

St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 29th November, 2020
First Sunday of Advent

Fr Phil Gaffney PP
Fr Ciprian Solomon CC
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Hospital Visitation: is not possible at the moment, however please continue to inform Fr Phil or Fr Ciprian if a relative is ill or in hospital.



Finding our feet

It can be very hard to live with uncertainty. Back at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, a counsellor was interviewed on radio about how people were coping with the 'lockdown'. People were anxious and fearful, she said. Many were experiencing loneliness, as their normal routines and social life came to an abrupt halt.

Another thing that people really struggled with was the inability to make decisions. They felt trapped and stuck, unable to plan ahead. They couldn't make plans to visit family or go on holidays. They didn't know if their jobs were secure, or if their children would return to school. When things are up in the air, it is hard to find your feet and feel grounded. Many of us are still struggling with these feelings.

Today we enter a new church year, and our first Advent season since the pandemic hit. Many of us are feeling more subdued than normal as we begin our preparations for Christmas. It will be very different from the usual family and social occasion, and we are saddened and worried by this.

In today's gospel, Jesus urges his disciples to 'stay awake'. We might feel we have no choice at the moment – the feeling of not knowing what is coming is very familiar. We are on our guard, on edge, waiting for the latest news. Yet already, there are initiatives springing up to support those who are vulnerable or in need this Christmas. In our own families, we are plotting ways to ensure no one is alone or isolated. We are 'awake' to the strange circumstances, and we are finding ways to cope. We pray today for the strength to guide us through the coming weeks, and for the peace and joy of Christ to lift our hearts and carry us onwards. 'In this time of tribulation and mourning, I hope that you will be able to experience Jesus, who comes to meet you, greets you and says: 'Rejoice.'

Pope Francis



Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 29th November, 2020

Sunday 29th Nov	10:00am	Tommy (Lal) Cunningham <i>Months's Memory</i> ; Phyllis Byrne <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke; Tom Garvey; Bill & Gretta Thornton; Annie & Artie Collier; Joe Fay, Rosaleen Finglas, Paddy Kierans; John Byrne; Lena Cummins, Christopher Cummins & William Barron; Ann Metcalfe; Aine Geraghty
Monday (ON LINE)	10:00am	Joseph, Mary & Michael Harvey
Tuesday	8:00am	Leonora Bogue
Wednesday	8:00am	Special Intention
Thursday	8:00am	Austin Kelly
Friday 4th Dec	8:00am	First Friday - Mass for All on the Parish List of the Dead
Saturday	10:00am	Cepta Sheils; Rita & Billy Gavin; Hughie & Pauline Reilly
Sunday 6th Dec.	9:00am	Peter Kierans <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Val Vaughney & his parents Joe & Anna; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke
	10:30pm	Special Intention; Karanakaran Yisudian; Special Intention Margaret Tiernan
	12noon	Gary Martin <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Mary Brigid Mullen; Noreen & Michael Power
	7:00pm	Special Intention

Stay awake!
Matthew 24:42



Resumption of Public Worship: Tuesday 1st December

Following the government announcement on Friday evening, public worship will resume in churches from Tuesday next 1st December. So our morning Mass will resume this Tuesday at 8.00am.

Looking forward to having our parishioners back. "Watching Mass" is very different from being physically present and participating in the celebration of the Mass with other members of the faith community. For all its advantages and immediacy, the virtual is no substitute for physical presence with the assembled community. However we appreciate that many people are uneasy about returning to Mass at this time but many should now be able to return to Mass safely. As Cardinal Robert Sarah wrote to all the bishops of the world recently, virtual Masses "risk distancing us from a personal encounter with the incarnate God... This physical contact with the Lord is vital, indispensable, irreplaceable".

The same guidelines as before the shutdown apply in the church. Please adhere to the instructions of our stewards. The guidelines also indicate that the numbers permitted for Funerals and Weddings Masses will remain at 25. **Eucharistic Adoration each Friday in St. Mary's Church from 8:30 - 4.00pm The Parish Office will be open from Tuesday morning.**

Notice of Junior Infant Enrolment for September 2021

Applications for Junior Infant places for **September 2021** are now being accepted.

The allocation of places will begin on Friday 8th January 2021 at 12 noon. Forms and enrolment policy are available on our website www.smpps.ie or from the school office (041) 9845374



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

A prayer for those who died



John O'Brien, Thomas Street
Matthew Burke, Priest Lane

May they rest in peace

Supporting Our Parish:

Parishioners can leave their envelopes or a donation to the parish in the boxes at the back of the church or you can now use the **donate button** facility on our website. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks. Keep safe and well.