

## MOCHTA'S COMMUNITY & SOCIAL NEWS

**CHRISTMAS DRAW:** A big thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Draw. This year the Christmas Hamper was won by Joe Molloy, Panto tickets went to Kathleen McDermot and the Louis Copeland voucher was won by Miriam McInerney. All the winners are listed on the notice board at the back of the church. I'd like to say a special thank you to Annette Russell who coordinated the Draw this year and did a super job along with all our ticket sellers. 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. A list of the prize winners is on the notice board at the back of the church.

**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.

**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 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:** Jacob's Ladder;

**10th Dec: Joseph's Coat:** Joseph's Coat;

**11th Dec: Moses Tablets of Stone:** Moses Tablets of Stone;

**12th Dec: Rehab's Rope:** Rehab's Rope;

**13th Dec: Ruth's Bag of Corn:** Ruth's Bag of Corn;

**14th Dec: Samuel's Horn of Oil:** Samuel's Horn of Oil;

**15th Dec: David's Crown:** David's Crown;

**16th Dec: Isaiah's Scroll:** Isaiah's Scroll;

**17th Dec: Creation:** Fish;

**18th Dec: Wall of Bethlehem:** Wall of Bethlehem;

**19th Dec: Watch Tower of Jerusalem:** Watch Tower of Jerusalem;

**20th Dec: Elizabeth's Angel:** Elizabeth's Angel;

**21st Dec: John the Baptist's Shell:** John the Baptist's Shell;

**22nd Dec: Mary's Rose:** Mary's Rose;

**23rd Dec: Joseph's Saw:** Joseph's Saw;

**24th Dec: Map of Israel:** Map of Israel;

**25th Dec: Jesus Our Saviour's Star.** Please read the book in front of the Jesses Tree for more details on each of the symbols and their meaning.



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

1. What house was Joseph from?
2. Who appeared to Joseph?
3. What did the angel say to him?
4. What does the word 'Emmanuel' mean?

**TASK FOR THE WEEK:** Yahoooooooo. Its Christmas, time for celebrating with all our loved ones. I would ask you over the Christmas to make a visit to the Church and to offer a prayer of thanks in front of the crib for all that you have received not only at Christmas but through the whole year.

Archdiocese of Dublin – Deanery of Finglas

# ST. MOCHTA'S PARISH

Porterstown, Clonsilla, Dublin 15

PARISH NEWSLETTER 23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2007

# 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Parish Priest :** Rev. John Daly      Tel: 8213218      email: [john.daly5@hotmail.com](mailto:john.daly5@hotmail.com)

**Parish Office :** Monday – Friday : 9.30am – 12.30pm      **Secretary:** June Phelan Tel: 8213218

**Sacramental Co-ordinator & Faith Development:** Mary GreeneByrne

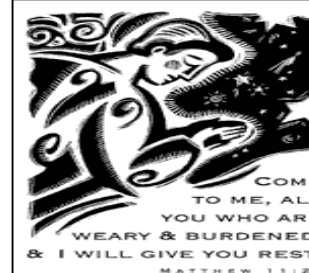
**Parish Pastoral Committee:** Chairperson George McLellan

**Parish Finance Committee:** Chairperson Colm O'Neill

**Catholic Schools serving our Parish:** **St. Mochta's:** Mr. Terence Allen  
**St. Patrick's:** Mr. Páircí Clerkin  
**St. Choilm :** Mrs. Treasa Lowe

# THE FEAST OF THE HEART

Christmas is a feast of the heart. It reveals to us what the heart of God is like. It was God who started it all when he gave us the gift of his Son. At the same time it reveals to us what the human heart is capable of. Christmas causes us to open our hearts. And to the extent to which we open our hearts to God and to one another, will be the extent to which we experience the 'great joy' the angels announced to the shepherds, because joy is the fruit of love. May you and your family truly have a feast of the heart this Christmas Season.



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



### 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7.00 pm: Kathleen & Bernard Byrne (Ann.)

8.30 am: Int. of the Parish

10.30 am: James & Agnes Doyle (Ann)

Patrick & Annie Nolan (Ann)

12.00 pm: Kathleen & Edward Sheridan R.I.P.

