

THE DEEP END *Christmas is all around*

The sights and sounds and smells of the season are all around us. Is there a particular sound that reminds you of Advent or Christmas – perhaps a carol you’ve always loved or the sound of jingle bells? For many, the smell of mince pies or mulled wine are real signs of Christmas. Our towns and cities are filled with wonderful sights too: festive lights and decorations, trees decked out with tinsel and baubles, while our churches display Nativity scenes. Another common sight in the run-up to Christmas are the charity collectors we meet on the streets, singing carols or shaking buckets, urging us to give generously to a good cause. It is a feast for the senses, with these experiences often evoking warm Christmas memories and putting us in good humour.

Today is known as *Gaudete* Sunday – *Gaudete* means ‘rejoice’. In our churches, the rose-coloured candle is lit on the Advent wreath to symbolise joy. Today’s readings bring out this sense of joyful anticipation of the Lords coming. The people of Jesus’ time would have been familiar with Isaiah’s talk of ‘everlasting joy and gladness’. And Jesus tells us: ‘Happy is the man who does not lose faith in me’. It is this personal encounter with Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas, God becoming man, the Good News announced by John the Baptist in today’s Gospel. We have reason to be happy – let’s make this *Gaudete* Sunday a real celebration.

Triona Doherty (trionad@gmail.com)

SCHOOLS’ ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Villiers, ArdscoilRís,
JFK, Salesian Primary School
in
Our Lady of the Rosary Church
on
Wednesday 18th December
11:30 to 12:30
All Welcome

FIRST COMMUNION: This weekend we welcome the JFK boys (Sat 6.00pm) and Salesian girls (Sunday 10.00am).

They are looking forward to a special day in their lives – they will receive Jesus for the first time next May. We remind ourselves that we all agreed to pray for them in a special way as they prepare for this special day. We, too, are looking forward to meeting Jesus in a special way this Christmas. How are we preparing for this Day?

REMEMBRANCE TREE: The cards for the Remembrance Tree are in the basket at the foot of the tree. Please fill in a card with the names of those who will be away from home and who you would like included in our Parish prayers during the Christmas Season and hang it on the Remembrance Tree.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: The Confessional Room has now been renewed. There is an opportunity during Advent for the Sacrament of Renewal each Saturday from 5:30 pm until 6:00 pm Mass

*O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

ADVENT: The **ADVENT WREATH** is a circle of evergreens, a symbol of God’s eternal love for us. Fastened to the wreath are five candles standing upright, at equal distances. These candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three of the candles are purple, symbolising the prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. A rose or pink candle is lit for the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as *Gaudete* (rejoice) Sunday. The fifth, a white candle, placed in the middle of the wreath, represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve.

CHRISTMAS DUES: The Christmas dues envelopes for the Parish Clergy and the Sacristan will be distributed to houses during the week. If you are contributing by cheque, please make the cheques payable to ‘Our Lady of the Rosary Parish’ and in relation to the Sacristan to ‘Margaret Clifford’.

ADVENT TALKS

‘HOW TO ENJOY THE GIFT OF THE BIBLE’

Fr. Joe Hayes, SJ will present four Advent talks on the theme ‘How to enjoy the gift of the Bible?’ These talks will be held at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre beginning on Wednesday, 27th November and on Wednesday 4th, 11th and 18th December.

REFLECTION: ‘The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God.’ **Pope Francis (Laudato Si 84)**

PARISH WEBSITE

www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie

Fr. Des McAuliffe P.P. Tel: 061 324825

Fr. Tom Ryan C.C. Tel: 087 2997733

Parish Clerk: Margaret Clifford at Church
Sacristy Tel: 061 325288

Office Hours: 09:00 - 09:45 Weekdays
09:00 – 12:30 Sunday

MASS TIMES: Weekends and Holy Days

Saturday Vigil 18:00

Sunday 10:00; 11:30

Weekdays:

Mon. to Fri. 10:00

Saturday 09:45 Prayer Service

BAPTISMS: Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 14 th	18:00	Jaqueline Staunton (A) Carmel Custy (A) Peter Phelan (A) Joe Connolly (A) Nell & Hugh O’Regan (A)
Sun 15 th	10:00	Fr. J.J. Rodgers (Rec. Dec.) John & Christine Guirey (A)
	11:30	Patrick Quane (A) Michael Meaney (A)
Mon 16 th	10:00	Pro Popolo
Tue 17 th	10:00	Michael Gleeson (A)
Wed 18 th	10:00	Humphrey Murphy (A)
Thur 19 th	18:00	Maureen Toomey (Rec. Dec.)
Fri 20 th	10:00	
Sat 21 st	09:45	Prayer Service
	18:00	Liam & Mary Garrihy (A) Gerard McKeon (A) Paddy Hartnett (Rem.) Eddie Holliday (A)
Sun 22 nd	10:00	Eddie Holliday (A)
	11:30	Jim & Rose Hurley (Rem)