



St. Nicholas' Parish News

Sunday 17th December 2017

3rd Sunday of Advent

www.saintnicholasparish.ie

E-mail:

stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com

Happy 3rd week of Advent!



Fr. Derek Leonard P.P.

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Fr. John O'Byrne

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Salesian Sisters:

348510

Mass times:

St Munchin's College.

9.45am. Mon, Tues & Wed.

St Nicholas, Westbury

7.00pm — Thursday

Weekends:

St Nicholas 7.00pm — Sat.

10.30 am — Sunday

St Munchin's College

12 noon — Sunday



PARISH NEWSLETTER

Please feel free to take home a copy of this news-letter. A neighbour or friend who does not attend church in our parish might also welcome it. If you decide otherwise, please leave it on the table at the Exit on your way out. Thank you.

We also encourage groups to avail of it to promote upcoming events, letting know of someone who needs prayers etc.

Items for the newsletter to be in to:

John... 085 7406822

Maura. 086 0429952

by Wednesday please.

E-mail:

Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com

Feastdays—December

Mon 18 — St. Flannan

Wed 20 — St. Fachanan

Thurs 21 — Peter Canisius



THE DEEP END: Light and Darkness

Last week we were introduced to John the Baptist as part of our Advent journey. We hear his story again today, and in this account, from the fourth gospel, we hear John's voice and his testimony about Jesus. Light and darkness is a key theme of the fourth gospel and its opening verses proclaims that this light has always shone in the dark; the darkness cannot overpower it. The evangelist goes on to tell us that John the Baptist's mission is that he has been sent by God to 'speak for the light'. John is a light-bearer, he is not the light, but he points to the light. He is a witness to the light of God in our world, a light that cannot be put out.

We celebrate this light today on Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means 'rejoice'; we light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy. It might be a good opportunity to ask today: 'who have been the light-bearers on your own faith journey'? Who testified to the Light of God and passed the torch on to you? We thank God for them.

Lord there is much darkness in society and in our church ... We become cynical and settle for mediocrity. We thank you that someone always comes on the scene, sent by you as a witness to speak for the light ... teachers, community leaders, grandparents, children, a friend ... they bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light shines that darkness cannot overcome.

Michel de Verteuil

Jane Mellett

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Gaudete - Joy!

The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday. The word "gaudete" is derived from the Latin words "gaudium," joy, and "gaudeo," to rejoice or be glad. Gaudete Sunday occurs eight to thirteen days before Christmas, and the nearness of this major feast is reason for great joy.

So its appropriate that the candle on the Advent wreath is rose, not purple, to indicate joy. Some parishes even have rose coloured vestments. We are rejoicing!! This reflection by Graham Hunt OP is helpful this weekend:

To prepare meaningfully for Christmas can be exceedingly difficult. We must ask ourselves whether, amidst the tumult of our everyday lives - the rush to find the right presents, get the cards away on time, attend the obligatory functions - we are allowing ourselves to find the time to truly prepare and, more dauntingly perhaps, truly proclaim this wonderful news. That Christ dwells in us, each and every one, and that, in little over a week, we will celebrate the most astonishing and wonderful event that is Christ's birth here in our midst, should truly fill us with such joy and peace. However, it can only do so if we allow ourselves the time to reflect, to pray and to prepare. Only then will we, like John the Baptist, be so moved by the Spirit that we will also wish to proclaim this blessed coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in a world that greatly needs to hear His message of salvation.





Parish Office Opening hours. Tues 2pm—4pm. Thurs 9.30am—12.30. for anyone who may need to book Masses get certificates or any other church related enquiries. Entrance to the office is through the Adoration Chapel opposite the priest's house. Phone: 341300

Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel is open from 9.30am to 6.00pm each day. We encourage you to come along for a quiet moment of prayer.



Baptism

Anyone wishing to have their baby baptised must give at least one months notice. Baptisms are on the 2nd & 4th weekend of each month. Times: 6.00pm Saturday evening St. Nicholas Church, Sunday 1.00p.m. St Munchin's College.



Carr, Leonard, Murphy, Cremin, Duffy, Barrett and Ryan. In welcoming Posada into our home we welcome the poor and the needy, thereby welcoming Jesus into our midst. May this advent season be a time of blessings and prayer for our parish.

Thank you



Annette Long on behalf of the four athletes from Rehab Care who are

participating in the Special Olympics in June would like to thank everybody for their support in the recent coffee morning and cake raffle. The winning ticket for the cake was drawn by Fr. Sean Harmon. The winner was Mr. Pádraig Ó Ruairc.

We also wish to thank Precious and Mike Russell for their help, and last but not least we would like to thank Fr.s Derek Leonard P.P. and Sean Harmon.



One Christmas, a mother asked her young daughter if she could name two of Santa's reindeer.

"Rudolph and Olive," replied the young girl confidently.

"Rudolph and Olive?" said the mother, quizzically. "Are you sure?"

"Yes, mommy, Rudolph and Olive. Like in the song."

"The song?" asked the mother. "What song?"

The girl sang, "Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, had a very shiny nose. And if you ever saw it, you would even say it glows. Olive the other reindeer...."



PRAY
FOR THE SICK

Remembering those who are Sick

Let us continue to pray for those who are ill at this time, those 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, Maura, Philip, Tony, John, Brian, Muirinn, Ken, Orla, Ciara, Paddy, Michael, Vera Ailish, Frank & Ger.

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 let John/Maura know by E-mail: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com or Tel. John.085 7406822 Maura. 086 0429952



VENTURESCOUTS

On Sunday the Venture Scouts will be selling YULE Logs after Mass. These Yule Logs are made by the Venturer's and all proceeds will go to St.Vincent De Paul.

The Scout's built the Crib again this year and all donations from the Crib will go to LISA LIGHTS to help prevent suicide.

The Beavers and Cubs did a Carol recital in the Athlunkard Nursing Home last Saturday which was very enjoyable.

History of



the Yule Log

The custom of burning the Yule Log goes back to, and before, medieval times. It was originally a Nordic tradition. Yule is the name of the old Winter Solstice festivals in Scandinavia and other parts of northern Europe, such as Germany.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2017

TUESDAY 19th 7.00pm Confession/Reconciliation Service in St Nicholas Church

MASS TIMES

SUNDAY 24th CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

7.00pm St Nicholas Church

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

MONDAY 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am St Nicholas Church 12noon St Munchin's College Chapel

TUESDAY 26th ST STEPHEN'S DAY &

WEDNESDAY 27th FEAST OF ST JOHN

9.45am St Munchin's College Chapel