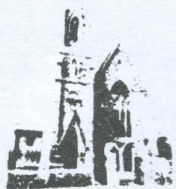


# Parish of St. Mary's

## Mostrim



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First Sunday of Advent - 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024

### • Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel •

1. We live in a time when we are told that disaster lies ahead for us and for our planet if we do not change our ways. But perhaps this new awareness can be a prelude to us changing our ways? The gospel was written to give hope to Christians in danger. What gives you hope amid the dangers facing our world today?

2. Our church community is also in crisis. The numbers of people attending church services have dropped. We have fewer clergy and religious. Scandals have rocked the church community. What helps you to keep faith in such circumstances?

3. This passage can be taken as a metaphor for personal experiences when it seemed that your world was collapsing around you: plans thwarted, deep disappointment, something out of your control altering the course of your life, etc.? When have such experiences been a prelude to something new? Allow the dramatic language of the passage remind you of this experience, making sure that you recognize the double movement of collapse and liberation.

4. Jesus himself is the model in this gospel story as he taught his disciples the spirituality of 'waiting in joyful hope'. What difference has watchfulness (in the sense of being watchful in prayer) and hope made to you in facing difficult situations?

5. Advent is a time that calls us to be alert to the signs of the hidden presence of God in our world. What reminds you of this presence of God? Have there been occasions when something woke you up in an unexpected way to the presence of God in the world, e.g. through love, beauty, nature, etc.? John Byrne OSA

**Sunday Reflection** - The Church begins another liturgical year with the season of advent. The word 'advent' or 'coming'. There is a threefold coming of Jesus to which the Church draws our attention to: first, Jesus' coming as a human being; second, his daily coming into the lives of people; and third, his glorious coming at the end of time. The use of purple vestments underlines the special character of this season.

- St Paul's Sunday Missal

**Pope Francis** - "Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world. It is the desire of many people tormented by hunger, by injustice and by war. It is the desire of the poor, the weak, the abandoned. This is a favourable time to open our hearts, to ask ourselves concrete questions about how and for whom we expend our lives."

**A Sheepish Recovery** - A devout old shepherd lost his favourite Bible while he was out looking for a wayward lamb. Three weeks later, a sheep walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth. The shepherd couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the sheep's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!" "Not really," said the sheep. "Your name is written inside the cover."

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** - Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Sat mornings from 10.00 to 11.00 in the Parish Church. All are welcome to partake in this devotional prayer to Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament.

**Alcoholics Anonymous Ireland** - contact details: 01 842 0700

Email: [gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie](mailto:gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie). Opening hours: General Service Office 9:30-5:00pm.

### READERS OF THE WORD OF GOD - DECEMBER

**Saturday 7.00p.m.:** Lorena Salazar.

**Sunday 11.00 a.m.:** Helena Quinn.

### MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST - DECEMBER

**Saturday 7.00p.m.:** Gerard Haughey, Gerard Green.

**Sunday 11.00 a.m.:** Anne Smith, Yvonne Tuite.

*Please arrange a substitute if you cannot be present.*

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|---|---|
| <b>This Weekend</b>                                   | <b>Nov 30<sup>th</sup> / Dec 1<sup>st</sup></b>   |
| 7.00 p.m.   | No Intention.   |
| 11.00a.m.   | Patrick & Doreen McNamee late of Cranley.   |
| <b>Weekday Masses @ 11.00 a.m. - Our Lady's Manor</b> |   |
| <b>Wed Dec 4<sup>th</sup></b>                         | People of the Parish.   |
| <b>Next Weekend:</b>                                  | <b>Dec 7<sup>th</sup> / Dec 8<sup>th</sup></b>  |
| 7.00 p.m.   | 1. John Rawle (29 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.)<br>2. Michael & Mary Eivers, Longfield.<br>3. Sean Kearney (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniv.) and deceased family members.<br>4. Neddy, Kathleen & John Doherty, Devine Crescent. |
| 11.00a.m.   | 1. Jane & Dan Duffy, Rhenneny.<br>2. John & Teresa Canning, Tinnenaire.<br>3. Brendan O'Byrne (4 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.)  |

**Offertory Collection:** Sat/Sun Nov 23<sup>th</sup> /24<sup>th</sup> - € 1,200 - sincere thanks.



**RECENTLY DECEASED** - Please pray for Joeleen O'Leary (nee Clarke) Goldsmith Meadows, and Michael Turner, Curry who died recently. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Requiescat in pace.

**FIRST FRIDAY:** Fri Dec 6<sup>th</sup> - The usual communion calls to the sick and housebound of the parish will take place on Friday.

### • Thought for the Day •

An Advent wreath consists of a frame holding four candles placed inside a circle of evergreens. The greenery in the wreath symbolizes the promised new life in Jesus. The four candles denote the four Sundays of Advent. There are three purple candles and one rose candle. Purple is a sign of penance and rose in the color denoting the anticipation of joy. Light a candle on each Sunday evening of Advent, saying a short prayer or singing a verse of 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel.' The light of the candles represents the light coming into the world as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

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**Sunday Scriptures - First Reading** - The prophet says that a time will come when God will be true to his promise. The Son of David (that is, The Messiah) will stand among his people. His reign will be marked by wisdom, justice and integrity.

**Second Reading** - Paul prays that the Lord may deepen the love the Thessalonians have for each other, a love that will then reach out to all people. Thus they will be ready for the second coming of Christ.

**Gospel** - In language borrowed from the Old Testament Luke describes the final coming of Christ. Christians should not fear this. Rather, they should look forward to it and prepare for it through prayer and right living.

- Fr Tom Healy -

### WEBCAM

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