



Advent . . . Preparing the Way



I am a sinner. It's good to be able to say that and know that you will forgive me. It means that I don't have to be perfect for you to love me. Yes, I have sinned and done damage for which I am truly sorry. I know that others have sinned too and that their sins were thrown in their faces. I wouldn't like that to happen to me.

In fact, when I confess my sins I try and defend myself; I'm not really that bad, there's a bit of good in me. Defending myself in this way really doesn't help because I need to face the fact that I am weak and sinful and sometimes do things in anger. It's then that God can help, and he does help. I know that I am wasting my time comparing myself to others; I don't know if they can help the way they are, I don't know their life-story, and I don't need to know it. I have to concentrate on my own life-story when I go to confession, see where I'm at and what is getting in the way of growing in love of the Lord and following his commandments.

That's why I go to Confession, it helps to keep me on track. Indeed, going to Confession is not the only support I need; I need others to point me in the right direction, and put up with my faltering steps. If you feel the same as I do, you will make an effort to go to Confession when you can and especially coming up to Christmas; it's a time we need to get on well with everyone especially our families.

If you have been a long time away, it's all the more reason for coming. There's no sin God won't forgive; he'll be so happy to see you coming so that he can help you to become the loving person that you can be. So I have started hearing confessions on Saturdays from 6 to 6.25pm, and for Christmas I will hear Confessions also on Saturdays 14th & 21st from 7.30 to 8pm, Sundays 15th & 22nd from 9.45 to 10.15am and on Tuesday 24th from 10.30 to 11am.

Fr. Piaras**Dates for Your Diary**Sunday 22 Dec: Carol Service @ 3.00pmChristmas Eve: Special Christmas Family Mass 5.30pmChristmas Eve: Mass 8.00pmChristmas Day: 9.00am and 12 noonNew Year's Eve: No Morning Mass

11.30pm: Mass to see in the New Year

New Year's Day: 10.00am

Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God

Confessions: Every Saturday 6.00 to 6.25pm

Saturday 14th & 21st Dec 7.30 to 8.00pm

Sunday 15th & 22nd Dec 9.45 to 10.15am

Tuesday 24th Dec from 10.30 to 11.00am

Mass Times St. Matthew's**Weekends:****Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30****Sunday: 09.00, 10.30, 12.00****Weekdays:****Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri: 10.00****Tue: Morning Prayer 10.00****Holydays of Obligation:****Vigil Mass: 6.30****Holyday: 10.30****Confessions: 6.00pm—6.30pm Saturday****Mass in Cherry Orchard Hospital****@ 8.15pm every Saturday****Changes in Sunday Mass Times**

**The 9.00am Mass on Sunday
will cease from the last Sunday
in December (29th December 2019)**

**From Sunday 5th January 2020
the Sunday Masses will be
at 10.30am and 12.00noon.**

St. Vincent De Paul**Annual Appeal**Amount Collected: **€3110**

Well done and thanks to all



**Carol Service
School and Church Choirs
Sun 22 Dec @ 3.00pm**



Mass Intentions

Saturday 6.30pm: Lily & Luke Brennan, Denis Deering, Kay Delaney, Frank & Phyllis Hennessy, Bridget Higgins' Annie & James McManus, Michael O'Gorman Snr. & Jnr.

Sunday 9.am: Mass Card Requests, Dermot, John & Paddy Dooley, Thomas Walsh

Sunday 10.30: Paddy & Rita O'Toole, Christy, Lil & Paddy Nugent

Sunday 12.00: Joe Fleming

Wednesday 10.00: People of the Parish

Thursday 10.00: Pauline Kerins

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers:

Michael Hendricken, William Kiely, Joe Kirwan whose funerals took place recently in St. Matthew's. We offer our sympathy to their families and friends May they rest in peace.

Tribes Press is working in conjunction with St. Vincent de Paul and the Simon Community to support families in need.

We are offering a chance for you to donate as little as €5 and as much as you like towards new books for a child or whole family for Christmas. For every donation you make to the value of a new book, Tribes Press will donate another book. Each book will be signed by the author with a special message inside to each child.

To donate go www.tribespress.com
email: info@tribespress.com or call: 087 7749873.

Sacristy

Call to the Sacristy after weekday Masses to arrange:

Anniversary Masses, Month's Minds
Baptisms (State Birth Cert. Required)

and to obtain

Baptismal Cert Request Forms
Confirmation Cert. Request Forms
Mass Cards

The Sacristy is open only around Mass times.
Phone: 626 56 95 (Parish Centre)

An Advent Prayer for Peace

Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life—burdens that steal the joy right out of our stockings. Tragedy arrives as innocent victims suffer, and an inner voice whispers, "Be afraid!" We need your peace, Jesus. We confess that our hearts are too often filled with wonder of a different kind: wondering when the bills will be paid, when the terror will stop, when rest will come. Will it ever? Is the message still true? In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again. This Advent, make it real in our hearts.

Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. We not only need Your peace and joy; Lord, we crave it. You've promised rest for the weary, victory for the battle-scarred, peace for the anxious, and acceptance for the broken hearted—not just at Advent, but every day of every year.

We know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with You. You are still our Joy. You are still our Peace. You are no longer a babe in the manger. You are Lord of lords and King of kings. And we still celebrate You as Lord—this Christmas and always.

Rebecca Barlow Jordan

Concert November 30

Once again a very big thanks to Ken and all those who participated in or helped to organize the wonderful concert that took place here in St. Matthew's on Friday Nov 22
Amount raised for St. Matthew's: €2000

NEW HATS, SCARVES AND GLOVES NEEDED

These items can be placed in the basket at side of the altar and will be distributed to those in need.

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	16/12	Mt 21: 23-27	'And who gave you this authority'
Tue	17/12	Mt 1: 1-17	The ancestry of Jesus Christ, Son of David
Wed	18/12	Mt 1: 18-24	How Jesus came to be born
Thu	19/12	Lk 1: 5-25	'Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son'
Fri	20/12	Lk 1: 26-38	'I am the handmaid of the Lord'
Sat	21/12	Lk 1: 39-45	'Of all women you are most blessed'

Church Collections

1 Dec	
1st Collection	680
2nd Collection	520
Family Offering	570

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