



**Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace,  
Ballygall**

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

**Third Sunday of Advent  
17th December 2023**

Parish Website [www.ballygallparish.ie](http://www.ballygallparish.ie) Email [ballygallparish@outlook.com](mailto: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      Office 01 8369291**

Mass Intentions Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December				
Monday	7.25	Thomas & Margaret Ryan, Muriel & Mary Ryan.	10.00	Sophia Doran
Tuesday	7.25	Eileen & Nora Ryan	10.00	Deceased members of Buckley, McCarthy & Bryan families.
Wednesday	7.25	Special Intention	10.00	Christine Kellegher
Thursday	7.25	Jack Quirke & Michael Doyle	10.00	Willie Barry
Friday	7.25	Anne O'Doherty	10.00	Nicholas Nolan
Saturday	10.00	Deceased members of the Shortt, Doyle & Griffey families.	Confessions available after 10.00am & 6.30pm Mass.	
Saturday	6.30 pm	Patrick Cullen, Frances Nolan, Breda McQuaid, Maureen & Hugh Friel. James & Teresa Dunne, Desmond Reardon.		
Sunday	10.00	Joseph Scully, Attracta & Donal O'Callaghan, Hilda & James Casey.		
	11.30	Paddy & Nora Cooper, Edward & Kathleen Blennerhassett, Joe, Kay & Marie Cashen & deceased members of the Cashen Family, Eamonn & Mary Doogue, Patrick O'Regan. James Bassett,		

**Recently Deceased**

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased Jeannette Murphy, Bridget Flanagan, Sean Peyton, Carmel Walsh and Desmond Smyth.

**Adoration Resumes**

We are delighted to say that we will have Adoration in our Church on Thursday mornings, after 10.00am mass for one hour.

**Parish Shop**

Christmas Mass Cards & 2024 Calendars are now available. Please note the shop is open before and after mass on the following days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. (You can now use your Bank Card in our shop).

**St. Vincent de Paul Annual  
Christmas Appeal.**

Sincere thanks to all who contributed so generously to this very worthy collection. Your financial support is very much appreciated more than ever this year.

**Ballygall Abroad**

If you wish to send Christmas Greetings to your loved ones, living abroad, on Christmas morning please drop in their details to the office before Thursday.



**Anyone wishing to contribute to  
The Crosscare Christmas  
Food & Poverty Appeal, can  
donate online at  
[www.crosscare.ie](http://www.crosscare.ie), call 01  
8360011, or send a cheque  
or postal order to Crosscare  
Christmas Appeal, 2 St  
Mary's Place North, D07  
Y768, Dublin**



**Advent Reconciliation  
Service with the  
Franciscans.  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>  
December @ 7.30pm  
here in Ballygall Church.**

**Rest in the Presence of the Lord**  
Our Lady of Victories Church,  
Ballymun Road

**Monday 18th to Thursday 21st  
December 12.00pm to 10.00pm.**  
We hope you will take this opportunity  
to spend some quiet time in the  
Presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

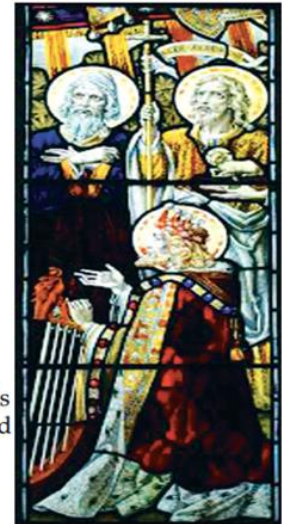
**Christmas Mass Arrangements  
are available in the Church  
porches.**

**Our Lady of Dolours  
Christmas Market  
Saturday & Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>  
December 9.00am to 4.00pm**

# SUNDAY LETTER

Series: The Seasons; Third Sunday of Advent, Year A; 17 December 2023

## The Witness of the Baptist



*Gaudete!* Rejoice! Be Happy! Be glad! Celebrate! This is St Paul's message for us this Sunday. And he adds ... 'for all things, be thankful to God'.

These precious moments of grace make *Gaudete Sunday* real. I am able to rejoice because I know that the Lord is near. Take a few minutes to bask in the memory of blessed moments you have experienced over the past seven days – moments when you felt the silent awareness of God's love for you. Little things mean a lot.

### God in all Things

*Rejoice!* The Lord is near. During this Advent, Isaiah, St Paul and John the Baptist all call on us to receive the divine light, no matter how it comes to us. The act of watching and waiting reveal many surprises. We open our hearts and proclaim with Mary: 'My soul rejoices in my God'.

