

Sunday 10th December 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

Cycle B Week 2 Newsletter Issue No. 1014

Today is **Toy Sunday**. Any donation of toys for boys or girls would be much appreciated and can be left in the Sacristy this weekend. Toys will be sent to the Dóchas Centre for distribution to deserving children.

The **Annual Christmas Appeal Collection** in aid of the **St. Vincent De Paul Society** will be taken at all Masses this weekend. It will be the second collection and will replace the SHARE collection. Thank you for your support.

The **Parish Pastoral Council** will meet next Monday, 11th December at 7:30p.m. in the Church.

Manor House Christmas Carol Service takes place at 12 noon on Wednesday, 13th December in the Church. All are welcome.

The **Dolce** mixed voice choir will stage a Christmas concert in the Church next Wednesday, 13th December at 8p.m. Tickets are €10 and are available at the door.

A **Holy Hour**, including Rosary and Adoration will take place each Thursday morning after the 10a.m. Mass in the side chapel.

Christmas Mass Bouquets are available in the Parish Office, Monday to Friday from 10a.m. to 12:30p.m.

Our **Parish Folk Group** will present its Annual Christmas concert next Sunday, 17th December at 7p.m. in the Church. Admission is free. A charity raffle will take place and Santa will make an appearance. All are welcome.



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THE DEEP END: The beginning of the Good News

The second Sunday of Advent turns our attention to John the Baptist. John was an interesting individual. We are told he dressed a bit strangely, had an odd diet and spent a lot of time in the desert. Yet it seems he was very popular with the whole of Judaea and 'all the people of Jerusalem' went out to hear him. John must have been a dynamic speaker and one in whom people found hope and inspiration. Who are these attractive messengers for us today? Who brings us good news and hope? Whose message makes sense for us? Who do we flock to hear?

Today we might also reflect on the messengers in our own lives. Who did God send to you while you were in your own wilderness? Perhaps they brought with them a moment of grace reassuring you that you would not be drifting aimlessly forever. Perhaps the evidence at that moment in your own life stated the contrary, yet these words of encouragement or comfort gave you reason to hope and to hang in there. These 'John the Baptists' are messengers of the light. They are all around us. Sometimes we are the ones called upon to be a messenger of light for someone else. The good news of the gospel today is that even in times of desolation there is a hope, a promise that urges us on. How we prepare for this journey determines our experience. See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you ...

Jane Mellett, mellettj@gmail.com

Mass Intentions for this week

Sat:	6.00p.m.	Robert Coyle (1st Anniv.) Tom Ayton (1st Anniv.) Liam Memery (Anniv.) Mary Keating (Anniv.)
Sun:	8.30a.m.	Christopher Keogh (Anniv.) Special Intention
	10.00a.m.	Mary Dougan (Rec. Dec'd) Carol Clarke (Anniv.)
	11.30a.m.	Joe Lowe (M. Mind) Lillie Hannigan (M. Mind) Danny Hayes (Anniv.) Aiden Robinson & his daughter Jean Robinson
Mon:	10.00a.m.	Special Intention Health Intention
Tues:	10.00a.m.	Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart & Our Lady
Wed:	8:30a.m.	Rhona Bracken (Rec. Dec'd) Health Intention
Thurs:	10.00a.m.	Eileen O'Donovan (Rec. Dec'd)
Fri:	10.00a.m.	Marcella Baldwin (Anniv.)

Next Sunday's Readings (Third Sunday of Advent):

Is 61:1-2, 10-11. Ps Lk 1:46-50, 53-54, R/ Is 61:10.
1 Th 5:16-24. Jn 1:6-8, 19-28. *Lect* 1:48.



We welcome **Faye O'Connor** and **Max Croghan** who were baptised into our Christian community last weekend. We also remember their parents and godparents at this special time.

All services from our Parish Church are streamed live on our website www.rahenyparish.ie...just click on the *Watch Us Live* tab. The Parish Newsletter is also published weekly on the parish website....click on the *Parish Bulletin* tab.