

ST. MOCHTA'S COMMUNITY & SOCIAL NEWS

ST. MOCHTA'S CHRISTMAS DRAW: Tickets for our Christmas Draw will go on sale after mass **this weekend**. The draw is limited to **500 hundred tickets at €10 each**. All the proceeds this year will go towards the cost of installing an Audio Visual System in the Church. It will be a great addition to our liturgy celebrations. **Any donations of prizes for the Christmas Draw would be greatly accepted and appreciated.** Thank you for your ongoing support. Our Christmas Draw will take place on **Sunday 20th December** after our Carol Service.

ST. MOCHTA'S PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE ON SALE in the Sacristy after Mass or Parish Office during office hours. Pack of 6 €5. All proceeds raised will go towards buying an Audio Visual System for the Church.

YOUTH FIGHT RECESSION: St Mochta's Youth Group (SMYG) are up and running with a mission! They are launching a Parish Project to help those who have been experiencing difficulty as a result of the recession. To help those who have lost their jobs, or those whose work as trades people has diminished; SMYG are going to produce a Services Directory with a difference. The Directory will be divided into two sections: (1) those unemployed who will **PROMOTE** their trade/service, e.g., painter, plumber, accountant etc can do so free, (2) those who can **GIVE/BARTER** a few hours with a service or a smile e.g., taxi ride, Baking, Child sitting, or any trade or skill that would be useful to those who could do with a help out at the moment. SMYG want Parishioners to support our own parishioners by **employing** or **giving by barter** towards the project. Also welcome are Parish businesses who would like to help by taking a paid advertising/sponsorship to help produce the directory. If you want to be included in the directory to **Promote/Barter/Advertise** please give details of the service, your name and full contact details into the Parish Office or email to SMYG@stmochtasparish.ie.

SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH: St. Mochta's Parish is hosting a Christmas Lunch in our Pastoral Centre on **Saturday 12th December** beginning with Mass at **12.00 pm** for the senior members of our parish. There are **only 50 tickets** available and they are on sale from this weekend costing just €10. Tickets are available in the Sacristy after Mass and in the Parish Office. Lunch will be followed by some entertainment. If you require transport to and/or from the Lunch, please contact the Parish Office and it will be arranged for you.

CHRISTMAS FAIR—ST. PATRICK'S N.S. is hosting its **Christmas Fair this Sun. 29th Nov. from 1pm to 5pm** in the school. Santa Visits, play the Wheel of Fortune, Monster Raffle, café, Bottle/Book/Toy Stalls, Arts & Crafts, etc. Great family day out and great prizes to be won throughout the day. Do not miss it! **All welcome.**
CHRISTMAS FAIR—ST. MOCHTA'S N.S. is hosting its **Christmas Fair next Sun. 6th Dec. from 1pm to 5pm** in the school. Fun for all the family—Santa, Bric-a-Brac, Christmas Light Shop, €2 shop, café, stalls, markets, monster raffle, Gospel Choir and lots, lots more. **All welcome.**

CASTLEKNOCK CELTIC—UNDER 15'S Fundraiser: Jumble Sale on **Sat & Sun. 12th & 13th Dec** in **St. Mochta's Scout Hall** from 9am till late—All proceeds going to fund the U15 teams to contest the Brazilia Cup in Brazil.

CLONSILLA YOUTH MUSICAL SOCIETY (CYMS) is staging a production of **"Back To The 80's"** in Draíocht **Mon-Wed 14th to 16th Dec** at **8pm**. Box office 01 8852622 or www.draiocht.ie

CHRISTMAS YOUTH 2000 RETREAT: A national Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat for **Young People aged 16-35** takes place at Newbridge College, Newbridge, Co. Kildare from **Fri to Sun 18th/20th December** for information see poster at back of the church. Website www.youth2000.ie.



KIDS CORNER: Having listened to the readings, answer the following

1. Today is the first Sunday in the Church Calendar year. What is this new season called?
2. What are we preparing for during this season?
3. Why do we have a wreath with 5 candles?

TASK FOR THE WEEK: Advent is a time for new beginnings and a time of waiting. This week make your new beginning by saying a prayer to our Guardian Angel every morning as a way to prepare for the coming of Baby Jesus at Christmas.

