

Parish Notices [Second Sunday of Advent B 6 12 20]

- 1. We plan to continue, for the moment, with the Schedule of Masses in our 2 churches that we had before the recent lockdown.**
- 2. Tuesday of this week is 8th December, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Mass will be in St Kilian's on Tuesday morning at 10 am.**
- 3. In order to be able to continue to open our 2 churches in a safe manner, we need Volunteers to steward and to clean.
We have to have arrangements in place that make it safe for people to come into the church. We will need extra Volunteers at Christmastime.
You can sign up Online on the Parish Website – click on the Get Involved button on the Homepage and fill out the Volunteer Form –
or contact the Parish Office.**
- 4. The Government stipulation is that up to 50 people are allowed to attend regular services. This means that we will have to introduce a booking system for attendance at Mass as we move towards Christmas.**
- 5. The Irish Bishops have issued a message about the challenges linked with the celebration of Mass during the Christmas period, and I would like to quote from it:**

Clearly it will be impossible for our usual large congregations to assemble for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We wish to remind Catholics that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended during the pandemic. But Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. Christmas Masses will also be widely available over webcam and we strongly encourage families to “tune in” from the “domestic churches” of their living rooms and join with those who are gathering in their local churches in welcoming the birth of the Christ-child.

It is possible to experience the spiritual richness of this special season in many ways. Our homes can become “little churches” where we invite the Christ-child in. The age-old tradition of having a Christmas crib in the home and gathering there as a family to pray or to sing a carol will be especially meaningful this year. We also invite families or “household bubbles” to pay a visit to their local church at some time during the twelve days to offer a Christmas prayer at the crib and pray together for their families and for those particularly impacted by the pandemic”.

- 6. Be aware that the number permitted to attend funerals remains at 25, and that funerals are private to the family.**
- 7. We continue with our Online broadcast of Masses from St Kevin's.**
- 8. Thanks to all who contribute to the 3 Collections at Weekend Masses.**
 - **You can contribute electronically at any time by using the Donate facility on the Parish Website.**
 - **You could also contact the Parish Office to make an arrangement to bring your Offerings to the church.**
 - **Sincere thanks to those who already do so.**
- 9. The Parish Website has received a face-lift, compliments of Natalie. We hope it will now be easier to navigate the site. Your comments on the Website are very welcome. The Internet is now one of our main tools of communication in the Parish. Hence, the importance of the Website!**
- 10. On the Homepage you will see "Advent Resources". Click on it, and an array of resources will come up. The one I want to highlight is Prayers at Home for Advent. It includes preparation for Mass for each Sunday of Advent.**
- 11. The Parish Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul will be making their Annual Christmas Appeal over these next weeks. Like all charities, they are very restricted in what they can do to fundraise. This year they will be relying mainly on an envelope drop for the funds they need to help people this Christmas. Your support will be much appreciated.**
- 12. Crosscare, the Social Care Agency of the Diocese of Dublin, are also appealing for your help. Parishioners who would ordinarily have supported their "food drives" and their "unwanted gifts appeal" are encouraged to go Online and make a donation at www.crosscare.ie.**
- 13. Our Parish eNewsletter for December is available on the Parish Website. If you would like it sent to you by email, please send the Parish your email address, or fill out the Parish Register Form.**