

Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall Parish

Part of the Glasnevin Grouping of Parishes
(Glasnevin, Iona Rd, Corpus Christi, Ballymun Rd & Ballygall)

Third Sunday of Advent

Parish Website www.ballygallparish.ie Email ballygallparish@outlook.com

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

Parish Team

Fr. Joseph Ryan Co-P.P: Ph 8573776 Fr. Harry Gaynor Co-P.P: Ph 8342248

Fr. Paul St. John PC: Ph 086 2250689

Sacristy/Parish Office: Phone 01 8369291 (Monday to Friday 9.30pm to 1.00pm)

Mass Intentions Monday 12th to Sunday 18th December.				
Monday	7.25	Tom Carney	10.00	Ethna Ryan
Tuesday	7.25	Available	10.00	Con O'Connor
Wednesday	7.25	Church shop intentions	10.00	Available
Thursday	7.25	Available	10.00	Available
Friday	7.25	Fr Joe Donohoe	10.00	Aileen Traynor
Saturday	10.00	John Byrne	Confessions available after 10.00am mass.	
	6.30	Vera Murray, Patricia & Patrick Ennis, Anthony Butler, Paddy & Mary Goold, Patrick Gleeson, Christine Kellegher, Theresa Fitzgerald, Thomas Smyth, Rory Geraghty		
Sunday	10.00	John Byrne, Nicholas Nolan, Joseph Scully		
	11.30	Kathleen, William & Noel Rock, Bridget Kelly & James Allen, David Byrne, Thomas & Esther Cullen, Michael Rowe, Gay & Brenda Dunne, Carol Doyle, Ellen & Martin Vessy, Paddy & Nora Cooper.		

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers recently deceased Rhona Dargle (nee Cunningham), Bishop Martin Drennan, Fr Michael Hastings, Fr Joe O'Donohoe.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Today, the annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal takes place. The collection will replace the usual Share collection. All proceeds from the collection goes towards our local conference here in Ballygall. Each year many families struggle over the Christmas period and your support helps in these difficult times.

Advent Carol Service

For the first time since the outbreak of Covid we are delighted to inform you that our Carol Service takes place this Wednesday 14th Dec and begins at 7.30pm.

Monthly DTIM Mass today 10am with children for 1st Holy Communion.

Sacristan Position

In the build up to Christmas many people are busy with activities pulling them in different directions. Yet we thought it would be a good time to put it out to the public about the position of Sacristan in Ballygall church. Our thanks to our volunteers who have filled the post for over the past year so well and have brought their own gifts into service in the church.



Our Mother of Divine Grace church has a vacancy for a sacristan.

The role is to provide a high level of support to the priests and secretary in the general running of the parish This role is offered initially on a one-year, fixed-term, part-time basis at 20 hours per week approx **including** weekends.

The duties will involve the preparation of the church for all liturgical services, opening and closing the church at agreed times; ordering altar and cleaning products and ensuring the church is maintained to a high standard.

The successful candidate should be reliable and have a flexible approach, be able to work well independently as well as within a team with strong interpersonal skills and experience of dealing with the public. We welcome applications from anyone who feels they meet the criteria and are interested in playing an active part in the Parish. Closing date for applications is Friday 30th December 2022. See poster/parish website for full notice.

Annual Penance Service

Our penance service with the Franciscan fathers takes place next Wednesday 21st Dec. at 7.30pm. An opportunity to prepare to celebrate the great feast of Christmas by being reconciled with God and one another.

