

## Letter January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord



*"In life, there can be moments of grace where we are given precious time to share our gift of faith with others."*

When Saint John Paul II first visited France in the 1980s, he addressed a large crowd in Paris and asked them: *"France, what have you done with your baptism?"* This same question could be equally addressed to each and every one of us today. When we were baptised, we were brought to the church by our parents and godparents who made promises on our behalf. As adults, it is now our responsibility to live out these promises in our lives. St Peter, who was the first Pope, described the baptised in a very particular way. He said they are a "chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart." At Baptism, we become members of the church for the first time, we are part of God's own people. In this way, each and every one of us share in the priesthood and ministry of Jesus Christ. We have all received this gift of ministry through the Sacrament of Baptism and there was surely never a time in the Church when these gifts were needed more than they are today. In the Gospel today, Jesus encounters John in the Jordan and is baptised. Here we see Jesus, by his humility, showing by his own example that the least will become the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. This is a Gospel that I often read when celebrating baptisms. It perfectly describes the drama of the moment when Jesus is baptised. We then have one of the very few occasions in the Bible when the voice of God the Father is heard:

*"You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you"*. God also addresses these words to each of us individually. What a wonderful greeting to receive at the beginning of a new year echoing as it does the words of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary at the annunciation. When Saint John Paul II was asked what the most important day was of his life was, he didn't say it was the day he was elected Pope or even the day he was ordained as a priest but instead

he replied: "the day I was baptised." I think he said this because he realised that none of the other blessings and graces of his life might have occurred if he had not first been baptised. We can all recall our birthdays but how many of us can remember the day that we were baptised? If the Church where we were baptised is nearby, perhaps we could visit it during the year and say a prayer at the Baptismal font. As we start 2025, we ask that our Risen Saviour, whose baptism we recall today, will help us to *use* the graces and gifts that we have received at the time of our own baptism. Throughout the week ahead, God will give us opportunities, however small, to do this. We pray that God will give us the energy and encouragement to share our faith and be inspired by our baptism. May this coming year be a time of blessings of each of us as we continue on our journey of faith. **Deacon Gerard**

### COLLECTIONS

#### Sunday, 22 December 2024

Common Fund € 739  
Share € 1100

#### Christmas Day, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Common Fund € 5524  
Share € 2775

#### Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Common Fund € 1370  
Share € 770

#### Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Common Fund € 500  
Share € 875

#### Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Feast of the Epiphany  
Common Fund € 367  
Share Fund € 170



*Sincere thanks* to all who prepared the Church, Parish Centre and Grounds for Christmas. The festive spirit so evident in St. Anne's was commented upon and much

appreciated by so many people. **A very Happy New Year** to all our Parishioners, Families and Friends. Our deep appreciation also to those who have contributed to the **CHRISTMAS DUES** which form such an important part of the Common Fund which supports our Bishops and Priests working in the Archdiocese and our sick and retired Priests. Every blessing of this Jubilee Year. **CJF**

## WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

### Recently Deceased

Charlie Higgins, Carrickhill Walk  
Brian Higgins, Ardilaun  
Brian Lynch, Carrickhill Close  
Michael Morris, Plunkett Cottages  
Paul McKee, The Links  
Mary McDonagh, Carrickhill Close  
Deirdre Fee [Mother of Tom Fee]

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> January

6.30p.m. Kay Furlong, [6<sup>th</sup> A]

Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> January

10.30a.m. Thomas Ryan, [25<sup>th</sup> A]

12 noon

Barbara O'Farrell,[Month's Mind];  
Tony O'Reilly,[A]; Margaret Crane,[A];  
Maureen & Bernard McCormack,[A];  
Patricia O'Reilly,[20<sup>th</sup> A]; Patrick Kelly, [15<sup>th</sup> A];  
Alice McLernon,[40<sup>th</sup> A]; Seamus Dolan,[4<sup>th</sup> A];  
Joe & Kathleen Fitzpatrick, & their grandchildren  
Louise and Adam.[A]

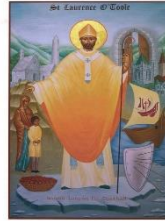
## DUBLIN DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL:

The process has begun to establish a Diocesan Pastoral Council, which will be commissioned at the beginning of Lent 2025. Following from the Synodal and Task Force listening exercises, having a Diocesan Pastoral Council was seen as an essential part of moving forward. Earlier this year Archbishop Farrell set up a group to look at the requirements, statutes and membership of the Council. The work of the group can be seen on the Diocesan website under the Diocesan Pastoral Council tab. The function of the Diocesan Pastoral Council is to be a consultative group which works co-responsibly with Archbishop Farrell in designing ways and means by which the Diocese can best fulfil the mission of Jesus Christ. It will be made up of the Archbishop and 21 laity, religious and clergy. The makeup of the membership will reflect the entire People of God with the good of the whole Diocese in mind. Those who will be on the Council are not representatives of areas or groups in the Diocese but fulfil the criteria for membership that has been set down.

## ST ANNE'S AFTERNOON CLUB

will reopen on Friday the 17th January. All welcome, just come along & join in from 1.30 to 4.30 on Fridays in the Parish Centre

**ART CLASSES** Resumes on Monday, 13th January 2025, 10 – 12.30. and 1.30. – 4.00pm



**Canonization of St Laurence O'Toole.**  
**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Eu, Normandy, France**  
(Final Resting Place of our Diocesan Patron). Led by

Archbishop Farrell 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> May 2025. €595 per person sharing. More information Marian Pilgrimages: (01) 878 8159

## MEDUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025

with Marian Pilgrimages, 7 nights, direct flights from Dublin to Mostar then only 30 minutes coach drive to Medugorje, staying close to Church in Ines House. For more information on joining our group, Contact Derek & Anne Farrell 0862573824 and 0879224077. Spiritual Director, Fr Anthony Hou. Early booking discount of 50 euro per person if deposit paid by the latest, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

## STUDY THEOLOGY ONLINE

Is this for you? The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register before February 11. Find out more on our website, [prioryinstitute.com](http://prioryinstitute.com)

## CAN YOU GIVE GIFT OF PRACTICAL HELP

**Community Connect** is Ireland's Baby Bank charity, working across Ireland to provide practical support to mothers and babies in need. They are asking you to make a big difference to a mother and baby in need by sponsoring a package of essential items. Every little bit helps, and your generosity could mean the world to a mother and baby. Community Connect's volunteers make up the BabyBoxes, MamaBags and Hospital Bags, and deliver them directly to the families who need them. Call 085 875 8366:

[www.communityconnect.ie](http://www.communityconnect.ie)



## LOCAL WRITER'S COURSE

6-week In-person course.

Write Poems & Stories

Refreshments served each week

Phone Martin on 087 6007100