

MOCHTA'S COMMUNITY & SOCIAL NEWS

CHRISTMAS LEAFLET VOLUNTEERS:

We hope to have our Christmas leaflet ready for next weekend. We'd be grateful if our usual volunteers would offer their services once more. We will be also looking for new recruits for our ever expanding parish. Please see Fr. John after Mass.

ST. PATRICK'S N.S. CHRISTMAS FAIR:

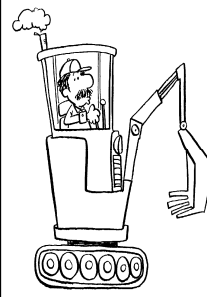
The Parents Association are holding their first Christmas Fair on **Sunday 2nd December** from 1.00pm—6pm. The fair is being held in the school. Santa arrives at 1.30pm.

PARISH CHRISTMAS DRAW: Tickets will go on sale this week for our Christmas Draw. We have some great prizes again this year. This year all proceeds will go to a new **Keyboard** for the choirs and an **Ambry** for the Holy Oils used for Baptism, Confirmation etc. **Tickets will be €10.** Thank you for your support.

DAVID PARKES: An evening of prayer through song with the international singer David Parkes takes place in St. Mary's Church, Lucan, on Monday 3rd December at 7.45pm. Tickets are €10. See poster at the back of the church.

YOUTH 2000 RETREAT: The national Christmas youth retreat takes place in St. Paul's Secondary School, Greenhills, Dublin on Friday 14th Dec.—Sunday 16th Dec. If you would like to find out more please visit their website www.youth2000.ie or ring 6753690.

PARISH WEB SITE: The new parish web site for St. Mochta's is nearly complete. We hope to be able to launch the site early in the new year. It will contain all the details of our parish and will be updated each day.



PARISH CENTRE UPDATE:

Work on the new Parish Centre is moving very quickly along. Well the wall have begun to rise on our pastoral centre. Its beginning to take shape. Lets see how quickly they rise. Watch this space for weekly updates.

WATCH YOUR STEP: Due to the ongoing work on the new Parish Centre there will be some disruption to the car park and access to the church. A new path has been laid from the car park to the church passed Fr. John's house. Please use this path rather than the road. There is absolutely no access allowed to the building site for safety reasons. Thank you for your cooperation. The build will take about 8 months.

WELL DONE ST. MOCHTA'S N.S. : The school's Gaelic Football team played their hearts out in an exciting final against St. Mary's N.S. from Booterstown. Although they enjoyed most of the possession and play during the game they were unable to convert it into points. They lost narrowly to a very good side. A big thank you to the team and all the supporters for a great day out in Croke Parc. St. Mochta himself would be very proud of you.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE: This year our carol service will be celebrated on **Sunday 16th Dec. at 4.00pm.** This offers us a great opportunity just to take a step back from all the hectic rushing around we do at Christmas time. It will help us to remember to place Jesus Christ at the centre of all our preparations. It will be a lovely celebration for all of the parish.



KIDS CORNER: Having listened to the readings see if you can answer the following questions:

1. Why does Jesus tell us to stay awake ?
2. What season are we beginning today ?
3. What is the main symbol for Advent?
4. How can we prepare better for Christmas?

TASK FOR THE WEEK: Why not begin the journey to Bethlehem now! Set up the crib in the front room of your house. Place Mary and Joseph in your bedroom and each day move them a little so as the days pass they move closer to the crib. They should arrived for Christmas Eve.

Archdiocese of Dublin – Deanery of Finglas

ST. MOCHTA'S PARISH

Porterstown, Clonsilla, Dublin 15

PARISH NEWSLETTER 2nd DECEMBER 2007

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Parish Priest : Rev. John Daly

Tel: 8213218

email: john.daly5@hotmail.com

Parish Office : Monday – Friday : 9.30am – 12.30pm

Secretary: June Phelan Tel: 8213218

Sacramental Co-ordinator & Faith Development: Mary GreeneByrne

Parish Pastoral Committee: Chairperson George McLellan

Parish Finance Committee: Chairperson Colm O'Neill

Catholic Schools serving our Parish: St. Mochta's: Mr. Terence Allen

St. Patrick's: Mr. Páirc Clerkin

St. Choilm : Mrs. Treasa Lowe



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 e 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:
Irene Hoey, Joan O'Brien, Tim O'Keeffe, Brian Henry, Baby Mia,
John Smalle, Mary Eustace.

