

MOCHTA'S COMMUNITY & SOCIAL NEWS

ONLY 100 TICKETS LEFT:

Tickets are 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. The draw will take place this **Sunday, 16th December** after our Carol Service. Tickets are €10. Don't be shy. Thank you.



WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2008: will be celebrated in the diocese at a special Mass in St. Teresa's Church, Clarendon Street on Tues. 1st January at 11am. The theme chosen by the Holy Father this year is: The Human Family, Community of Peace.

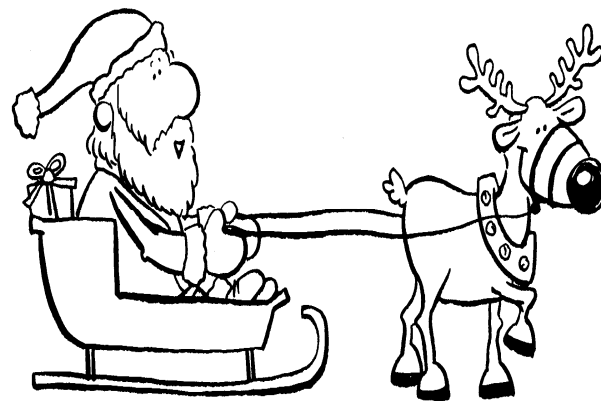
RISING, RISING, RISING: go the walls of the new Parish Pastoral Centre. We are using a hi-tec construction called "polar wall" which has very high insulation qualities. The walls will go over the next couple of weeks and the roof of the center will go on during the month of Jan.

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 co-operation.

SANTA MUST BE A WOMAN!!!! I hate to be the one to defy sacred myth, but I believe he's a she. Think about it. Christmas is a big, organized, warm, fuzzy, nurturing social deal, and I have a tough time believing a guy could possibly pull it all off! For starters, the vast majority of men don't even think about selecting gifts until Christmas Eve. It's as if they are all frozen in some kind of Ebenezerian Time Warp until 3 p.m. on Dec. 24th, when they - with amazing calm - call other errant men and plan for a last-minute shopping spree.

Some others reasons why Santa can't possibly be a man:

- Men can't pack a bag.
 - Men would rather be dead than caught wearing red velvet.
 - Men would feel their masculinity is threatened, having to be seen with all those elves.
 - Men don't answer their mail.
 - Men would refuse to allow their physique to be described, even in jest, as anything remotely resembling a pudding bowl.
- And of course he'd have transportation problems because he would inevitably get lost in the snow and clouds, and then refuse to stop and ask for directions. Here's to Mrs. Claus



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

1. What question did John ask Jesus?
2. What answer did Jesus give John?
3. What did Jesus say was greater than John?
4. Is Jesus the "one" that John was talking about?

TASK FOR THE WEEK: This is a wonderful time of the year. Everywhere looks magical with twinkling lights. I hope the tree in your house looks wonderful. Don't forget to say a prayer each day in front of the crib in your home so that you can welcome Jesus into your heart in a special way at this time.

Archdiocese of Dublin - Deanery of Finglas

ST. MOCHTA'S PARISH

Porterstown, Clonsilla, Dublin 15

PARISH NEWSLETTER 16TH DECEMBER 2007

3RD 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

GAUDETE SUNDAY

There is a clear note of rejoicing in today's liturgy. The word "Gaudete" means rejoice. The basis for this rejoicing is the nearness of the Lord. As we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, the Lord is very near us. Indeed he is in our midst.

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 center 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 School.



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



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
GAUDETE SUNDAY

7.00 pm: Michael Murphy (Ann)
8.30 am: Int of the Parish
10.30 am: Jan & Olive Strobwitzer
12.00 pm: Lilly McCann (Ann)
EXPOSITION 7pm—9pm
Monday:
10.00 am: Cornelius McCarthy (Rec. dec.)
Tuesday: St. Flannan
10.00 am: Sick of the Parish
Wednesday:
10.00 am: Service of Word & Communion
Thursday: St. Fachanan
10.00 am: Special Intention
Friday: St. Peter Canisius
10.00am: Louise McClave RIP
Saturday:
10.00am Patrick Fee (Ann.)

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7.00 pm: Kathleen & Bernard Byrne (Ann.)
8.30 am: Int. of the Parish
10.30 am: James & Agnes Doyle and
Patrick & Annie Nolan
12.00 pm: Kathleen & Edward Sheridan R.I.P.
EXPOSITION 7pm—9pm

ALTAR SERVERS MEETING: Meeting for all altar servers this coming **Thursday 20th** December at **5pm** in preparation for the Christmas.

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.



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 1:18-25.**

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.

NEW CHRISTIANS: We welcome **Robert, Luke, Cian, Ryan and Luke** 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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY GIVE THANKS: This year once again the generosity of people of the parish has proved extraordinary. Last week's collection raised **€7,853** for the work of St. Mochta's Conference. Thank you for your support, it is much appreciated. May you have a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

GIVE UP YOU AVLD SINS: The sacrament of Confession is available each Saturday evening from 6pm – 6.45pm We will have a Reconciliation Services during Advent after the Sunday Masses to help prepare us spiritually for the celebration of Christmas.



PARISH NEWS



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 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

John the Baptist was no reed swaying in the wind. A reed swaying in the wind is a symbol of those who are easily influenced, who go along with whatever is popular, and who have no convictions of their own. But the humble reed can teach us something. The fact that it is light means that it is at the mercy of every wind that blows. But it has great strength too. The greatest storm cannot uproot it. Even when giant oaks come crashing down, the slender reed still stands secure. Lord, teach us that there is strength in weakness and suppleness, and give us the wisdom to know when to bend and when to stand firm.

Amen.



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;
5th Dec: Noah's Ark: Flood;
6th Dec: Abraham: his promise to God;
7th Dec: Angel: God granting Sarah's prayer;
8th Dec. Sheep: Isaac's life spared;
9th Dec. Jacob's Ladder;
10th Dec. Joseph's Coat;
11th Dec. Moses Tablets of Stone;
12th Dec. Rehab's Rope;
13th Dec. Ruth's Bag of Corn;
14th Dec. Samuel's Horn of Oil;
15th Dec. David's Crown;
16th Dec. Isaiah's Scroll. Please read the book in front of the Jesses Tree for more details on each of the symbols and their meaning.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES: Are available at the back of the church. The Christmas Offering goes to help support of the priests in the Diocese and the Parish. Thank you for your prayers and continued support, especially at this time.



CHRISTMAS LEAFLET VOLUNTEERS: A big thank you to all our volunteers who gave their time and energy to drop the Christmas Card around the parish.