O Angel of God. O Angel of God my guardian Dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be by my side to guard, to rule and to guide. Amen

Archdiocese of Dublin - Deanery of Finglas

ST. MOCHTA'S PARISH

Porterstown & Clonsilla, Dublin 15

PARISH NEWSLETTER 29TH NOV. 2009

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Parish Priest : Rev. John Daly Tel: 8213218

Parish Pastoral Worker: Mary GreeneByrne Tel: 8213218

Parish Secretary: June Phelan Tel: 8213218

Parish Pastoral Centre Enquiries to: Donal Russell

Parish Pastoral Committee: Chairperson George McLellan

Parish Finance Committee: Chairperson John Sherwood

email: frjohn@stmochtasparish.ie

email: pastoralcare@stmochtasparish.ie

email: secretary@stmochtasparish.ie

email: pastoralcentre@stmochtasparish.ie

Parish Web Address: www.stmochtasparish.ie



ADVENT WAKE-UP CALL

Unless we are spiritually awake
we are only half living.

Spirituality is about understanding things,
seeing things, hearing things.

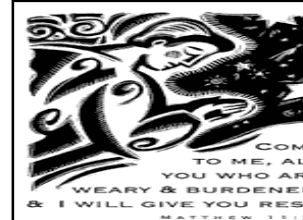
It is necessary to reflect, to have the will,
and to be wide awake.

Not to while away the time in drowsiness.

To be spiritually awake means

to be attentive to God and to others.

Advent issues a spiritual wake-up call to us.



Please pray for those who are sick or housebound at this time:

Sarah Harris, Miriam Soughley, Ruth Dayman, Eileen O'Shea, Michael O'Kane, Chris Bruton, Liam Silcock.

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7.00 pm: Michael Traynor (Anniv.)

8.30 am: Mary O'Neill (Anniv.)

10.30 am Lily Martin (Anniv.)

12.00 pm Deceased Members of McHugh/O'Brien families

EXPOSITION 7pm—9pm

Monday: St. Andrew

10.00 am: Special Intention

Tuesday:

10.00 am: John Smalle (Birthday Remembrance)

Wednesday:

10.00 am: Service of Word & Communion

Thursday: St. Francis Xavier

10.00 am Joseph Keogh (Anniv.)

Friday: First Friday

10.00 am Altar List of the Dead

Saturday:

10.00 am Thomas & Florence Lynch (Anniv.)

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7.00 pm: Fr. Joe Caffrey (RIP)

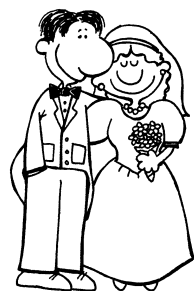
8.30 am: Int. of the Parish

10.30 am Dr. Panday (Anniv.)

12.00 pm Joseph Brannigan and Parents

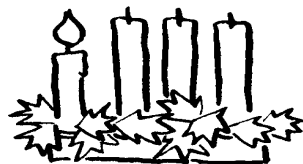
Francis & Christine Brannigan

EXPOSITION 7pm—9pm



WEDDING BELLS: Congratulations to **Robert Owens and Tara Davies** and **Gary Smith and Orla Dempsey** who were married this past week. May the Lord continue to bless them and deepen their love in the years ahead.

NEW CHRISTIANS: We welcome **Sophie, Daniel, Aster and Elliott** who join our community through the waters of baptism this weekend. May they continue to grow strong in body, mind, and spirit in the years ahead. Anyone enquiring about baptism please take one of the leaflets from the back of the church. Thank you.



WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

If you are a new parishioner or just visiting St. Mochta's you are very welcome and we, the existing community, hope you feel at home. If you are new to the parish please make yourself known to Fr. John. I would also be grateful if you could fill out a **Registration Form** in order to register with the parish. These can be found at the back of the Church.

ARE YOU REGISTERED IN THE PARISH?

Are you on the parish data base? If you have not registered with the parish please fill out one of the forms at the back of the church and return it to Fr. John. It is very important that we continue to build our data base and keep it up to date. Thank you.

PARISH OFFICE: For all parish enquires please ring our secretary June on 8213218 or email: secretary@stmochtasparrish.ie **Our parish office is open Monday to Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.**

PARISH WEBSITE: The address for our site is: www.stmochtasparrish.ie

MASS INTENTIONS: If you would like to have Mass offered for someone or offered for a particular intention please see our sacristan, Mary after Mass.

