



Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall

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

First Sunday of Advent 3rd December 2023

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

Tree of Life Ceremony, will take in St. Francis Hospice,
Blanchardstown on Thursday, 7th December at 8.00 pm.

Fr. Paul St. John PC: Ph 086 2250689 Office 01 8369291

Mass Intentions Monday 4th to Sunday 10th December

Monday	7.25	Tommy & Mary Ashe	10.00	Special Intention
Tuesday	7.25	Our Lady's Intentions	10.00	John McGibbon
Wednesday	7.25	Special Intention	10.00	Michael & May Twyford
Thursday	7.25	Millie & Ellen Arnold	10.00	Della Downes
Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Holy Day 8th December Feast of the Immaculate Conception Elizabeth Huffey, Esther Bichler, Lillian Brown.		
Friday	7.25	Rhona Dargle	10.00	Anne O'Doherty
Saturday	10.00	Willie Barry	Confessions available after 10.00am & 6.30pm Mass.	
Saturday	6.30pm	Bridie, Brian & Sean Woods, Theresa & John Dooley, Elizabeth Huffey, Nancy & Christy Hoey.		
Sunday	10.00	Con O'Connor, Deceased members of the O'Shaughnessy & O'Leary Families.		
	11.30	Theresa Fitzgerald, Jimmy McPhillips, Breda Healy, Geraldine Hogan.		

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased
Gabrielle Reid & Fr. Tadhg Furlong.

Adoration Resumes

We are delighted to say that we will have Adoration
in our Church on Thursday mornings, after 10.00am
mass starting **December 7th**.

Confirmation Meeting with Students preparing to receive the Sacrament

Here in the church on the 8th December
Mother of Divine Grace 11.00 to 12.00



Sacred Heart Boys School 1.00– 2.00

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Christmas Appeal. This collection will take place at all masses next weekend. Your financial support is needed more than ever this year.

**The month of December can be a busy month,
here are a few dates & events for your diary!**

Sacred Heart Boys School Annual Christmas Fair

Sunday December 3rd 11.00am – 3.00pm in the school complex.

“Christmas with the Palestrina Choir” in the National Concert Hall on **Wednesday 6th December at 8.00pm.** Tickets available through NCH.ie

“Our Advent Journey with Mary”

7th December 7.30 to 8.30pm

Margaret Aylward Centre. Led by Sr. Marie Dunne CHF

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

Christmas Reconciliation Service with the Franciscans.

Wednesday 20th December @ 7.30pm here in **Ballygall Church.**

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).



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SUNDAY LETTER

Series: The Seasons; First Sunday of Advent, Year B; 3rd December, 2023

One of the great spiritual figures of the 18th century was Jean Pierre De Caussade, a priest who was passionate about leading people to the heights of holiness according to the demands of the present moment. We become saints by being attentive to both God and our neighbour in the 'now'. If we live well in the present, we should not be afraid of the final coming of Christ.

Having Vigilance

The gospel this Sunday speaks of the need for vigilance for the Lord's coming. Vigilance is a very important word in our spiritual lives. There are many thieves who draw our attention away from Christ in the present moment; hence we guard our hearts with constant vigilance against these thieves. Life is a battle for the heart.

It is crucial to establish times of silent prayer every day, so that we can extend our awareness of God throughout the day. Having a time-slot when we focus explicitly on God and raise our minds and hearts to him, will make it more likely that we will do this at other times, when we are doing our chores and works.

Whenever we seek God in silence, we increase the habit of seeking him always. Searching for Christ in the here-and-now is an excellent way of being attentive to God. ■



Summary

It is precisely because we are walking in this sinful valley that we need the Lord to perfect us.

If we live well in the present, we should not be afraid of the final coming of Christ.

Question

Should we ever fear the Second Coming of Christ?

Prayer

Lord, help me to see your second coming, foreshadowed in the events of the day.



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Sat 2 Dec Weekday : Sun 3 Dec Advent 1 : Mon 4 Dec John Damascene : Tue 5 Dec Weekday : Wed 6 Dec St Nicholas : Thu 7 Dec St Ambrose : Fri 8 Dec Immaculate Conception : Sat 9 Dec Juan Diego Cuahiltlatzotzin : Sun 10 Dec Advent 2.

Advent is a very important time in the life of the Church. It is the time when we pray in a special way for the virtue of hope. The famous French poet and writer Charles Peguy notes that hope is often overshadowed by her two imposing sisters – faith and charity.

People often forget to pray for hope. Hope is a neglected virtue, and yet in our time hope is absolutely crucial for reinforcing faith and love. Thankfully, like any grace or virtue, hope can grow through prayer, and especially through the reception of the Eucharist.

Why is hope particular to Advent? Well, Advent reminds us of our preparations for the final coming of Christ in glory at the end of time. This is when Jesus will overthrow all suffering and evil, and definitively establish the Kingdom of God.



HOPE – A NEGLECTED VIRTUE

Christians await the second coming of Christ with great hope, without any disordered fear. Christians sometimes pray "Come Lord, but not yet till I am ready." It's true that if someone is in a state of sin they should dread that hour. However, once a Christian has repented and seeks the Lord, one should only have hope. This hope is founded on God's power to save and restore. It is precisely because we are walking in this sinful valley that we want the Lord to come with might to perfect us in Him. Christians await the return of their brother and Lord, Jesus, with expectancy and confidence.

He Comes in the Mundane

Advent is not only an opportunity to recall the second coming of Christ, it is also an opportunity to become more aware of the coming of Christ in the present – moment by moment – in the mystery of our individual lives.