

Parish of St. Mary's

Mostrim



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Fourth Sunday of Advent - 24th Dec 2023

We speak a great deal in Advent about the coming of the light - as Isaiah puts it - for your light has come, the glory of the Lord has come upon you. What light? The light that has made itself visible in the flesh, in this tiny infant in the crib. We are attracted by the same light that enveloped the shepherds and was the guide for the Magi on their journey. This is the light that was in the world from the beginning and by which the world was made. The message of Christmas as St John puts it - the true light which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. And elsewhere in St John - I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. The feast of Christmas is full of Christian hope, the light will overcome the darkness in our lives.

And as we ponder on this message at this Christmas time we are all too conscious of how at times we feel surrounded by darkness. There is so much war and destruction in our world, in Ukraine, in Yemen, in Sudan, in Burma and especially in Gaza, the very heart of the Holy Land. Truly we are witnessing yet again the slaughter of the innocents. So much evil.

And then there is the darkness in our own lives, the darkness of addiction of various kinds, the threat to human life at its beginning and now mooted for the end of life, the misery of loneliness and the hatred that comes from racism, misunderstanding and ignorance. So much darkness that we can feel overwhelmed. But the message of Christmas is a beacon of hope, the light will always overcome the darkness. Evil will not prevail. The Lord is near, have no fear.

This Christmas we are invited yet again to welcome Jesus, the light of truth, hope and love into our lives. Let us make him this Christmas the Lord of our life and let us commit ourselves once again to walking the journey of life with Him.

THANK YOU - *As the year draws to a close, I would like to say a sincere thank you to all who contribute so generously to the life of the parish. I express our gratitude to all who play active roles in the parish community:*

Sacristans, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, Choir members and their leaders, Servers, Safeguarding Rep, Ushers, those who assist with collecting, counting and banking the Sunday collection, those who distribute boxes of envelopes, those who



erected Advent Wreath and Crib, those who care for the Church so faithfully by cleaning it and beautifying it with flowers, and to all who assist in any way - my sincere thanks to all - may God reward you for your generous contribution to the faith life of our parish - Fr. Tom Healy

Pope Francis: "Ensure that Holy Christmas is never a celebration of commercial consumerism, of appearances or of useless gifts, or of excessive waste, but that it is a celebration of joyfully welcoming the Lord into the crib and into the heart."

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| This Weekend | Dec 23rd / 24th |
| 7.00 p.m. | 1. Lilly Dempsey (Months Mind). 2. Mary Dempsey (Months Mind). |
| 11.00 a.m. | Deceased members of the Appleford Family. |
| Weekday Masses: | |
| Wed Dec 28th @ 11.00 a.m. - Our Lady's Manor Eliyamma Scaria (Anniv). | |
| Next Weekend: Dec 30th / 31st | |
| 7.00 p.m. | Frank Eivers (First Anniv). |
| 11.00 a.m. | Joe Reilly (Anniv). |

Offertory Collection: Sun Dec 17th Day - €1,720 - sincere thanks.

RECENTLY DECEASED - Please pray for Patsy Kelly, late of Kilsallagh who died recently in the UK. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Requiesce in pace.



Christmas Masses

Mass of Christmas Night - Sun Dec 24th @ 9.00 p.m.

Christmas Day - 11.00 a.m.

• Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel •

1. We are all favoured ones and God is with us. Sometimes we are more aware of this than others. How have you experienced being a favoured person, one blessed by God? How have you experienced God's presence? Who has been Gabriel to you ... a messenger of good news?
2. 'Do not be afraid'. Mary was perplexed by the words of the angel. Perhaps you too have sometimes been perplexed by life's path and wondered what it all meant. Perhaps at times you have doubted if God was really with you. In your troubled moments who has been an 'angel' helping to lower your anxiety?
3. Mary was taken by surprise by the invitation, but she did not tell the angel she was not ready, nor ask him to return later. She was prepared to go with the invitation even though it was not the 'right moment'. 'Here I am Lord'. What invitations have come to you at the 'wrong time' and how have you responded?
4. Mary's response serves as a model for us - as one saying 'yes' to what life offers. What is it like for you to say 'yes' to life? Perhaps at this moment in your life you are being invited to say: 'Here I am, Lord'?
- John Byrne OSA (INTERCOM)

First Reading - We read how King David had hoped to build a house (a temple) for God. But he is informed that it is God who will build a house (a dynasty) for him.

Second Reading - God's plan of salvation for Jews and Gentiles has come to fulfilment in Christ. The good news must be broadcast everywhere.

Gospel - Mary gives her consent to become the mother of the Redeemer, though she does not fully understand what is being asked of her.

READERS OF THE WORD OF GOD - DECEMBER

Saturday 7.00p.m.: Pat Appleford.

Sunday 11.00 a.m.: Kate Crossan, Ashling O'Reilly.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST - DECEMBER

Saturday 7.00p.m.: Niamh Cassidy, Sandra Durkan.

Sunday 11.00 a.m.: John Cahill, Anne Smith.

Please arrange a substitute if you cannot be present.

WEBCAM

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