4th Sunday of Advent

He taught his young son how to follow the grain of a piece of olive wood, how to plane it, how to square it and join it firmly to another piece of wood to build a table or chair or, later, a house; he also taught him patience, kindness and justice, and the value of earning a fair day's wages for a fair day's work in order to put bread on the table.

Joseph, to paraphrase Gerard Manley Hopkins, "lives in 10,000 places": the man who rises at 2 A.M. to plough deserted snow-clogged roads; the nurse who works the night shift and then a day shift; the cop who walks the lonely beat; the mother with the autistic daughter or paralyzed son; the office worker biting his lip at some slight or racial insensitivity subtly directed at him because he, too, has to put bread on his family's table.

Joseph lives in the teacher who gives hours of her time to help the struggling student. Joseph lives in the clerk, the cop, the secretary, the contractor who approaches the people they encounter with kindness and respect because they, too, share the God-like work of putting bread on their family's table. The invisible, almost anonymous Joseph: chosen by God to provide for his Son, to watch over him, to teach him, to shape him, to protect and love him and the boy's mother.

In today's Gospel - Matthew's version of Jesus' birth - the whole grand event depends on Joseph, whose life has been turned upside by the angel's news. Joseph accepts the son as his own, not as a matter of biology, but as a matter of love and compassion, of trust and faith. God's birth in our midst depends on human partners - a Mary, a Joseph, you, me - willing to claim the unwanted, love the helpless and neediest, put aside our fears and dare to hope that God is with us. In this season and in every season, may we imitate the compassion and faith of Joseph: to seek understanding and acceptance within our families even at the cost of our own expectations and hopes, to be sources of affirmation and support for our spouses and children.

In Matthew's account of Jesus' birth, Joseph is challenged by God to accept the child under the most difficult of circumstances and, responding out of his sense of compassion and faith, says yes. In this the last Sunday of Advent God challenges our hearts "to prepare him room," to make a place for the Child of Bethlehem to transform our hearts and homes in his peace and justice.