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

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Second Sunday of Advent

6th / 7th December 2025

Mass Intentions

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

- Liz Hickey (A)
- Daniel Dwyer (A)
- Joe & Breda Dalton (A)
- Ann O'Callaghan (A)
- Ray Travers (RD)
- Dave O'Leary (A)
- Lorna Begg (Birthday remembrance)
- Mark Boland (1st A)

BAPTISM

We welcome into the Christian community:

Maximillian Slater & Ellie O'Neill McGovern
who will be baptised by Deacon Eric on Sunday 14th December.

WEEKDAY PRAYER SERVICES

Fr Kevin is planning to celebrate **Mass on Monday 8th for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.** Deacon Eric will lead a prayer service on the remaining weekday (Tue, Wed, Thurs, Friday) at 10 am.

RESUMPTION OF MASS SCHEDULE

Fr. Kevin plans to resume celebrating mass from next weekend (Sat 6 pm).

REMINDERS

MESSIAH FOR ALL

**Church of Ireland Monkstown,
Sunday 7th Dec @ 5 pm**
Tickets €30 / Concessions €25

TAIZÉ SERVICE

BOOTERSTOWN
Sun 7th Dec. 4pm to 5 pm

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL Special Annual Christmas Appeal

13th & 14th December

Donations can be made in
the Church, by cheque, cash
or online by scanning
the QR Code



SUNDAY 7TH DEC.

TEAS & COFFEES

There will be hospitality of tea and coffee in the parish centre after the
10 am mass and 11:30 am Mass
ALL ARE WELCOME

CHRISTMAS PARISH CELEBRATION



**Sat. 13th Dec
in the Parish Centre
after the Vigil Mass**

Pizza, Mulled Wine, Hot
Chocolate, Tea /Coffee
ALL ARE WELCOME

MONKSTOWN-HERITAGE.COM INTERACTIVE DIGITAL MAP

A sub group of the Monkstown Village Tidy District Committee have developed a fascinating interactive map of Monkstown comprising video presentations and resource information on our Monkstown heritage. It is well worth viewing and sharing with members of your family, particularly those who may now live overseas. It can be viewed on:

Monkstown-heritage.com

Come Lord Jesus, Increase Our Hope



PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

**Presented By
Séan Goan**

Scripture Scholar
& Prayer Guide



**Saturday 13th December 2025
11 AM to 1 PM**

In the Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Church of the Holy Family
Kill Avenue



"In Advent, we proclaim and celebrate our hope and our trust that our God is faithful; that the Lord will come again to rescue us, to heal us, to console us, to be with all that he has called into life."

Archbishop Dermot Farrell

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.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



Commentary on the readings

Our readings today give us two key people and two important role models for us. The first is Isaiah who spoke of the Lord's arrival and who, in his way, prepared the way for the Lord's coming. The second is John the Baptist – the Lord's own cousin – who is spoken of by Isaiah and who prepared the way for the Lord in the Lord's own time.

Isaiah 11:1-10;

Isaiah tells us that a time will come when there will be peace and integrity, faithfulness and equity.

Psalm 71

The Psalm reminds us that in the days of the Lord, "justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails."

The Response to our Psalm is:

**In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.**

Matthew 3:1-12

In the gospel we are introduced to John the Baptist who is preaching repentance and who directly challenges the Pharisees and Sadducees who come to him for baptism. He has a stark warning for them and for us that the Lord will sift through his people and separate the faithful from the unfaithful. He goes on to remind us that there will always be those who will be unfaithful. We are the successors to John and to his mission and by our baptismal promises we have taken on the duty to prepare the way in our own time for the Lord's imminent coming in power through the celebration of Christmas. Before we can be heralds of that great news we must first prepare a way for him to enter more deeply into our own hearts and we do that during these days of Advent.

Romans 15:4-9

St Paul reminds us in the second reading that those who do not give up are helped in this work and so we too will be helped and strengthened if we continue to have faith in God and to work for the building of the kingdom.



Fr Kevin's Reflection – 2nd Sunday of Advent

**"This Advent calls us all to be to be signs of hope,
revealing God's presence in the darkest times"**

She has been pelted with stones in Greece, blessed by the pope at the Vatican, and danced with children from Paris to New York.

The centre of such attention: a 12-foot-tall puppet. The puppet's name is Little Amal. Amal depicts a 10-year-old Syrian refugee. She's the creation of the renowned Handspring Puppet Company. Handspring created Amal to highlight the plight of millions of displaced people, especially children, who have been forced to flee their homes because of violence and persecution.

Operated by four puppeteers, Little Amal began her walk across Europe in the summer of 2021, shortly after the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan that spurred a migration crisis in Europe. Since then, Amal has travelled to Turkey, Greece, Rome and France, as well as meeting with Ukrainian refugees in Poland. In September 2022, Amal spent 19 days touring New York, before going on to Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

Amal has been seen by more than one million people in 85 cities in 12 countries and has covered almost 6,000 miles. Wherever Amal appears, thousands of people, especially children, come to walk and dance and have their pictures taken with her. Amal has also raised thousands of euros for food, shelter, medical services and educational opportunities for refugee children.

A few places would not let Amal in their community, protesting the presence of a "Muslim doll from Syria" (Amal's religion has never been specified). At a few of her appearances, people pelted Little Amal with eggs and fruit — and even stones. But for the most part, Amal is welcomed with song and gifts for the most vulnerable among us.

Her presence is an invitation to embrace the meaning of her name — "Amal" is Arabic for hope.

"Amal" and her creators are "John the Baptizers" in these days of war and violence against innocent children; Amal reminds us of our responsibility to the displaced and marginalized. In our Advent care of others, we "proclaim" (the Greek word for "prophet") the presence of God in our midst in our simple and ordinary acts of compassion, mercy and justice. This Advent calls us all to be to be signs of hope, revealing God's presence in the darkest times, and enabling miracles of resurrection to take place here and now.

Memorials for the Coming Week

**Mon 8th December Solemnity of the Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated on December 8, honors Mary as uniquely preserved from original sin from the first moment of her existence. This feast proclaims God's saving grace at work in her life, preparing her to be the Mother of Christ. It invites the faithful to rejoice in the mystery of divine mercy, to reflect on holiness, and to seek renewal in God's plan of salvation.

