



First Sunday of Advent

"The gentle light of Advent will guide us to celebrate the Christmas season more joyfully."

Advent is a time for quiet reflection. A short but important four weeks. It's the beginning of the church's year. Our Sunday Gospel readings change from Mark to Luke. So, in a way, we turn a page today as we start the new liturgical year. The gentle light of Advent will guide us to celebrate the Christmas season more joyfully. Advent is about slowing down, taking a step back and seeking a quiet time away from the busyness of this time of the year. Advent offers time for listening, for recharging, refreshment, and rest. Like nature we need to renew our spirit, our energy, and our faith. As the poet Shelley wrote: *"If winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"* When walking down Grafton Street or visiting any of the shopping centres around Dublin in the last week or so, you would be forgiven for thinking that Christmas has already arrived. The Christmas trees are up, the lights are on and there are plenty of compelling window displays from which to choose gifts. There is a sense in our society that things have to happen almost instantly. We have lost the sense of quiet anticipation. And I think that's what Advent, which only last for four weeks, is trying to teach us.

Pope Francis says: *"Thanks to [God's] help, we can always start afresh". "You can start again, because [Christ] awaits you, He is close to you, He loves you, and He is merciful. ... We are able to open our eyes again, overcome sadness and tears and sing a new song."*

I believe that we need to reclaim Advent as a much-needed space to reflect on our faith. Today's Gospel tells us to *"Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man."* This reminds us that we are passing through this World and need to make the most of the gifts and opportunities that God has given to each and

every one of us. Our first reading today from Prophet Jeremiah reminds us of the coming saviour *"I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practice honesty and integrity in the land."* During Advent, let us allow ourselves some moments of stillness and quiet, so that we can listen to what God may be saying to us at this time of the year.

There are practical ways in which we could make this Advent more meaningful. Perhaps we could attend mass more regularly, in person or online. If we are sending Christmas Cards why not choose cards with a distinctly religious theme and message. Also, it is a time for giving and sharing with those in need. The St Vincent de Paul collection, which will take place in our churches in the coming weeks, will provide us with an opportunity to help the most in need in our community.

Speaking at the start of Advent in 2009, Pope Benedict XVI said: *"Advent is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention he has for each one of us."* I wish you all a peaceful and holy Advent.

Deacon Gerard

COLLECTIONS

Common Fund € 1055
Share € 1035

Thank you for your generous support

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased
Una Barrett, Malahide

Saturday, 6.30p.m

Barry & Danny Mulvaney,[A]; Ellen Culligan,[A];
Jo O'Hanrahan,[2nd A]; Gay Power,[A].

Sunday, 10.30a.m.

Madeleine Crowley,[1st A]; Daniel Houlahan,[A];
Elizabeth Dunne,[Bth Rem];

12 noon

Noel Murray,[Month's Mind]; Derek Crookes,[A];
Christina Reynolds,[1st A]; Fiona Quaiife,[A];
Gareth Conway,[A]; Jim Carroll,[5th A];
Marie Kearney,[A]; Teresa Lynch,[A];
Noel O'Dwyer,[6th A]; Mona Connolly,[Bth Rem];
Frank & Ross Millar,[Rem]; Helen Simpson,[A];
George & Sarah Faulkner,[A].
Stephen Morrison,[26th A & Bth Rem].

**PARTNERSHIP ADVENT/
CHRISTMAS PENITENTIAL
SERVICE**

*in St. Anne's Church, Portmarnock
Monday, 16th December 2024*

**PLEASE SUPPORT SVP ANNUAL
SPECIAL COLLECTION**

(St. Anne's Conference, Portmarnock.)

The annual special Christmas collection will take place on Saturday 7th Dec. (at 6.30 pm Mass), and on Sunday 8th December (at 10.30 am & 12 noon Masses). The community in Portmarnock has always been very supportive of our work, for which we have been most grateful. For this Special Collection, we ask you to donate generously again, please, this year. This will help us to support the very many needy households who request assistance throughout the year. Their need can become especially acute at Christmas time, when many face impossible choices. In addition to the church collection, blue take-away SVP donation envelopes will be available at back of church. Donations can also be made by phone or on the website. If using website (svp.ie), please enter St Anne's, Portmarnock, in the 'Specific Location to Help' field. If using SVP phone : tel. no. 0818 176176 – it should be stated that the donation is for St. Anne's, Portmarnock.

OUTDOOR CRIB - HELP NEEDED

PORTMARNOCK AND DISTRICT MEN'S SHED will assemble the Parish Outdoor Crib on Monday next. Help is needed to assemble the Crib at 10.30a.m. Mon, 2nd and Tues, 3rd.



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
to honour all the babies who
have died on the
1st December 2024

St. Nicholas of Myra Church

Francis Street, Dublin 8 At 7.00p.m.

Music by the Garda Male Choir.

All welcome for this special evening of
love, light, and reflection.

PORTMARNOCK SINGERS

Will be joined by the Sea Sharps, IIMS Children's Chorus and the Sensations to perform a selection of Choral and Christmas Music on Sunday, December 8th at 7.30p.m. in St. Anne's Church. We would love to see you there and hope it would be a start of your Christmas celebrations. Tickets available at the door.

**REGISTRATION FOR THE
SACRAMENTS**

A gentle reminder to Parents and Guardians of children in 2nd and 6th Classes to register their children to receive the Sacraments. The Registration form is on the Parish Website at www.portmarnockparish.ie/sacraments/



THE ARCH CLUB

is hosting its bi-annual
Christmas Fair in the Centre
1st December 2024: 11am - 3pm
15 different stalls. Santa and
his elves will be present.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Novena Mass Cards [€3 each];
Christmas Mass Bouquets, [10€] and
Christmas Cards [Pkt of 6, €4],
are available at the Parish Office

**IN THE STILLNESS
OF CHRISTMAS**

An evening of prayer, music and song to
bring peace, calm & quiet in the busy
festive season

22 DECEMBER, 2024 AT 7.30 PM

St. Anne's Church, Portmarnock



ALL WELCOME