



# Advent

Preparing the Way



Feast of the  
Immaculate Conception  
December 8

## HOW REAL IS JESUS FOR ME?

Three talks will be given by Fr. Joe during Advent exploring Jesus as presented in the Gospels and how we might have a deep personal relationship with him.

1. Tuesday                      December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 10.30  
Repeated @ 7pm
2. Wednesday                    December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 10.30  
Repeated @ 7pm
3. Thursday                        December 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 10.30  
Repeated @ 7pm



**Book of the Week**  
**THE INFANCY NARRATIVES**  
**JESUS OF NAZARETH**



**JOSEPH RATZINGER. POPE BENEDICT XVI**  
**BLOOMSBURY 2012 LONDON NEW YEAR Pp 132**

There is a sense in which this book needs neither recommendation nor introduction. Certainly the author is recognised and appreciated both, within the Christian world and beyond, as one of the greatest living intellects. He is of course writing about a subject that he both knows and loves. This is Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI writing about Jesus, and in a specific way, The Infancy Narratives. It goes without saying that we are in safe hands. It is as you can imagine both rich and rewarding. What better reading than this as we journey through Advent to Jesus.

**FAITH MOMENT**

Mary at the message of the Archangel Gabriel, received the word of God in her heart and in her body gave birth to the Son of God in our world. She conceived, gave birth to, and nourished him; she presented him to God in the Temple; she shared in her divine Son's sufferings on the Cross.

**Parish Council**

New members required  
 for Parish Council.  
**Fr. Joe would love  
 to hear from you.**

**Gospel Readings for the Week**

- MON 05/12 **LK 5:17-26** They were all astounded and praised God, and were filled with awe.
- TUE 06/12 **Mt 18:12-24** For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.
- WED 07/12 ST. AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH  
**Mt 11:28-30**
- THU 08/12 THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
**Lk 1:26-38**
- FRI 09/12 **Mt 11:16-19** A greater than John the Baptist has never been seen, yet....
- SAT 10/12 **Mt 17:10-13** ....and the Son of Man will suffer similarly at their hands

**Mass Times**

Saturday: 6.30 (Vigil Mass)  
Sunday: 9.00, 9.45 (Convent),  
 10.30, 12.00

Weekdays:

10.00 Monday – Friday  
 7.30 Tuesday

**Feast of the  
 Immaculate Conception**

Wednesday 6.30 (Vigil Mass)  
 Thursday 10.30 12.00  
**No Evening Mass**

**Divine Mercy Meeting**

Every Wed Evening @ 8.00pm  
 in the Prayer Room

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Mon 10.30 – 4.00  
 Wed 10.30 – 9.00  
 Fri 10.30 – 9.00

**NEXT FAMILY MASS**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> @ 10.30**

All Welcome!! Music, Song, Story, and Drama in the Presence of Jesus. This is a really good experience of Mass for families/young children.

***FAMILY MASS*** →

# Rumblings from the Bunker



## KEEPING AN EYE OUT

'On Guard!!' This was our cry as young boys, with our left arm bent, hand on hip, the other hand brandishing our sword as we acted out a fencing scene from The Mark of Zorro or another swashbuckling epic. These sword fights were fast and furious and often ended in one or other of us being 'run through'. Personally, more than actually executing my opponent, I enjoyed flicking his sword out of his hand and hear it clatter to the ground. On guard, part warning, part command. On guard, stand ready, look out!

This was the typical play of being young boys. We were ready for the enemy. Ready to defend and indeed at times ready for the attack. Some of the language of Advent is a little bit like that. Be on your guard. Stand ready. Stay awake. It's important to look closely though at what we are being asked to do in Advent, and perhaps more importantly why. We know that a very important aspect of Advent is waiting. However as said before this is not an idle passive waiting, but rather a waiting that has, at its core, a getting ready. The waiting of Advent is really about preparation. It is a waiting that does not take place in a vacuum. Our waiting is for a little baby, Jesus, Christ the Lord.

Apart from the notion of waiting I think an important Advent word is the word awareness. I really mean a gospel awareness or an awareness of Jesus. I think there is a big danger that Advent will simply come and go. With all the madness that can creep into this time of year.....who will visit? Whom will we visit? Real tree or artificial tree? Shopping, presents? The Turkey. Frozen or fresh? Before we know it, it will be December twenty-second or twenty-third and Advent will be over. That would be a real pity because Advent is a special time, a beautiful time. Maybe this Advent can be different? Maybe this could be our best Advent yet? So could we turn into a different way of getting ready. As well as decorating, shopping and cooking we could get our hearts and souls ready for the great focus and feast that is the reason for Advent, namely the birth of the Saviour of the World. What might it be like to look to Advent in a fresh way? What would it be like if we could develop some of this gospel awareness or a renewed awareness of Jesus during this Advent journey?

Did it ever occur to you that sometimes people are inclined to go through life asleep, or at least periods of it, half asleep. Indeed this reminds me of a conversation I had with an old Brother when he spoke of people who had 'died' years ago, or at least they had completely given up, though we had not got around to burying them yet. The Living Dead. These are people who live in their own little cocoon, engaging only with a few, and having little or no interests. What would it be like if in our determination to make this a special Advent we actually resolved not to be half dead and half alive? How might we be assured of not being one of these people? Not only this, but of never becoming one of them?

