

MOCHTA'S COMMUNITY & SOCIAL NEWS

CHRISTMAS LEAFLET VOLUNTEERS:

We have our Christmas leaflets ready this week-end. We'd be grateful if our usual volunteers would collect their leaflets from the Sacristy after Mass or call into the Parish Office between 9.30am and 12.30 pm during the week. We are also looking for new recruits for our ever expanding parish. Please see Fr. John after Mass.

ONLY 150 TICKETS LEFT: Tickets will go on sale this week for our Christmas Draw. The draw is limited to 500. We have some great prizes again this year. From Christmas hamper, Panto Tickets, 4-Ball's Dinners Out and much much more. See the poster at the back of the church for more details. 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.** Don't be shy. Thank you for your support.

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. .

HANDBAGS IN AFRICA: A big thank you to all who supported the 'Handbags Sale' in the Scout's Den a number of weeks ago. Fr. Martin received €1700 last week. The monies will be used to fund places for poorer students to attend secondary school. A big thank you from Fr. Martin to all who organised the event.

LECTIO DEVINA BOOKMARKS: there is a choice of 6 designs and are available for free at the back of the church. They offer a synopsis of Lectio Divina and special Church dates. More info can be had at www.youth2000.ie

TURNING THE SOD:

Well, its official, the sod was turn on our new Parish Pastoral Center on Friday 7th Dec. The Minister for Justice, **Mr. Brian Lenihan** with spade in hand officially launched our building programme.

Also in attendance were Joan Burton TD, Councillors Peggy Hamill, Mags Murray our architect, Ciaran Fitzgerald and members of the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee. I would like to thank all those who helped organise the event. The wall for the Centre will begin to rise this coming week. 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.



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

1. Who is the lone voice calling in the desert?
2. What is John calling the people to do?
3. What should the people repent from?
4. Who is John preparing the way for?

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 9TH DECEMBER 2007 2ND 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

PREPARING A WAY FOR THE LORD

In today's liturgy we hear again the lonely voice of John the Baptist exhorting us to prepare a way for the Lord. Let us create a space in our minds and hearts so that the Lord can come to us in this Eucharist.



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL takes place this weekend 8th/9th Dec. at all our Masses. Members of our local conference will make the appeal at each of our celebrations. This collection is vital to the work of the SVP in enabling them to extend their programmes of assistance to those in need throughout the Diocese.



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, Baby James.

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7.00 pm: Lilly Redmond RIP
8.30 am: Int. of the Parish
10.30 am: Jackie & Michael O' Callaghan (Ann)
12.00 pm: Padraig O'Toole (Ann.)
EXPOSITION 7pm—9pm
Monday:
10.00 am: Special Intention
Tuesday: St.Damasus
10.00 am: Special Intention
Wednesday: St. Finian
10.00 am: Service of Word & Communion
Thursday: St. Lucy
10.00 am: John Swan (Ann)
Friday: St. John of the Cross
10.00am: Rev. Gerry Griffins R.I.P.
Saturday:
10.00am Mass of Thanksgiving
3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
GAUDETE SUNDAY
7.00 pm: Int of the Parish
8.30 am: Int of the Parish
10.30 am: Jan & Olive Strobwitz (Ann)
12.00 pm: Lilly McCann (Ann)
EXPOSITION 7pm—9pm

ALTAR SERVERS CHRISTMAS OUTING:

A reminder to our all our current servers that our Christmas outing is this coming **Thursday 13th December**. We are meeting at **4.30pm** at the church. Make sure you see Fr. John to put your name on the list before Thursday. Thank you.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Meeting takes place this coming **Monday 10th December at 8pm** in the house. All members are asked to attend.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEAN:

Our beautiful church will need an extra clean to be looking its best for our Christmas celebrations. I am looking for volunteers for **Christmas eve** after morning Mass. Don't be shy in coming forward.



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 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.



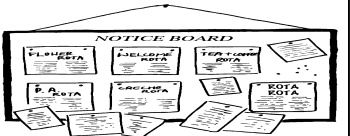
WEDDING BELLS: Congratulations to **Christopher Murray and Aisling Timmons** and **Anthony O'Shea and Amanda Deegan** who were married this week. May the commitment they made to each other this week continue to grown and deepen, with God's grace, in the years ahead.



NEW CHRISTIANS: We welcome **Shauna, Rachel and Shane** who join our community through the waters of baptism this weekend. May they continue to grown strong in body, mind and spirit. Anyone enquiring about baptism please take one of the leaflets from the back of the church or see Fr. John after Mass. Thank you.



PARISH NEWS



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 have a Reconciliation Services during Advent after the Sunday Masses beginning this weekend, the 2nd Sunday of Advent 9th Dec. to help prepare us spiritually for the celebration of Christmas.

CRIB AND CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING: Are available from the racks at the back of the Church. These are little prayer services to be done at home with your family or friends. They offer us simple and practical ways of keeping Christ at the heart of our preparations. Please take one home.



BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS CANDLE: Many of us will have a candle as a center piece at our Christmas table. At the Christmas Day Masses these candles will be blessed if you bring them with you. We will also have a special 'Grace before Dinner' for you to take home for your family Dinner.

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. Our guest choir this year will be the children's choir from **St. Patrick's National School**.



CHRISTMAS MASSES: Our Masses for Christmas Eve will be the Family Mass at 6pm with the Mass of Christmas celebrated at 9pm. Christmas morning Masses will be celebrated at 8am; 9am; 10.30am and 12 noon. **Please note that there is NO 8.30am Mass.** Our congregations are usually very large for Christmas. So I would encourage you to arrive in plenty of time for Mass.

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all.
And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.
I've heard it in the chilliest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

(Emily Dickinson)

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 11:2-11**

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 is 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 Dec: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 Dec:Globe:** God is the creator of all things; **4th Dec:Apple:** Adam & Eve; **5thDec:Noah's Ark:** Flood; **6thDec: Abraham:** his promise to God; **7th Dec:Angel:** God granting Sarah's prayer; **8th Dec. Sheep:** Isaac's life spared. Please read the book in front of the Jesses Tree for more details on each of the symbols and their meaning.