



**ST AGNES' PARISH
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**
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Priests of the Parish

Fr. J. Deasy P.P. Ph. 4550955
Fr. J. Foster Ph. 4650714
Fr. P. Coffey Ph. 4650707
Fr. M. Scott Ph. 4650712
Fr. M. Kelly Ph. 4542308

Family Offering: €2,738

Share: €2,436

Many thanks for your continued support and generosity

Thought for the Week

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see" -
Mark Twain

LONG NIGHTS AND SHORT DAYS

Some years ago I visited a place called Kirkenes on the very northern tip of Norway. At this time of year there is almost total darkness. We were told it is very difficult for this isolated community over Christmas. It may be the land of Santa and reindeer, but the folk living there find the darkness combined with the harsh weather a cause of depression. When we arrived there in mid June, the roads were clear of snow but in mid summer and with 24 hours of daylight there were still mounds of snow along the roadside. Daffodils were beginning to appear. It seemed so strange when we were cutting the grass and looking after the summer bedding plants at home.

I am writing these lines on the eve of the Budget, in the shadow of recession, when people have lost their jobs and worry about the future and what it holds for them and their families. It is a time when scandal has darkened the church. It is a time when addiction afflicts lives and families.

In darkness there is hope, a light for a better future. That is why at this time we need to draw closer as families and communities to support and care for each other. Last week I quoted Pope Benedict and I repeat the quotation again - "the task of Advent is to awaken in all if us memories of goodness and thus opens the doors of hope"

This weekend think of the people of Kirkenes as they live their lives in darkness and look forward to the rising sun as Spring approaches. May there be a Springtime also for those afflicted by the recession and addiction and hope for those abused in the Church and families. This is our hope and our prayer.

Fr John

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME 2010

The Parish Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi will take place as from **Monday 17th May 2010 to Monday 24th May 2010.**

- The Spiritual Director will be John Deasy PP
- Cost € 1,069 p.p.s. including taxes and charges
- Booking Deposit €200

The Pilgrimage includes: - Accommodation in a 3 Star Hotel with Breakfast each morning ~ 7 Evening meals in a local restaurant ~ Luxury air conditioned coach with guide throughout the Tour.

To book a place or for further information, please contact Mary in the Parish Office



Society of St Vincent de Paul

The annual Christmas Appeal takes place at all Masses this weekend. Members of the Society will speak at all Masses and the Collection will be the second collection in place of Share. We call on your generosity. Last year if I recall correctly, the amount collected was a record €24,000 which is an indication of the wonderful spirit of giving which is alive in St Agnes Parish.

Sister Damian Burke

The death has taken place of Sister Damian who was for many years a member of the community of the Sisters of Charity in Armagh Road. There with Sister Clement she ran the Social Services Apostolate reaching out to the poor of Crumlin in hard times. She will be remembered for her goodness and sense of humour. She died at St Mary's on the Merrion Road to where she retired over a year ago.

May She Rest in Peace. Amen.

Advance Notice

There will be no Vigil Mass on Saturday 26th December this year. Morning Mass will be at 10am and 11am. Of course there will be the usual Sunday Masses on Sunday 27th December



All People That On Earth Do Dwell

1. All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice; serve Him with gladness, praise Him well, come now before Him and rejoice.
2. Enter His gates with songs of praise, come to His courts, approach with joy; honour and bless Him all our days, Gladly for God our lives employ.

Lord of all Hopefulness

1. Lord of hopefulness, Lord of all joy, Whose trust, ever child like, no care could destroy, Be there at our waking, and give us we pray, Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, Be there at our labours, and give us we pray, Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, Your hand swift to welcome, your arms to embrace be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, lord, at the eve of the day.

Updates from Dublin Diocese
(Further details can be found on the Dublin Diocesan website www.dublindiocese.ie)

Carols for Crosscare: with the Dublin Diocesan Music Group; An indoor and Outdoor Event for the entire Family. Mulled wine & mince pies; Outdoor crib with live animals; carols/short stories/reflections. An authentic experience presenting the real meaning of Christmas at Clonliffe College Church & Grounds, Drumcondra

On Sunday 13th December 5.30 – 8pm. Adults €10; Children free. Tickets can be reserved in advance from Helen (hdaly@crosscare.ie 086-1274513) or Marie (mprunty@crosscare.ie 086-1964384)

The Dublin Bach Singers: Present a candle-lit performance of Handel's Messiah in aid of the pro Cathedral's charities.

Shared Mass Sat 26th December.

Can the family who booked a Mass Intention for Liam Nolan for above date please contact the Parish Office to arrange an alternative date, as there will be no evening Mass on St. Stephen's Day.

Celebrating the Carmelite Poet and Mystic, St John of the Cross

A Lecture entitled "St John of the Cross: Poet" will be given by Terence O'Reilly, Emeritus Professor, Spanish Department, University College Cork with

Recital by Deirdre Moynihan, Soprano and Fionnuala Moynihan, Piano on Monday 14th December at 7.30pm in the Avila Carmelite Retreat Centre, Bloomfield Ave, Morehampton Rd, Dublin 4

For more information please phone 01 6430200 or email avila@ocd.ie



Advent Series in Rathmines Church

Advent Reflections – Mondays in Advent from 6.15pm - 6.45pm
Monday 14th:- Advent :Birth of Hope, Fainche Ryan, Theologian and Lecturer Mater Dei Institute
Monday 21st:- Interface of Christian Values and Political Debate in the EU, Gay Mitchell ME

St. Padre Pio

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 15th December 2009.** Rosary 6.45pm; Mass 7.00pm. Followed by Benediction and Blessing. **All are Welcome.**



Home Owners Be Aware

1. Remember to lock your doors and windows before leaving your house.
2. Lock all valuables away safely. Do not leave cash in your house.
3. Be careful with car keys
4. Fit an alarm and make sure you use it. If possible appoint key holder
5. Look out for suspicious activity and try to remember details
6. When answering door check ID of persons claiming to be service providers. GAS, ESB.

Recently Deceased

Kevin Fagan, Cashel Rd.
Elizabeth Reilly, Stanaway Ave.
Christina Fay, Windmill Pk
Tommy Campbell, Windmill Ave.
We express our deepest sympathies to their families at this time.
May They Rest in Peace. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 12th December 2009

7:00pm Shared Mass

Sunday 13th December 2009

9:00am Noel Stewart {A}
10:00am Bridget O'Neill {A}
11:00am Jane & Pat Walsh {10th & 20th Anniv}
12:00pm Margaret Quinn & The Kearney Family {A}
1:00pm Daniel Dempsey {A}
7:00pm Elizabeth & Michael Kelly {Anniv}

Please Pray for Stephen Conzer whose 9th Anniversary occurs at this time.

May Their Souls and the Souls of All The Faithful Departed Rest In Peace. Amen

St Agnes Parish - Readers Roster

Saturday 19/12/09

7.00pm Jean Cleary

Sunday 20/12/09

9.00am Vera Brennan
10.00am Family mass
11.00am M Finnegan & K Kennedy
12.00pm Miriam Forde
1.00pm Liam Buckley
7.00pm Pat Corrigan

If you cannot make your reading, please contact John Green.

The Next Readers Meeting will take place on Wednesday 27th January at 7.45pm in the Parish Centre

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

This Year on Wednesday evening next 16th December there will be a Carol Service in St Agnes Church which will begin after the 7:00pm Mass. All are welcome to join in this celebration and join in singing familiar Christmas Carols