



This week our parish posada journeys through our parish visiting the homes of the Lynch, Salesian Sisters, Cregan, Chapot, Cremin, Duffy and Smalle families.

We pray for all families at this Advent time, especially those missing loved ones.



Maranatha prayer Ministry invites you to our Christmas Healing Retreat at St. Pauls Church, Dooradoyle at 2.30pm through the Ministry of Rev. Fr. Joseph Mary, Monks of Moyross, Limerick on Sunday 15th December, 2019, Mass at 5pm. All are welcome.

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ST NICHOLAS PARISH GIVING TREE

Last minute donations to the Giving Tree may be brought to St Nicholas' Church on Tuesday evening when the service of reconciliation is due to take place. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the true spirit of Christmas with children less fortunate than ourselves.



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The Christmas Carol Service will take place in St Nicholas' Church on Thursday 12th December 2019 at 7.30p.m. Tea/Coffee will be provided following the service. All are welcome.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS PAGE OF BLESSINGS

We are making available this weekend a page containing an Advent wreath blessing, blessing of Christmas tree, blessing of crib and Christmas table blessing. We hope You can use these in your home. Please collect at the doors of the church.

Confessions for Christmas



Our Parish Reconciliation service will take place next Tuesday, December 10th at 7pm in St Nicholas church, Westbury.

For those taking the risk of returning to the sacrament, we aim to make it as gentle and welcoming as possible.

We will celebrate a simple form of confession where we invite parishioners to confess one or two sins and receive God's forgiveness.

All welcome.



The annual Christmas St Vincent de Paul collection takes place after masses next weekend, 14th and 15th December. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NOTES:

We are pleased to announce that discussions are under way with a view to appointing a new director for the Saturday evening choir.

Christmas arrangements have been finalised and we particularly remind you that the Christmas Eve Mass in St Nicholas' will be at 7.00pm.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary,

Monday December 9th.

Vigil mass on Sunday at 7pm in St Nicholas church.

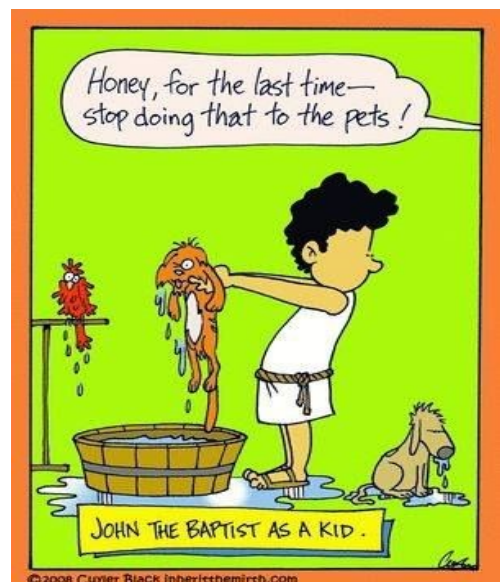
Mass on Monday at 9:45am in St Munchin's College chapel.



St Nicholas' Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

Our sincere condolences to the Salesian community, in particular Sr Kathleen and Sr Patricia on the passing of Sr Brigid Kennedy, RIP. Sr Brigid was an esteemed member of our Saturday night choir for many years and will be greatly missed.

May she rest in eternal peace and love.



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St. Nicholas Parish News

Sunday December 8th 2019

2nd Sunday of Advent

Follow us on Facebook: @saintnicholasparish

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.



SAINTS DAYS

December 9 Feast of the Immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



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 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

THE DEEP END Change of heart

'Once again, we come to the Holiday Season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice.' (Dave Barry)

We might recognise ourselves in the above statement! We are so used to the commercial side of Christmas - the frenzy of ads and gift-buying, the extravagant decorations and parties - that it is easy to forget what we are really celebrating.

That's where John the Baptist comes in. We first meet John in Luke's Gospel, before he is even born: Elizabeth's pregnancy is announced at the same time as Mary's, though John will be born first. The next we hear of John, he appears as God's messenger (as we hear in today's Gospel), preparing the way of the Lord. His job is to set the stage for Jesus to begin his ministry, and his central message is repentance. The Greek word for repentance was metanoia, which literally means a change of heart, or turning one's life around. So John is inviting his audience to make a break with the past, turn to God, and go in a different direction. When Jesus begins his own ministry, his first message is the very same: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

This is a fitting message as we enter the second week of Advent. As we prepare to welcome Jesus, we are invited to metanoia, or change of heart. As we ponder the mysteries of Christmas, we are nudged onwards in a new direction. This week, we could make a conscious effort to move away from the noise and lights of 'the mall', to still our minds, and to open our hearts to God's call.

'Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart.' (Washington Irving)

Jane Mellett, mellettj@gmail.com