



MASS TIMES

Monday to Wednesday at **10:00 a.m.**

Saturday at **6:00 p.m.**

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

Parish Contacts

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The Parish Office

01 5382542

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

Email:

secretary@monkstownparish.ie

Next Sunday's Readings

**Feast of Holy
Family**



First Reading:

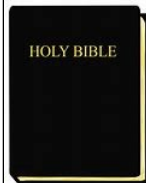
2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16:

God fulfils his promise to Abraham, and Sarah gives birth to a son.

Second Reading:

Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

Paul examines Abraham's example of faith..



Gospel:

Luke 2:22-40:

Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses..

St. Patrick's Parish, Monkstown

20th December 2020 4th Sunday of Advent

RECEIVING GIFTS



Tom's parents had told him that when he graduated from university they would buy him a second-hand car. In the weeks before his results came through he went with his father to look at what the dealers had to offer and they decided on the right model. The day of his results came. He'd passed with flying colours. A few days later when he came home he expected to find the car waiting on the driveway, but instead his father congratulated him and gave him a small package. The package contained a bible and Tom was so furious that he threw the bible down and stormed out. A week later his father died and Tom came home to be with his mother. In his father's room he came across the bible and as he leafed through it he saw a cheque that his father had made out to him for the exact amount that the car would have cost. The gift had been there all along but he had been unaware of it.

The Christmas story is a bit like Tom's experience. It's not that God didn't care about humanity until that first Christmas when Jesus took flesh as the child of Bethlehem. God has loved us from eternity and never ceases to do so. In fact, if God stopped loving us for even one second we would cease to exist, for we are held in being by the power of God's love and compassion. Yet when Christ came among us it was to show us that God loved us so much that he wanted us to be with him eternally. It took the Christ-event for the world to be able to refocus on its relationship with its creator.

When the angel appeared to Mary it was this all-pervading love of God that was at work again. In fact the angel's first words to Mary were, "Hail, highly favoured Mary". When we say the Hail Mary we translate this as "full of grace" but the Greek really means someone who has had favour heaped upon her. The birth of Jesus began with Mary being reminded how much she was gifted by God.

The challenge of this Christmas is for us to be aware of this grace. What we celebrate is the birth of God's own Son and the fact that although we might not always recognise God's gifts, they are always there for us.

PARISH WEBSITE: WWW.MONKSTOWNPARISH.IE

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Anyone in need
of Assistance
please call 01
8550022



Thanks
for Your
Support!

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

1st Collection €529

Share €305

Parish Envelopes €265

HELP NEEDED AT MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

Due to the Government restrictions of a maximum of 50 people attending mass, we plan to celebrate six masses, three on Christmas Eve and three on Christmas Day. **This will only be possible if we have sufficient volunteers to assist with the stewarding and sanitising of the church after each mass.** The schedule planned is printed overleaf:

We would like to have six volunteers per mass. If you feel you can safely help for any of the masses and have any free time please get in touch with Deacon Eric by Text, WhatsApp or email: Eric can be contacted as follows:

Text / WhatsApp: (087) 668 3499,

Email: eric.g.cooney@gmail.com



Volunteers Needed



NO NEWSLETTER FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKENDS

May God bless us all and keep us safe in 2021. We look forward to the time when we gather to worship together again without restrictions. The Parish Pastoral Council, Deacon Eric and Fr. Kevin take this occasion to wish everyone a most Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and a New Year in which every human person may be respected and loved. May the God of Love, Jesus of Bethlehem, accompany you always on your journey of life.

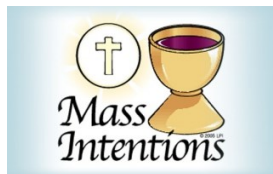
MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY 6:00 P.M.

Marguerite Kennedy & Gloria Kissane (A)

SUNDAY: 10:00 A.M. Eamonn Grumley (MM) & Frances Devlin (A)

11:30 A.M. Ted Keys, Ellen Mahony & Donald Troddyn (A)



Christmas Arrangements 2020



Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December

No Morning Mass

First Mass of Christmas 5:30p.m.

Vigil Mass 7.00 p.m.

Night Mass 8.30 p.m.

Christmas Day Friday 25th December

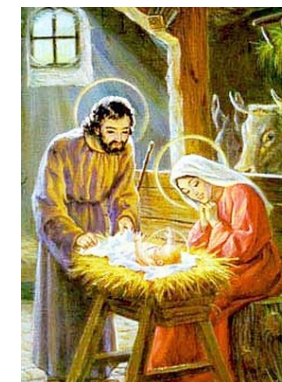
Dawn mass of Christmas 8:30 a.m.

Morning Masses at 10:00 am and 11:30 a.m.

St. Stephen's Day Saturday 26th December

No Morning Mass

Please note that there is a limit to 50 people at each mass, places are allocated on a first come first served basis and face coverings must be worn.



CROSSCARE APPEAL FOR SUPPORT THIS CHRISTMAS AS FOOD COLLECTIONS CANCELLED

Crosscare is appealing to people to support them on line this Advent as they will be unable to hold their annual Parish Food Collection for those most in need.

Every December, Crosscare collected thousands of pounds worth of non-perishable foods to restock their foodbanks and support their community cafés. This year, due to Covid 19 restrictions Crosscare will not be able to launch a food collection in the Diocese of Dublin as usual. However, in order to ensure they have adequate supplies, they are asking people to support them by making a donation on line to ensure families struggling to cope can have food on the table this Christmas. You can make a donation at www.crosscare.ie



Please support if you can