



## MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday at 10:00 and 11:30 a.m.

**Please note that there is a limit to 50 people at each mass and face coverings must be worn.**

### Parish Contacts

**Fr. Kevin Rowan**

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**The Parish Office**

01 5382542

Opening Hours 9:15 until 1:00pm Monday to Friday

Email:

secretary@monkstownparish.ie

### WORD FOR TODAY



Advent demands preparation. As we come closer to the events of Christmas we are challenged to smooth out the wrinkles of our daily life, to actively look for the ways in which God comes to us in the ordinariness of our existence, and to do all we can to come closer to him.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

Anyone in need of Assistance please call 01 8550022



## St. Patrick's Parish, Monkstown

**6th December 2020 2nd Sunday of Advent**

### RAISED VOICES

It's usually so hard to hear yourself think in December. The TV screams at us through adverts that are desperate to get us to buy their products. Cosy Christmas fireside scenes, talking reindeers, food and drink, comfortable sofas, the must-have gifts: this is dangled before us as the epitome of what Christmas is all about. And when we think that we'll have a nice quiet read, the papers are packed with full-page adverts reminding us of what we've already seen for sale on TV!



There are other voices trying to get through to us in the lead-up to Christmas. One of them is Isaiah's. Today he tells us that our time of being enslaved is over. We have been set free and have been offered the greatest Christmas present of all: sharing the life of God's Son.

But Isaiah's voice clashes with the other sounds of Christmas because he tells us that if we want to go beyond the tinsel and baubles then we have to do some personal spadework. If we really want to experience the true meaning of Christmas, then we have to make sure we're not just drifting along with the Christmas crowd but instead are keeping ourselves focussed on the reason for our feast. And this means fine-tuning the way we live, resetting our spiritual compasses and going out to meet our God who is coming.

Advent is not a mini-Lent but it is a time to remember that repentance, turning back to God, is a Christian constant. "Here is your God" says Isaiah. And our God still comes to us today and everyday. Advent challenges us to find God's face in the ordinary events of our daily existence. And if there are aspects of our lives that prevent us from seeing this face, then Advent asks us to make changes.

When God comes it is not to point a finger but to lend a hand. The God we ask into our Advent lives is not the vengeful judge but the loving saviour. God always comes to set us free not to condemn us. But, of course, if we are genuinely to welcome Jesus into our lives this Advent and Christmas, then we have to know what we need to be set free from. Otherwise we might as well join just join the shopping queue.

**PARISH WEBSITE: [WWW.MONKSTOWNPARISH.IE](http://WWW.MONKSTOWNPARISH.IE)**

## NEW LEVEL THREE COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS



As of last Wednesday 2nd December the church has been open for mass at 10:00 am (Mon - Fri) , but will continue to close for the remainder of the day from after mass on weekdays due to the works on the roof. The church will be open for private prayer on Saturdays and Sundays. The mass times are as follows:

**Mon - Fri 10 am**

**Saturday 6 pm**

**Sunday 10 am and 11:30 am**

### PLEASE NOTE

Attendance is restricted to 50 people, but for funerals this remains at 25 people. In the event of a funeral we ask parishioners to participate via the Webcam to ensure all 25 spaces are available for the bereaved family.

COVID guidelines apply regarding wearing of masks, social distancing etc.



## ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR ST VINCENT DE PAUL

### NEXT WEEKEND 12TH & 13TH DECEMBER



SVP will be conducting our Giving Sunday collection on Sunday 13th December. Our Conferences visit many families and people in need across communities in Ireland.

The funds raised will be spent in the local community helping those who need it most with food, heating and education costs throughout the winter and beyond. We rely almost entirely on the support of generous parishioners. People can also donate directly to our Conferences at [svp.ie/donate](http://svp.ie/donate) or calling 0818 176 176.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your very generous support throughout the years.

## FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

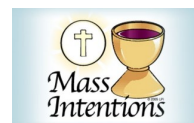
(DECEMBER 8TH)

MASS AT 10:00 A.M.



The angel Gabriel addressed Mary as “full of grace” (or “highly favoured”). This means that Mary received the divine help necessary for her task. The Church was led by the Spirit to realise that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the incarnation. Or rather, Mary’s intimate association with the incarnation called for the special involvement of God in her whole life. The Church taught that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. This great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus, and the incomparable holiness of Mary shows the incomparable goodness of God.

## MASS INTENTIONS



**SATURDAY 6:00 P.M.**

John Nolan (RD)

**SUNDAY: 10:00 A.M.**

Margaret Lee Snr. (A)

**11:30 A.M.**

Terence Gorry (A)

Bob & Kathleen Lewis (A)

Mary Holmes (A)

Geraldine, Breen (A)

Timothy & Kitty Breen (A)



## Next Sunday's Readings

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

#### First Reading:

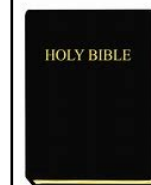
*Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11:*

The Lord's salvation will be made known to the poor and the oppressed.

#### Second Reading: 1

**Thessalonians 5:16-24:** Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rejoice and pray always.

#### Gospel: *John 1:6-8,19-28:*



John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.