

Sunday 6th December 2015

Second Sunday of Advent

Cycle C Week 2 Newsletter Issue No. 910

Next **Tuesday, 8th December** is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, and is a holiday of obligation. Masses for this feast day will be celebrated in our church at 6p.m. on Monday, (Vigil Mass) and at 10a.m. & 1p.m. on Tuesday.

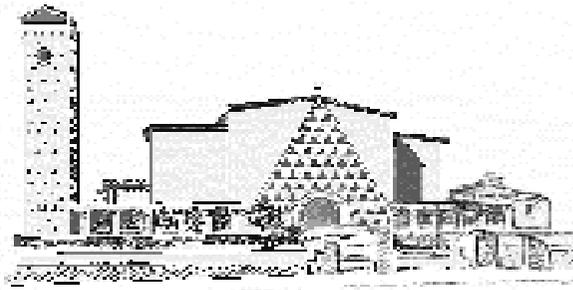
The **Society of St. Vincent De Paul** will be holding its annual **Christmas Appeal** collection at all Masses next weekend, 12th & 13th December. It will replace the Share collection.

A reminder: There will be no 10a.m. Mass on Saturday mornings until further notice.

Archbishop Martin has written to ask parishioners to support the collection of non-perishable food items for **Crosscare Food Banks**. Food items can be brought to our church after all Masses this weekend and next weekend (12th & 13th Dec.). Throughout 2015, demand on these Food Banks remained very high with more families turning to Crosscare for support with basic food items.

Application for membership of the **Pioneer Total Abstinence Association** will be taken in the Conference Room at the side of the Church from 11:30a.m. to 12:30p.m. today (Sunday).

The **Jubilee Year of Mercy** will be inaugurated on 8th December 2015, the feast of the Immaculate Conception and will run until 20th November 2016 which is the solemnity of Christ the King. This year, declared by Pope Francis, will highlight the love, forgiveness and mercy of God.



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THE DEEP END: BE A SIGNPOST

How is your Advent going? We're a week in already. Less than three weeks to Christmas and so much still to be done! Where to start?

If we have time to listen, there are some pointers in our readings today. Following the example of John the Baptist, our Advent task is to 'prepare a way for the Lord'. Of course in these busy weeks we have shopping to do, presents to buy, parties and festive gatherings to organise; these are important parts of our Christmas celebrations.

But how are we preparing to meet Jesus this Christmas? Can we create space amid the hustle and bustle? And not just in our own personal lives: we are also called to be witnesses, to be the people who 'cry in the wilderness', announcing the good news to others. We must be signposts, our words and actions pointing towards Christ. Our task this Advent is to make Jesus known. In our dealings with others as we count down to Christmas, let us try to be like John the Baptist, pointing always towards Christ.

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Mass Intentions for this week

- Sat: 6.00p.m.** Liam & Nora Gilmatrin (Anniv.)
- Sun: 8.30a.m.** Nuala Koetter (Anniv.)
- 10.00a.m.** Those who sympathised with the family of the late Paddy Atkins in their recent bereavement
- 11.30a.m.** Phyllis McCormack (Anniv.)
- Mon: 10.00a.m.** Frank O'Rourke (Rec. Dec'd.)
- 6.00p.m.** Gerard McCarthy (Rec. Dec'd.)
- Tues: 10.00a.m.** Intentions of Sr. Flavinia
- 1.00p.m.** Margaret O'Shea (Rec. Dec'd.)
- Wed: 10.00a.m.** Mary Keating (Anniv.)
- Thurs: 10.00a.m.** Trudy & Wayne O'Neill (Anniv.)
- Fri: 10.00a.m.** Michael O'Brien (Rec. Dec'd.)
- Sat: 10.00a.m.** **NO MASS**

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Séamus Byrne & Sheila Gahan** whose funerals took place in our parish church this week. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Next Sunday's Readings (Third Sunday of Advent):
Zeph 3:14-18. Phil 4:4-7. Lk 3:10-18.

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.



The **Advent Wreath** is a circular wreath of evergreens. The circle is a symbol of eternity and a reminder that God has no beginning or end. The evergreen is a symbol of eternal life and a reminder that God is unchangeable. The candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three of the candles are purple, reminding us of the penitential nature of the season. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, reminding us to rejoice that Christmas is nigh.