Crosscare Christmas Food Poverty Appeal

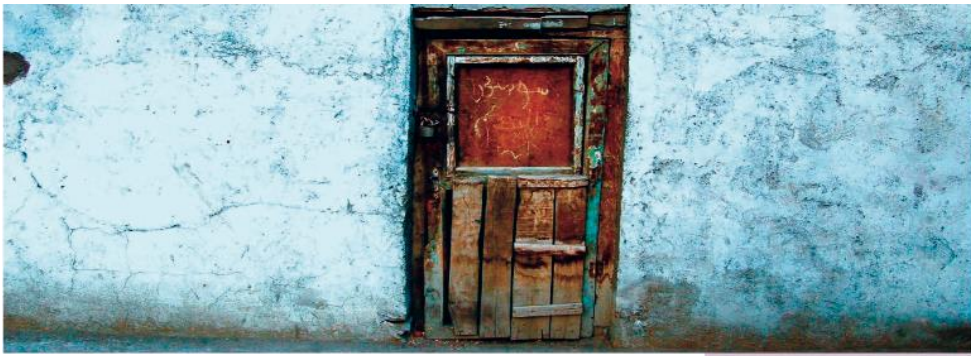
This Christmas, Crosscare is asking for help for the Food Poverty Service, where it supports families who find it hard to provide nutritious food. Sadly, almost 800 families and individuals, including 1,000 children, have needed help from the Service this year and demand is likely to increase in the coming months. Crosscare ensures they have a good supply of food while at the same time looking at all the issues that may have brought them into food poverty. If you can, you may donate online at www.crosscare.ie or call 01 8360011 or send a cheque or postal order to Crosscare Christmas Appeal, 2 Saint Mary's Place North, Dublin D07 Y768.

Christmas card & Church Mass Schedule

Our thanks to our volunteers who folded and enveloped the Christmas schedule cards. These are ready for distribution throughout the parish. If you are willing and able help our out-reach to all in the parish please collect a bundle in the room at the back of the church.

Sacred Heart Boys National School wish to acknowledge the wonderful support it received last Sunday despite the inclement weather.

Christmas Mass Cards are now available in the shop. There are many other Christmas gift ideas available. E.G. A copy of all the Sunday Mass readings for 2023. A perfect idea for a relative unable to come to Mass.



One Concrete Example

Just before last summer's Leaving Certificate, I was talking to a young man preparing to sit the exam. He had no sense of the reality of God. He expected cut-and-dried answers to questions, instantly. Whenever there was a mystery, or the possibility of no concrete figure in front of him, he became confused. As a result, he was inclined to dismiss the existence of God.

In many ways, this young man is a paradigm for the times we live in. God is not a commodity, therefore God does not exist. God may as well be in a skip. It's worth noting that this young man had spent his entire education in Catholic schools. On the other hand, however, I am often impressed by the kindness and goodness I see in young people. Their generosity puts me to shame. Is that not God the creator working in their lives?

We Seek Him Here ...

It is a challenging task to put flesh and bones on God – close to impossible, and yet not impossible. Virtues such as kindness and goodness, genuine acts of love, indeed everything that is good, in some way or other points to God. The disciples of Jesus were in daily close contact with him, yet even they had difficulty knowing exactly who Jesus was. Surely, then, we should not be too disconsolate when we hear people say they have little understanding, or indeed, faith, in God.

God is Closer than the Door

God is a 'mystery', and in some extraordinary way we ourselves are taken up by that mystery. We might indeed be closer to the reality of God than we can ever imagine. ■

Summary

Virtues such as kindness and goodness, genuine acts of love, point in some way or other to God.

Question

In what way are we taken up by the mystery of God?

Prayer

Lord, help me to see your presence in the good deeds people do.



SUNDAY LETTER

Series: Spirituality; Third Sunday of Advent, Year A; 11 Dec 2022

Modern-day waste removal uses 'skips'. They have been around for decades. I can still recall a priest in the late 1960s commenting that skips symbolised a throw-away society.

He went on to explain that we had lost the sense of repairing things – whatever we needed, we had to have it instantly, and instantly get rid of the old.

I have to admit that whenever I see a skip I think of him. Indeed, on the two occasions I have used a skip myself, I have felt guilty for dumping material that could perhaps have been repaired and used again.



The readings in this Sunday's liturgy remind us of the importance of patience, of not demanding answers in the immediate, here-and-now. But the readings go a step further; they suggest that while we may not see the reality of God right in front of our eyes, this does not mean that God does not exist, or that we don't believe in him. Of course, it's easy, in the midst of the bluster of the world, to forget about God, to lose our sense of the presence of God within ourselves and in the world about us.

What Are You Looking For?

When Jesus first mentioned John the Baptist he asked his listeners the rhetorical question: "Who were they looking for, whom did they expect to see?" He assured them that they would not find a man in fine clothes. Indeed, Jesus went on to tell them that John (Jesus' messenger) was 'much more than a prophet'. And in the reading from St James we too are advised to be patient in our search ... in our search for the Lord.