



Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Limerick

Newsletter Edition for Advent

5th December 2021

We are as yet unable to resume printing of the Weekly Newsletter with Mass leaflets. This Special Edition for the Season of Advent is made available as an online publication. Please spread the word that it may be accessed from the Homepage on the Parish Website.

www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie

For parishioners who are unable to return to Church at this time, we continue to broadcast Mass online at 6:00 pm Saturday, 10:00 am and 11:30 am Sunday.

A recording of the Maternity Hospital's Annual Ceremony of Remembrance, which took place on Sunday 21st Nov, is available on the Webcam Page.

The local conference of the Society St. Vincent de Paul has resumed Church-gate collections at Our Lady of the Rosary. The Christmas Collection will be taken up this weekend, 4th & 5th December.

The Season of Advent

Sunday 28th Nov 2021: The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the Liturgical Year and a time of preparation, watching and waiting, for the joyous occasion of the Birth of Christ.

As mentioned on the day, at the start of each Mass, we will recall the trials of the past year and how God has brought us through our suffering. Covid-19 has deprived us of much of what was familiar to us. It has kept us waiting for the return of normality.

The first purple candle was lit on the Advent Wreath and we were asked to remember our departed relatives and friends, all who have died in our parish during the year and especially those who have died as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Sunday, 5th Dec 2021: The Second Sunday of Advent. The second purple candle is lit as we continue our spiritual preparation for the Coming of Christ.

Wednesday 8th Dec 2021: We celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with Mass at the usual times; Vigil Mass on Tuesday at 6:00 pm; Morning Mass on Wednesday at 10:00 am and 11:30 am.

Sunday 12th Dec 2021: Gaudete Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. Priests may wear rose vestments and the pink candle will be lit as we have reason to rejoice at this stage of our Advent preparation.

Sunday 19th Dec 2021: On this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Angel's candle (purple) will be lit on the Advent Wreath and the white candle, symbolising the Light of Christ, will be lit at Christmas Masses.

Pope Francis on Advent

The Book of Proverbs says: "With all vigilance guard your heart, for in it are the sources of life" (Prov 4:23). Guard your heart: that means to be vigilant! Stay awake and guard your heart. And let us add an essential ingredient: the secret to being vigilant is

prayer. In fact, Jesus says: "Be vigilant at all times and pray" (Luke 21:36). Prayer is what keeps the lamp of the heart lit. This is especially true when we feel that our enthusiasm has cooled down. Prayer re-lights it, because it brings us back to God, to the centre of things. Prayer reawakens the soul from sleep and focuses it on what matters, on the purpose of existence. Even during our busiest days, we must not neglect prayer. The prayer of the heart can be helpful for us, repeating often brief invocations. For example, during Advent, we could make a habit of saying: "Come, Lord Jesus". Only these words, but repeating them: "Come, Lord Jesus".

[Extract from address by Pope Francis on 28 Nov 2021 at Angelus in St. Peter's Square. The full text is available on the Vatican website]

Covid-19, Delta & Omicron

With the current surge of infection from Covid-19 and its Delta variant, in the community, and with Omicron on the way, we must continue to observe public health advice. Remember that vaccines protect us against serious illness but they may not prevent us picking up the virus and passing it on to others.

- Wash your hands frequently. Ensure good ventilation in your home.
- Curtail your social activity. Avoid large crowds.
- Use hand sanitiser in the Church. Do not shake hands but give a 'wave of peace' instead.
- Spread out around the Church using all of the open pews including the top rows.
- Wear a face mask, to cover your nose and mouth, both inside and around the Church.
- Maintain social distance of two metres from other persons at all times.
- When approaching the Altar for Holy Communion and returning to your seat, take your time. Hold back from the person in front of you.
- Adjacent groups will approach for Communion separately. Follow guidance from the ushers.
- See www.gov.ie and www.hse.ie for the latest information on coronavirus and booster vaccines.