

We are now entering the final days of Advent and looking forward to the birth of Jesus.



Our parish posada visits the last two families for this year. The statue of Mary and Joseph will visit the homes of the O'Sullivan and O'Connor families and will be brought, by the O'Connor family, to

our candlelight Christmas Eve mass at 9pm in St. Munchin's college Chapel.

Thank you to all the families who took part in our Parish Posada. Thanks also to all who prayed

Shannon Banks Venture Scouts will be having their annual Christmas Yule logs for sale this weekend, 22nd December, after Sunday morning masses. All proceeds will be donated to Focus Ireland. Your support is always appreciated.



Regular Masses for this week:

Monday and Tuesday: 9:45am

(Tuesday evening and Wednesday- Christmas mass schedule)

There will not be an evening mass on Thursday.

Mass in St Mary's on Thursday and Friday at 10am.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE

7.00pm St Nicholas Church

9.00pm St Munchin's College Chapel (candlelight Mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am St Nicholas Church

12noon St Munchin's College Chapel

CHRISTMAS DAY CAROLS



St Munchins College Chapel choir will sing carols on Christmas morning before the 12 o'clock mass, starting at 11.30. All are welcome.

St Nicholas' Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)



Last Thursday's Choir Service was a beautiful occasion. Our three choirs joined together in great harmony, the church looked lovely, the readings were inspiring and afterwards the festive gathering was a delight! Our thanks to everyone who contributed to making the evening a resounding success!

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Giving Tree: *There was an incredibly generous response to the appeal for gifts to be distributed to children whose circumstances are less fortunate. We are truly grateful to be part of such a genuinely kind-hearted community.*

Reconciliation Service: *All who participated in Tuesday's Reconciliation Service experienced a fitting and gentle reminder of the Christmas message and were encouraged to reflect prayerfully on Jesus' birth and loving presence in our lives.*

The members of St Nicholas' Parish Pastoral Council wish our parishioners and all who join us here a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing in the year to come.

A Prayer for Christmas, Helen Steiner Rice

God give us eyes this Christmas
to see the Christmas star.

And give us ears to hear the song of Angels from afar.

And with our eyes and ears attuned
for a message from above

Let Christmas angels speak to us

Of hope and faith and love.

Hope to light our pathway

when the way ahead is dark,

Hope to sing through stormy days

with the sweetness of the lark,

Faith to trust in things unseen

And know beyond all seeing

That it is in our Father's love

We live and have our being,

And love to break down barriers

of colour, race and creed,

Love to see and understand

And help all those in need.

What do you call Santa Claus when he doesn't move?

Santa Pause



What did the cow get for Christmas?

A COWculator!



Why is it always cold at Christmas?

Because it's Decemberrrrrrrr!



What do elves learn in school?

The elf-abet.





St. Nicholas Parish News
Sunday December 22nd 2019
4th Sunday of Advent

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www.saintnicholasparish.ie

E-mail: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com



Fr. Derek Leonard P.P. 087 6261287

Fr. John O'Byrne 085 7491268

Fr. Gerard O'Leary 087 9378685

Salesian Sisters 061 348510



WEEKDAY MASSES:

St. Munchin's College:
9.45am. Mon, Tues & Wed.

St. Nicholas, Westbury: 7.00pm
Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES:

St. Nicholas, Westbury: 6pm Saturday, 10.30am Sun

St. Munchin's College: 12 noon Sunday

ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER

We encourage local groups to avail of the newsletter to promote upcoming events, pray for the sick etc. To be sent in to: Maura. 086 0429952, Grace. 086 8296193 or Email: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com by 6pm Wednesday.



FEAST DAYS

December 25 Christmas

26 St Stephen



Tues 2pm–4pm. Thurs 9.30am -1.30pm for anyone who may need to book masses, get certificates or any other church related enquiries. Phone: 061 341300

ADORATION CHAPEL: The Adoration chapel is open from 9.30am to 6pm daily. We encourage you to come along for a quiet moment of prayer.



Anyone wishing to have their baby baptised must give at least one months notice.

Baptisms are on the 2nd and 4th weekend of each month. Times: Saturday 5pm

St. Nicholas church and Sunday 1pm St. Munchin's College.

ST. NICHOLAS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Boys and girls from 1st class up (any school) are welcome to join. Practice is every Wednesday from 6.30 to 7.15 in St. Nicholas Church. The choir sing at 10.30 mass every Sunday .

Let us continue to pray for those who are ill at this time, those who are preparing for and awaiting results of tests, those in hospital.



Continue to pray for Maurice, Ailish R, Pat, Annette, Aidan, Gabriel, Jim, Kathleen, Garrett, Helen, Philip, Tony, John, Brian, Muirinn, Ken, Orla, Kiera, Paddy, Michael, Vera, Ailish, Frank, Ger, Mary, Fiona, Niamh, Jesse, Bernadette , Gwyneth, Young Michael William, and Eoin.

Lord Jesus, you are the true friend of all those who suffer anguish and pain in spirit, mind or body. Please share with them now the gift of your consoling love. If you know of anybody needing prayers etc. please contact: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com or Maura 086 0429952/ Grace 086 8296193

Joseph the dreamer

Pope Francis has spoken on several occasions about his devotion to St Joseph. St Joseph is his favourite saint, he says, because he shows us how God reveals his plan to us in our times of silence and rest. He keeps a statue of a sleeping St Joseph on his desk, placing prayer requests under it.

Speaking on a trip to the Philippines in 2015, he said: 'I have great love for Saint Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength ... Joseph's rest revealed God's will to him. In this moment of rest in the Lord, as we pause from our many daily obligations and activities, God is also speaking to us. But like St Joseph, once we have heard God's voice, we must rise from our slumber; we must get up and act.'

Today's Gospel recalls the central role played by St Joseph in the story of the birth of Jesus. A man of honour from the outset, the goodness of his character is further highlighted by his response to God's voice. When he wakes up after hearing God's instructions in a dream, he immediately acts on it and takes Mary into his home. His openness to God's will is a crucial element in the story that follows: his partnership with and support of Mary, the birth of Jesus, his care for the child 'who is to save his people'.

Christmas is very near now, and we are busy and preoccupied with our preparations. A good time, perhaps, to pause in silence, to rest with God, and to listen to what he might have to say to us.

Triona Doherty. Email trionad@gmail.com