**EXPOSITION 7pm—9pm**

**Monday:**

10.00 am: Margaret Carroll (Ann.)

### CHRISTMAS MASSES (Eve)

6.00 pm: Family Mass

9.00 pm: Midnight Mass

### CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 am: **All Masses are offered for**

9.00 am: **members deceased**

10.30 am: **of our families**

12.00 pm

**Wednesday: St. Stephen's Day**

12.00 pm: Offered for Persecuted Christians

**Thursday: St. John the Apostle**

10.00 am: Tom Croghan (Ann.)

**Friday: The Holy Innocents**

10.00am: Offered for Still-Born Babies

**Saturday: St. Thomas a Becket**

10.00am Rogers & Conway Families RIP

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

7.00 pm: Michael Traynor (Ann.)

8.30 am: Int. of the Parish

10.30 am: Peter O'Leary (Ann.)

12.00 pm:

**EXPOSITION 7pm—9pm**

### 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. The more the merrier.



## 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 **Harry, Luc and Gavin** 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.

**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 2:13-15.19-23**

**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



## PARISH NEWS

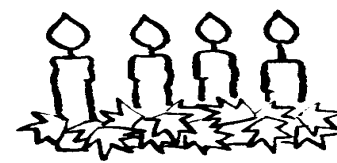


**A WORD OF THANKS:** Most of us come to church each Sunday unaware of all the people working behind the scenes who help make our parish and celebrations work. So I'd ask you to offer a prayer or word of thanks to all our ministers, our choirs, cleaners, sacristans, ushers, musicians, altar servers and our many, many groups. These are the unsung heroes who give of their time, talent and energy week in and week out in the parish. A big thank you to them all. We are always looking for new faces to get actively involved in the running of the parish. Maybe this new year is your time to get actively involved. There'll be a warm welcome and plenty of work to give you whatever you may be called to!!!!

**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.

**NOT A CROWD BUT THE PEOPLE OF GOD:** Thankfully, our Church will be full for each of our Christmas Masses. But we do not gather as an unruly crowd but as the Lord's people. So, I would ask each of you to be respectful of those beside you and around you. Especially those with young children. It will be very important to maintain a sense of reverence and prayer in our church during our celebrations. Please do listen to and cooperate with those doing stewarding. Let patience be our hat, may we wear a smile and be dressed from head to toe with good will. Enjoy our gathering for Christ, Our Saviour, born on this day.

**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.



### WEEKLY REFLECTION

Persons are gifts

which the God sends to us. . . wrapped.

Some come wrapped very beautifully,  
some in very ordinary wrapping paper.

I am a person.

Therefore, I am a gift.

A gift to myself, first of all.

God my Creator gave myself to me.

Maybe I've never seen the wonderful gift that I am.

Could God's gift be anything but beautiful?

I love the gifts which those who love me  
give to me. Why not the gift of me?

Every meeting of persons is an exchange of gifts.

Love is a relationship between persons

who see themselves as they really are:

Gifts given by God to be given to others.

**IS THE 25TH THE EXACT DATE?** We don't actually know the exact date of the birth of Jesus. So why was the 25th Dec. chosen? People celebrated the passing of mid-Winter and the Return of the Unconquered Sun at this time of the year. In the 3rd Century AD the Roman Emperor Aurelian proclaimed Dec.25th as a special day to honour the sun as a god. Christians would not worship the sun but made that day a feast in honour of Christ, the Son of God. That Christ was the light of the world, the one sent by God to banish the darkness of sin.

**SCHOOL ENROLMENT 2008:** Application Forms for Enrolment for Junior Infants (September, 2008) will be available in St. Patrick's N.S. and St. Mochta's N.S. from Monday 21st January, 2008. Registration will take place in both schools on the following dates only: **Monday, 18th Feb., 2008** 10am to 12pm and 7pm to 9pm. **Tuesday, 19th Feb., 2008** 10am to 12pm. **Wednesday, 20th Feb., 2008** 10am to 12pm.

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