

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

12th December 2010 Third Sunday of Advent Cycle A Week 3

Parish : 8313232 Issue No. : 692  
Email : Oldgraheny@eircom.net

**MASS INTENTIONS**



The **St. Vincent de Paul Society's** Christmas collection will take place at all masses this weekend. Thank you for your continued support.

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of **James McClean**, Maywood Crescent and **Kevin Boyne**, Watermill Drive who died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

The **Raheny Missionary Project** is holding a **Coffee Morning and Bumper Christmas Raffle** in the Cedar Lounge on Wednesday 15th December from 10.30am til 12noon.

**Penitential and Reconciliation Services**

Friday 17th December at 7.30pm Capuchin Friary Raheny

Saturday 18th December at 7.15pm (after 6.30pm vigil mass) Kilbarrack church.

The children of the family mass group in the parish, invite you to join us for **"Christmas Coffee and Home Baked Treats"** after 10am mass next Sunday 19th December. The children want to help others this Christmas, so any donations on the morning, are going to the charity "Children Helping Children". And if you fancy putting your baking skills to good use, we would be delighted with any of your homemade goodies to serve on the morning. We look forward to seeing you.

**The Deep End Imprisonment**

What is always most striking about Advent is the liturgy's lack of reference to Christmas itself. My awareness of this may easily be a consequence of growing up in a time when Christmas became highly delineated by seasonal imagery, religious, commercial, religiously commercial and commercially religious. Either way, the image of John imprisoned is yet another telling reminder that Advent is more than preparing for turkey or, indeed, a sentimental manger scene. As we draw ever closer to Christmas, a noticeable thrust emerges from the liturgy of the word. Namely, the exasperated longing for God encapsulated in Isaiah's urge to hope, James' call to patience, and Jesus' request for faith.

John is impatient in his questioning. Fearful of dying without knowing, he sends his disciples to ask the young prophet about his intentions. Jesus urges them to believe and sends them on their way. But his response is no impatient dismissal; instead, it is full of the real emotion which is evident in the absence of friends. Just as John misses Jesus, so Jesus misses John. The Baptist is not imprisoned by the walls of a cell; rather, it is his sense of detachment from the coming which he has heralded that dominates his concern. Jesus' call to believe is the key which frees both us and John from our cells. Christ came to preach to those in prison. John, then, is closer to his esteemed rabbi than he knows. And it is most certainly the same for us who read.

*Paul Clogher  
Maynooth College*

Sincere thanks to all parishioners who contributed to last weekend's **SHARE** collection.

**Feastdays This Week**

Monday 13th, St. Lucy, virgin and martyr  
Tuesday 14th, St. John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the Church.

<b>Vigil</b>	6.00pm Denis Dwyer (Month's Mind)
<b>Sun</b>	8.30am Pro Populo
	10.00am Patrick Julia Egan and Kate Byrne (Anniv.)
	11.30am Daniel Hayes and Maria O'Keeffe (Anniv.)
	5.00pm Seamus O'Seachnasai (Anniv.)
<b>Mon.</b>	7.30am Pro Populo
	10.00am Lorna Carson (Rec. Dec'd)
<b>Tues.</b>	7.30am Patrick Kennedy (Rec. Dec'd)
	10.00am John & Bridget McGettrick (Anniv.)
<b>Wed.</b>	7.30am Gerard McCarthy (Anniv.)
	10.00am Elizabeth & Jeremiah O'Leary (Anniv.)
<b>Thurs.</b>	7.30am Sean & Phyllis Kelly Patrick & Bridget Connaughton (Anniv.)
	10.00am Special Intention
<b>Fri.</b>	7.30am Tommy & Peg Daly (Anniv.)
	10.00am Jean & Aiden Robinson (R.I.P.)
<b>Sat.</b>	9.40am Morning Prayer of the Church
	10.00am Special Intention

*Next Sunday's Readings : Is 7:10-14. Ps 23. Rom 1:1-7. Mt. 1:18-24.*

The Mercy Centre, St. Brendan's Drive, Coolock is holding a **Twilight Retreat**, a time to dwell on the real meaning of Christmas, on Tuesday 14th December from 7.30pm til 10pm. Tel : 8487259.