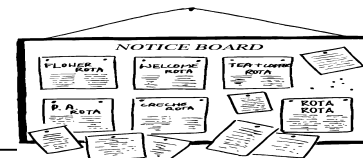
CONFESSION: the sacrament is celebrated each Saturday from 6.00pm 6.45pm or by appointment. The sacrament offers you an opportunity to receive the Lord's forgiveness and healing.

HOSPITAL VISITATION: If you know of a parishioner who is sick and would like a visit please don't hesitate to contact Fr. John.

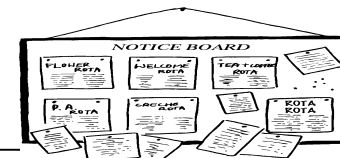
FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH: Is celebrated this coming Friday. On this day communion is brought to the sick and housebound of the parish-Morning Mass is offered for all those whose names appear on the Altar List of the Dead.

GIVE UP YOU AULD SINS: The sacrament of Confession is available each Saturday evening from 6pm –6.45pm. We will have a Reconciliation Service during Advent after the Sunday Masses beginning the 3rd Sunday of Advent 13th December to prepare us for Christmas.

VOLUNTEERS — CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE DELIVERY: The Christmas schedule, with details of our Christmas Celebrations, is **ready for collection and delivery to the parish** this weekend. Please pick up your pack from the Sacristy after Mass or from the Parish Office—9.30am-12.30pm. We are looking for new recruits to join our delivery team. So if you are available to help please leave your name and contact number in the Sacristy after Mass or Parish Office on 01 8213218. Thanks again for your support.



PARISH NEWS



CELEBRATING ADVENT: The season of Advent begins today and again brings us a time to stop and think about Jesus and our faith. In the busyness of our lives, too many of us live either in the past or in the future. Very few of us live in the present moment. Those who live in the past or in the future live in a world, which doesn't exist, and because it doesn't exist it has no ground for them to firmly put their feet. What is more, Christian faith can be exercised only in the present moment. The present moment is real time. In real time the sun shines golden, the rain falls fresh and every breath is a blessing. Even when real time turns and challenges us or even, as in today's Gospel, the end of the world begins, we can still stand confidently, our heads held high, because our faith in the word of God is undiminished and promises safety - but only in real time. For Advent let us pray that for each one of us today our Advent journey will begin with a fresh resolve to walk in the path of the Lord. Let us pray for faithfulness to the Sunday Eucharist among the Catholic people of God; Let us pray for a humble willingness to seek forgiveness in the sacrament of Reconciliation; Let us pray for a readiness to set aside 'prime time' for our personal prayer every day. The choice God offers is for now—today—for this present moment—for each of us.

THE ADVENT WREATH: is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. There is evidence of pre-Christian



Germanic peoples using wreathes with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreathes as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God. The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ. The four candles represents four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve.

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Life is Fleeting

The hill flowers fade,
but will bloom again next year.
But we never get back our youth.
Life is a fragile gift which we enjoy only briefly:
Our life is like the warming of oneself in the sun.
We live in a flash of light: before we know it,
evening come and night falls.
But the very fleetingness of life
makes it all the more precious.
Lord, may your gently and sure light
guide us on the unfolding road,
so that we may walk with confidence
towards the light that never fades
and the life that never ends.

SCRIPTURE READING: Each week we suggest a piece of Scripture to use in your prayer. Light a candle and read slowly the passage, reread it a couple of times and reflect on it and listen to what God is saying to you. **This week's is LK 3:1-6.**

REPORT of Commission of Investigation in the sexual abuse of children by priests in the Archdiocese of Dublin was published this week and a **Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Diarmuid Martin is available at the back of the church.** The Report of the Commission gives us some insight into the crimes that took place. But no report can give an indication of the suffering and trauma endured by the children, and indeed the suffering also of their family members. The report focuses on a representative sample of cases, but the Commission examined many other cases. The Report highlights devastating failings of the past. These failings call on all of us to scrupulously apply clear guidelines and norms. The hurt done to a child through sexual abuse is horrific. Betrayal of trust is compounded by the theft of self esteem. The horror can last a lifetime. One of the most heartbreaking aspects of the Report is that Church leaders – Bishops and religious superiors - failed, almost every parent who came to the diocese to report abuse. Today, it must be unequivocally recalled that the Archdiocese of Dublin failed to recognise the theft of childhood which survivors endured and the diocese failed in its responses to them when they had the courage to come forward, compounding the damage done to their innocence. For that no words of apology will ever be sufficient.