The week ahead brings Emmanuel alive as we listen and reflect on the great 'O Antiphons' which are used in the gospel acclamations at Mass and at Evening Prayer. God, who became incarnate within time, becomes God in the midst of his creation in a new way. Let his grace, his life within us, animate and elevate us to become an agent of his goodness.

On this cold, crisp December morning, the clear sky is adorned with a beautiful crescent moon, the air is sharp and refreshing, trees in many gardens are sparkling with Christmas lights and a sense of expectancy is palpable. I am reminded of the American poet Mary Oliver's words: 'Sometimes I need only to stand wherever I am to be blessed'. (Mary Oliver: Evidence Poems)

Looking back over the week, some blessed moments spring to mind when I witnessed the presence of God. One such moment was the sheer delight I felt as I listened to the final of 'The BBC Young Chorister of the Year Competition' on "Songs of Praise". Other moments included the happy and chatty assistant in the candle shop; and then there was the spectacular views of the Dingle Peninsula and the richness of the Gaelige on RTE1's 'Duiséacht'. Another moment was seeing 86-year-old Maureen back at her fruit stall in Moore street, the first time in many months.

### Summary

*The question, 'Who are you?' posed to John the Baptist is also directed at us.*

*Watching and waiting reveal many surprises. We open our hearts and proclaim with Mary: 'My soul rejoices in my God'.*

### Question

*How do we become instruments of hope and healing to those who are broken-hearted?*

### Prayer

*Lord, may I be aware of your presence in the joy of the world.*

### Free from Prison

As Christmas draws nearer, Isaiah and John the Baptist call on us to reflect on some wonderful things in our lives, things that might need an infusion of faith and action. The spirit of God has been given to us; we have been anointed; we are sent to bring good news; we must be instruments of hope and healing to those who are broken-hearted or those who are prisoners of grief and disillusionment.

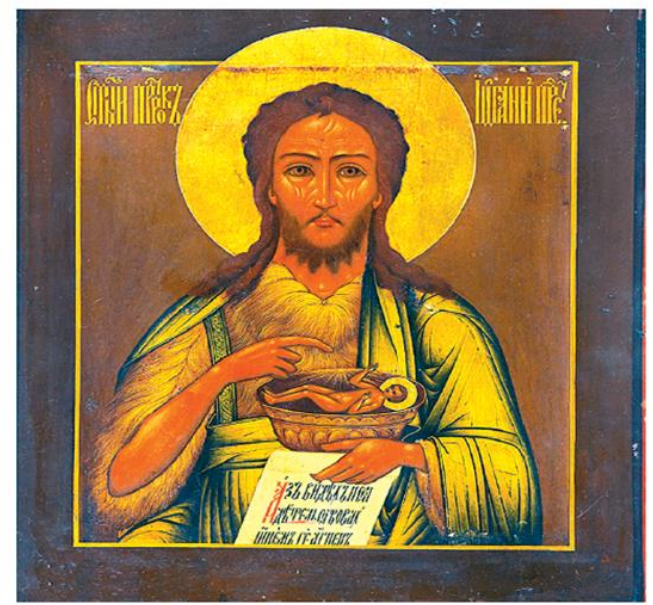
### Who Are You?

We make the presence of Emmanuel real amongst us by taking to heart and acting on the challenge of these great witnesses. [The question, 'Who are you?' posed to John the Baptist, is also directed at us. It is a searching and provocative query. Who are the people who are asking that question of us just now?

The question provides us with an opportunity to look at any of our issues or relationships that may well need attention. John the Baptist makes us wonder about the depth and quality of our witness. In our fear of looking in the mirror we are consoled and supported by Paul's reassuring words:

*God has called you and he will not fail you.*

*Gaudete! Rejoice! Maranatha! ■*



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Vol.45; No.3; Third Sunday of Advent, Year A; 17 Dec 2023; Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11, Psalm Luke 1:46-54;53-54, 1Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8,19-28; Next Week: The Incarnation.  
Sat 16 Dec Weekday : Sun 17 Dec Advent 3 : Mon 18 Dec St Flannan : Tue 19 Dec Weekday : Wed 20 Dec St Fanchan : Thu 21 Dec Peter Canisius : Fri 22 Dec Weekday : Sat 23 Dec John of Kanty : Sun 24 Dec Advent 4.