

Parish Newsletter

**THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, HAIGH, ASPULL & BLACKROD
WITH THE PARISH OF HOLY FAMILY, NEW SPRINGS**

S.R.C.D.T. REG. CHARITY No. 250037

Jan 2nd 2022



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Masses :
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - Our Lady's
Sunday 9.30am - Our Lady's
Sunday 11.15am - Holy Family

Second Sunday of Christmas



THIS WEEK'S MASSES AT OUR LADY'S AND HOLY FAMILY

Vigil Mass - Saturday at 6.00pm and the Sunday Mass at 9.30am, both at Our Lady's.

Sunday Mass - Holy Family at 11.15am.

Monday Bank Holiday - 11.00am Our Lady's

Tuesday - 9.15am Holy Family

Wednesday - 9.15am Our Lady's

Thursday - The Feast of the Epiphany - 9.15am Holy Family and 7.00pm Our Lady's

Friday - 9.15am Our Lady's

Saturday - 11.00am Our Lady's

Response to the Psalm: **The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.**

Gospel Acclamation **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans;

Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world.

Alleluia.

SERVICES ONLINE

Sunday Mass from Our Lady's via the Parish Facebook page using this link

www.facebook.com/ourladyschurchaspull/ available from about 1.00pm. When possible it will be live at 9.30am. It is also available via the Parish WhatsApp group and website.

THOUGHTS

The Season of Christmas

If Advent has been celebrated full of longing and desire, then Christmas will explode upon us as a season of true joy. Not joy in the lights and baubles and glistening array of the world, but true joy that "God is with us - Emmanuel!"

Even so, the lights and glistening array can help us to feel that joy and that presence after four weeks of purple, of subdued decoration and music, of waiting, then the flash of white and gold, the colour and vibrancy of our Christmas celebrations should inform a very deep part of our lives

that something has happened, Christ is born and the world will never be the same again!

The key to Christmas is light, "Of those who live in a land of deep shadow, a light has shone."

The very fact that in our hemisphere the feast falls in the darkest depths of winter gives us the opportunity to allow light to speak: the Church must be a place of dazzling light in the Christmas Season for the Light of the World has come among us. Christmas is about Revelation and it is in the light that all things are revealed as we become, like John the Baptist, "witnesses to

the light". It is important that our churches look different at Christmas. There must be some transition from Advent to the season of Christmas that announces, without the need of words, that something has truly changed. Traditionally, the colour of vestments has always achieved this as solemn purple flashes into gold and white. But how much more can we do; we must let the season engage our senses.

Christmas is a season not a day. This is difficult to realise in our liturgy, since the world wants to get "back to normal" long before we have arrived at the last day of Christmas which is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Each parish community must try to sustain the joy of the season through the great feasts: Nativity, Holy Family, Epiphany all the way to that day when we celebrate the fullest revelation that Christ is the Messiah and the Son of God, that moment when the

voice from the clouds says of Jesus, "This is my Son, the Beloved"

Our scripture for this season answers a question, "Who is this who has come to us?" Revelation gradually unfolds as shepherds, then the Magi, the crowds in the River Jordan are told who this truly is.

This is the Time of Manifestation when we first begin to see, not just a child in a manger, but the face of Christ.

What can we add to our liturgy, day by day , in order to awaken the sense of gradual unfolding of the picture of Christ? And how wonderful to be able, day by day, to deepen that deepest joy, not just knowing that Christ is born but realising at last, once more, just who Christ is!

Fr. Kevin

PARISH NOTICES

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for the sick, especially those in hospital with Covid-19, and we also remember Alan Smith, Barry Gallagher and Marian Corvin.

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

As of Wednesday 29th December:

Alex and Maria Doran and family in California USA, Joseph and Agnes Unsworth, Robert and Winnie Moffitt, Kathleen Moorfield, Bob Brewder, Theresa McInery, Bert Seddon, Marian Corvin, Terry Pastore, the Millington family, Andrew S, Eric Crompton, Alice Duffy, the deceased Pike and Boyce families, Alan Smith and John William Roberts.

LATELY DEAD

Tony Webber

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

To Lilian Webber and family on the death of her husband, Tony, after a very long illness. Funeral arrangements to be arranged. R.I.P.

BAPTISMS

Will recommence in the New Year.

January 9th in Holy Family - Bellamy Colin Adrian Cubbin

January 23rd at Our Lady's - Sophia Grace Stott.

We wish them well.

Every good wish and blessing.

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Gardiner, Billy Youds, Mark Tennent, Maureen Cott, Gloria Green, Roderick Simpson, John William Roberts and priests of the Diocese Frank Fitzpatrick and Frank Handley.

THANKS

- * To all who remembered Fr Kevin's 70th birthday and sent cards and gifts for Christmas. Much appreciated.
- * To all who donated poinsettias to help the SVP and to decorate the churches for Christmas.
- * To those who cleaned and decorated our churches so beautifully.
- * To our musicians, singers and stewards
- * And our gardeners, at Our Lady's, for their restoration work on the outdoor crib.

CYCLE OF PRAYER

Let us pray for the people of the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel with St. John Bosco, Blackley, and for Father Anthony, their parish priest.

We pray for the sisters of the Cross and Passion and for their parish primary schools.

May Mary, Mother of God, confirm them all in their mission.

Fr Kevin .