MASS
SCHEDULE

7.00 pm: Lily Martin (Ann)
8.30 am: Int. of the Parish
10.30 am: Tommy Bracken (Ann)
12.00 pm: Joseph Christine & Francis Brannigan
EXPOSITION 7pm—9pm

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

EXPOSITION 7pm—9pm

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 be also 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. Our parish office is open Monday to Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.

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

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 or June in the Parish Office between 9.30am – 12.30pm.



WEDDING BELLS: Congratulations to **Andrew Grant & Suzanne Traynor** who were married this week. May the commitment they made to each other this week continue to grow and deepen, with God's grace, in the years ahead.

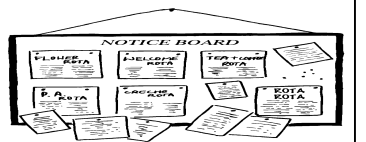


WELCOMING SUNDAY: This weekend we introduce to our community all those who will be baptised this coming month and become part of the Church.

WALK WITH ME: Is a small prayer book with reflections for each day of Advent to help us in our preparations for the Lord's coming. They are available free of charge from the back of the church. We also have an Advent Calendar for our children to help them prepare.



PARISH NEWS



NEW BEGINNINGS: As we begin a new Church year we will also be beginning some new changes in our Masses to enhance our liturgies. Firstly, we will be moving to having two Lector's (readers) at all our Sunday Masses. We have purchased a new cover for our Lectionary. Secondly, at our weekday Masses we will have communion under both kinds (Body & Blood of Christ). Thirdly, we hope to have the doxology sung with the Great Amen for all our Masses.

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 represent the 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 good 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. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's coming into the world.

GIVE UP YOU AULD SINS: The sacrament of Confession is available each Saturday evening from 6pm –6.45pm or by appointment during the week. We will hopefully have a Reconciliation Services during Advent after the Sunday Masses beginning the 2nd Sunday of Advent 9th Dec. to help prepare us spiritually for the celebration of Christmas.

PARISH FINANCE GROUP: Meeting takes place this coming **Monday 3rd December at 8pm** in the house. All members are asked to attend.

Circle me, Lord,
Keep protection near; keep danger afar.
Circle me, Lord.
Keep hope within; keep doubt without.
Circle me, Lord.
Keep light near; keep darkness afar.
Circle me, Lord.
Keep peace within; keep strife without.
Circle me, Lord.
Keep love within; keep hate without.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Each week we suggest a piece of Scripture to use in your prayer. Light a candle and read slowly the passage, re-read it a couple of times and reflect on it and listen to what God is saying to you. **This week's is Mt 3:1-12.**

THE JESSE TREE: is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots." It is a vehicle to tell the Story of God in the Old Testament, and to connect the Advent Season with the faithfulness of God across 4,000 years of history. The [symbols](#) on the Jesse Tree represents a "family tree" of Christ. Each ornament is a symbol of an ancestor or of a prophecy which foretells Jesus is coming. The wonderful thing about the Jesse Tree is that it helps serve as a reminder that Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour came to us as part of God's great purpose for us – a purpose as old as the Creation itself. God has a plan for the world – a plan in which all people will be blessed. The symbols will be placed on our tree each day of Advent. Symbols of Jesse Tree:

2nd December: Tree: It is called after Jesse who was the father of King David. Jesus is also a part of Jesse and David's family tree. **3rd December: Globe:** God is the creator of all things. God made the world, it is his gift to us, but God also wants us to treat it with care.

FAMILY OFFERING: The Family Offering is the main source of income for the parish on a monthly basis. The offering amounted to **€7288 for October**. Thank you for your ongoing support. If you'd like to join the Family offering please fill out a form at the back of the church. Thank you.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: St. Paul says, 'God has chosen us in Christ to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence.' On **Saturday 8th** we celebrate the holiness of Mary. Right from the moment of her existence she lived in the light of God. For her holiness consisted in hearing the word of God and doing it. We too will become holy if, like Mary, we hear the word of God and act on it.

Mass Friday 7pm & Saturday 10am.

VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION: The annual diocesan collection for the Society takes place at all our Sunday Masses next weekend. It will replace the usual Share collection. We thank our local conference for all their work in our community throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support of their work.