



Advent



Preparing the Way

Readings for this Sunday

1st Reading: **Baruch 5: 1-9**

God means to show your splendour to every nation.

2nd Reading: **1 Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11**

May you become pure and blameless
in preparation for the day of Christ.

Gospel: **Luke 3: 1-6**

The call of John the Baptist..



St. Vincent De Paul Special Collection

Next weekend 11/12th Dec 2021

It will replace the Share Collection

Don't forget to visit our website

www.stmatthewsballyfermot.com

Parish Centre Phone 6265695

Wednesday 8th December

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Vigil Mass: Tuesday 7th Dec @ 6.30pm

Holyday Mass Wednesday

8th Dec @ 10 30am

Church Collections

27/28 Nov 2021

Family Offering Envelopes €440.00

Shrines €300.00

Diocesan Common Fund 1st Collection €445.00

Diocesan Share Fund 2nd Collection €405.00

RCN.: 20016166

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Friday

after 10.00 Mass until 11.30 am

unless there is a funeral.



Mass Times St. Matthew's

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday: 10.30am and 12.00

Weekdays: 10.00am

Mass Intentions for the Week

Eileen O'Gorman, Michael O'Gorman Snr. & Jnr.

Ann Noonan, Mary, Rebecca & Peter Dunne,

Christina McGann, Eileen & Vera Murphy,

Rachel Meehan, Patrick Eaton, Joseph Geraghty,

Catherine & Edward Brennan, James Brien, Joe Dineen,

Willie Doyle, Christopher & Elizabeth White



Gospel Readings for the Week

Mon 06/12 **Lk. 5: 17-26**

Tue 07/12 **Jn. 10: 11-16**

Wed 08/12 **Lk. 1: 26-38**

Thu 09/12 **Mt. 11: 11-15**

Fri 10/12 **Mt. 11: 16-19**

Sat 11/12 **Mt. 17: 10-13**

Your sins are forgiven you, get up and walk.

St. Ambrose. Bishop, Doctor

Immaculate Conception of Our Lady

A greater man than John the Baptist has never been seen.

They need neither John nor the Son of Man.

Elijah has come already and they did not recognize him.



**Extract From Archbishop Farrell's sermon last Sunday**

Placing our hope in God's merciful love, we trust that God will bring joy to all people at Christmas while we remember that there are families who have big problems about which In his sermon last Sunday Archbishop Dermot Farrell had this to say:

...We would be untrue to the One who gave his life for us (see John 6:51), were we not—like him—to reach out to our sisters and brothers with compassion (see Luke 10:33).

The daily news fills us with tales of oppression and poverty, and even in the midst of the pandemic, another 'epidemic'—that of crack cocaine and the violence that follows in its wake. The causes of the crack cocaine epidemic we are experiencing in this city, and more widely across the country, are complex and deep-seated, but I believe, based on the goodwill and the many dedicated efforts of community groups, government and religious leaders, that these causes can be addressed and the plague of drugs, which rages out of control, can be effectively addressed if we all work together.

It is a societal issue and societal issues require a societal response. The 'normalisation' of a drugs culture in Ireland is a major societal issue. For some people taking drugs has become as normal as having a drink... The real response is not just a better drugs programme, but a willingness to journey with the families whose members are ensnared by unscrupulous peddlers of drugs, peddlers of death.

To bring people back we need to accompany them....There are people in this city, in the Church, in our schools, in our estates and in our families who are committed to the care of those afflicted by drugs. Such lives, marked by a striving to minister to those caught in the cycle of addiction, and to the little ones, testify that Christ and his Kingdom are close to us and that the Lord has not abandoned his people. In these days of Advent may we never cease to pray that his Kingdom may come, that justice and mercy be done...."

The Safe Talk Project

The SafeTalk Project rose out of a need in Jobstown community to respond to a high level of suicides. The idea they came up with was that there should be 'someone for anyone' who was in distress and that they would be no longer than five minutes away from where the person lived. It was not a service, run by people they did not know or was inhibited by opening hours. It presented people with a chance to speak to someone whom they felt comfortable talking to and at a time they felt comfortable talking about their problems. These people were provided with training.

The scheme has been replicated in Cherry Orchard and elsewhere and I would be glad to give further information to anyone suitable who might like to volunteer for such work.

Fr. Piaras