

**NEXT BAPTISM
PREPARATION MEETING**

- will be at 8pm, on Tuesday,
10th Jan 2017, for the celebration of
Baptism on Sunday, 15th Jan 2017.



**CHURCH OF OUR LADY
MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE**

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MASS INTENTIONS

The Deep End

Jesus asks the crowd in today's Gospel why they ran to see John the Baptist. Sometimes when we go to hear a famous speaker or go to someone we admire we are looking for answers. Our expectations are often not grounded in reality. Jesus asks the people what did they expect when they went to see John. Were they looking for someone nicely dressed? No; they were looking for a prophet and John was the greatest of these. Jesus' words are almost like a eulogy for John.

John announces and makes way for Jesus - marking the end of one era and the beginning of another. John announces a new time. John names the question we so often ask when a new exciting leader comes on the scene: Is this the one? Is this the person we've been waiting for? And if it is, how will we know? Our expectations can often be so great because we are constantly in need of renewal. Where in your life today do you need to experience fresh hope and newness?

The Gospel ends with a paradox: John is the greatest that has ever been born; yet the people who are considered the 'lowest' or the 'least' in this world are considered even greater than John by God. A statement that no doubt would have left a few people scratching their heads.

'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, come forth from deep within me with Christmas luminous beauty. For my heart has become the sacred crib, the birthing place of God among us.' Edward Hays (*Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim*) Jane Mellet melletj@gmail.com

- **Would extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist please collect their new rosters from the Sacristy.**
- **Mass cards and Christmas Mass bouquets are available in the Parish Office.**

Rest of the week in Church calendar:

Mon. 12th: St. Finnian, Bishop; Our Lady of Guadalupe
Tues. 13th: St. Lucy, virgin and martyr
Weds. 14th: St. John of the Cross, priest and Doc Doctor of the Church

**READINGS Next Sunday
4th Sunday of Advent**

Is 7:10-14
Ps. 23
Rom. 1:1-7
Mt, 1:18-24



Reminder: Fr. Brian Grogan, S.J., is due to speak on the theme of "God is generous", at the Ignatian Group meeting on Monday, 12th December, at 7.30 pm, in the Old Baptistry. All are welcome. Those who ordered books will also be able to collect and pay on the night.

Anam Cara, an organisation which supports bereaved parents, holds its next monthly Parents' Evening, on Wednesday, 21st Dec., 7.30-9pm, in B.A.S.E., Brackenstown Road, Swords. This event is open to all bereaved parents, regardless of the child's age, the circumstances of death, and whether the death was recent or not.

Vigil	6.00 pm	Philomena Cotter, M.M.; Maureen Molloy, M.M.; William Horan, M.M.; Liam Memery, Anniv.
Sun.	8.30 am	Christopher Keogh, Anniv.
	10.00 am	Daniel & Teresa Hayes, Anniv.
	11.30 am	Bert & Margaret Horan, Anniv.; Phyllis McCormack, Anniv.; Jack & Cissie McMahan, Anniv.; Deceased members of the Robinson and Crosbie families
Mon.	10.00am	All who sympathised with the Byrne family in their recent bereavement
Tues.	10.00am	Jean McCaughey, Rec. Dec'd. Joseph & Rita Dermody, Anniv
Weds.	10.00am	Robert McCracken, Rec. Dec'd. Maria O'Keeffe, Anniv.
Thurs	10.00am	Marcella Baldwin, Anniv. Health Intention
Fri.	10.00am	Michael & Kathleen Clarke, Anniv. John & Eileen Geoghegan, Annov.

R.I.P. Please remember in your prayers: Robert Coyle - recently deceased. May he rest forever in the Peace of Christ.

Please also pray for: Lily Brophy, Clodagh Ellie Rafter and Sam Thomas Manning - all recently Baptised into our Christian community.