My suggestion is to develop a new Advent awareness. This essentially means to be on the look out for Jesus. To open our eyes, our ears, and most importantly our hearts, to recognise him in the day to day. Most especially in the mundane, the ordinary. It makes sense then, that if Advent is about preparing for Jesus born at Christmas, we get ready, and we begin to get ready today. Once again, we should not be surprised that a key ingredient in this getting ready is sacred silence. When we declutter our hearts and step away from the constant noise we have a much better chance of hearing the Lord. Something that would assist us enormously on this Advent journey would be to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation: to tell the Lord that we are truly sorry and to receive his mercy and forgiveness. However I really want to propose Advent awareness to you. This is the daily active keeping an eye out for Jesus, and the profound tuning in to where we might hear him. Once this awareness is given attention it begins to become a habit. We begin to 'spot' the Lord in the ordinariness of the day. I saw him yesterday in a little new born baby and I regularly glimpse him in a word or a phrase, such as the lady whom I overheard on her mobile saying, 'God will see you through'. Sometimes it's simply in the crisp fresh day and in the tumbling leaves as they fall from their homes, the trees, who wait, and wait patiently, for the heat, the light and new life that will certainly come. I hope and pray that you have a great Advent - it's a really special time!

## Mass Intentions

### **6.30 Saturday**

Bridie Rochford, Raymond McGowan  
Kenny, Margaret Ford

### **10.30 Sunday**

Bob Harte, Tommy Phelan

### **12.00 Sunday**

James Breen, Patricia Eaton  
Elizabeth, Christopher White

### **10.00 Monday**

Joe Dineen, Joe Galvin

### **7.30 Tuesday**

Christina, Josie McGann

### **6.30 Wednesday**

Christy, Stella Rooney  
Madeleine Kenny

### **10.00 Friday**

Willie Doyle



## **Ethiopia School Project**

### **Church Gate Collection**

### **Weekend of 3/4<sup>th</sup> December**

To provide schooling for children  
excluded from other schools  
because of their parents' Leprosy.

## **WEEKLY ROSARY**

### **IN THE PRAYER ROOM**

From Monday November 21st 2016 the Rosary  
will be prayed in the Prayer Room at 11am. This  
is an initiative of the Marian Movement.

## **MORNING PRAYER**

For Advent @ 9.40 Mon-Fri  
All Welcome

## **LECTIO DIVINA**

Each Wednesday In Advent  
@ 10.30



## **Church Collection Totals**

### **Week Ending 20/10**

First Collection	845
Share Collection	585
Family Offering	878

## **St. Matthew's Church Bethany Support Group**

If at any time you feel the need for  
support or a listening ear after the  
loss of a loved one we would be  
glad to help.

### **CONTACT PHONE**

**087 9411628**

## Rest in Peace

Mary Goff  
Christina Bissett  
Bernard Lynch  
Mary Reilly



*Blessings and Sympathy  
to the Families*

# light up a life

04.12.16 3:45pm ✱

Celebrate your special  
memories & remember  
your loved ones. Sponsor  
a light this Christmas.

Join us in Harold's Cross on December 4th  
and help support our vital frontline services.

[www.lightupalife.ie](http://www.lightupalife.ie)  
**1850 660 606** ✱



Harold's Cross  
& Blackrock  
Anglo Rehabilitation Resource

Supported by

**CLANCY**  
Bulk on Partnership

Our Thanks to the  
Dublin Gospel Choir

And all the other performers  
For a truly wonderful evening of  
Music, Song and Pure Enjoyment

A very special word of thanks to all those who  
spent so much time organising the event, the  
helpers on the day and last but not least the  
massive audience who turned up on the night to  
show their support and appreciation for the event.

It truly was a night to remember

Thank You

### **Please support the St. Vincent DePaul Annual Appeal Next Sunday**

Today there are people in your community in  
crisis... No food in the cupboard. No heating  
in their home. No end in sight.

At St. Vincent de Paul, we are asked for help  
with these things every day.

### **Don't let any family have an empty Christmas...**

Even in an improving economy, it can still  
take just one small problem to tip someone  
into crisis and poverty. But we know that a  
little help at the right time can change every-  
thing.

This Christmas, over 140,000 people in com-  
munities across the country will ask SVP for  
help with food, fuel and basic clothing. But we  
cannot say yes without you.

**Please support the SVP Annual Appeal  
Your help can last a lifetime**

### **Upcoming Events**

**Sunday December 11  
Family Mass 10.30am**

**Carol Service**

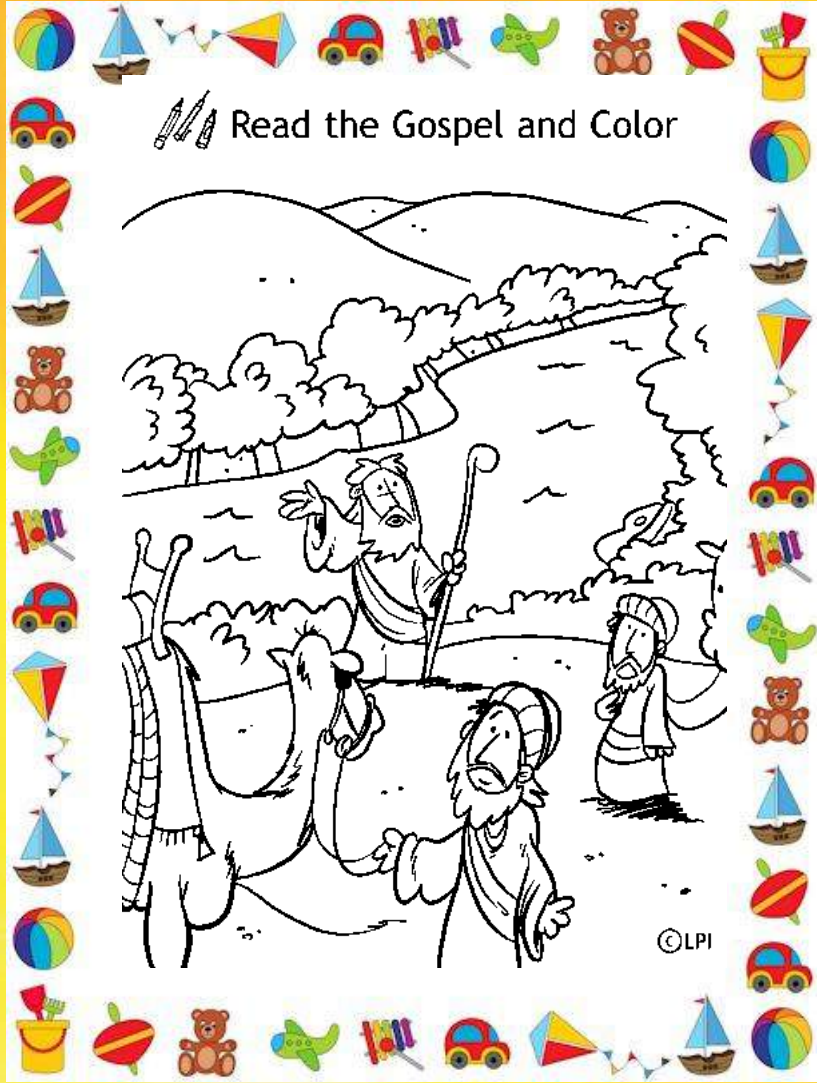
**Penitential Service**

**Christmas Eve  
Family Mass 5.30pm  
Night Mass 10.00pm**

**New Years Eve  
11.30pm Special Mass  
Celebrating New Year in the  
Company of Jesus**

**1st January 2017  
11.00am Solemnity of Mary,  
the Mother of God:  
Mass for World Peace**

# MOA P W Z M P O F H I C



## Puzzle

Help the baby find his way to the priest for his baptism.



## Sharing the Gospel

John the Baptist taught people to get ready for Jesus. He told them to change their lives. John helped many people wash away all their mistakes and bad choices. He washed away all their cheating, lying, fighting, and stealing. Once they were clean, John wanted them to see that living God's way is so much better. John told the people not only to clean their bodies, but to show that they love God by the way that they live.

### Prayer

Dear God, help my words and my choices to show that I love you.

### Something to Draw

Draw a picture of John washing you in the Jordan River.

### Mission for the Week

Write a prayer to God, asking him to help you stop doing those things, and start being honest, giving and kind.

# Caritas College

## College Awareness Week

Another very successful College Awareness Week was held in Caritas College this year. Several Past Pupils including Joanne Coogan (Nursing Manager), Dr Phil Mulvaney (Head of Strategic Projects), Clare Pigott (P.rimary Teacher) and Gillian Roche (CSO Statistician) visited class groups and spoke to them about their career paths. We had guest speakers from Maynooth University, UCD Science, the world of banking and childcare. First Years had a taster of Hair & Beauty, and worked on a Careers Art Alphabet.



TY Trip to Maynooth  
for College Awareness Week

## Clothes Recycling

Planning to clear out your wardrobes before Christmas? Fed up of going to Clothes Banks to find them full? Caritas College can help! Drop your bags of clothes for recycling into Caritas any time from now until June and we will look after the rest!

## Young SVP

Over the last few weeks our TY students have taken part in Workshops given by Claire Mander, Youth Education Officer for St. Vincent de Paul Society as part of their Religious Education Programme. As a result a SVP Conference has been set up in the school. The TY girls are now in the process of planning a Christmas Appeal to help those in need in our local community.



## Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal

Over 80 shoe boxes were collected by students for the annual Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. Students also presented a cheque for over €300 to Team Hope and a number of students went to the warehouse and helped pack the boxes for shipping.

## Student Cafe

Our new catering service provided by Glanmore Foods is now well established in Caritas College. Every student can get a free breakfast every day and lunch costs as maximum of €1.40 including the hot option of the day and water/milk. Students are enjoying the new service and the high quality food which is prepared fresh on site each day.

