

SACRED HEART CHURCH ROSCOMMON

PARISH NEWSLETTER
29th November 2020

35th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Many of us perhaps live with regrets. We wonder would I have been happier if I took a different course of action in life to the one I did: a different career perhaps or a different partner or a different place of residence.

To use the words of the first reading today from Isaiah we are sometimes like 'withered leaves' in the face of our past and in the face of our sins. This wretchedness of course can then give us little or no hope for the future. However, this season of Advent urges us to dare to hope even if there is no grounds or reason to do so. Again, if we turn to Isaiah, he tells us that we are the work of God's hands, we the clay and He the potter. Our personal lives are still under his loving care no matter how messy we think they have been up until now.

Interestingly when we think of happiness, we can sometimes overestimate the happiness of other people's lives and underestimate our own. In a survey done several years ago, interviewers asked hundreds of people at random whether they believed they would be happier if they had a million euro. Not surprisingly, 76 per cent said yes. The interviewers also spoke with ten millionaires and asked if having a million euro made them happier people. All ten answered 'No'. An encouraging story no doubt for many of us.

Amongst other things to also encourage these days is the positive news coming from the pharmaceutical companies in relation to a vaccine for Covid 19. These announcements could almost be described as 'advent' moments for all of us. There is a signalling of an end to this dreadful pandemic, there is light at the end of the tunnel but we're not quite there yet. We need to be patient a little longer. This weekend's liturgy signals the coming of Christ but again we've another bit to go. We must wait another few weeks. In the meantime, as we grapple with darkness of our lives born perhaps from our past, we must be patient with our Maker that he will make of each of us, in time, a true masterpiece.

Despite our present difficulties we truly still have a lot to celebrate today, this first Sunday of Advent.

Fr Kevin

Mass Intentions for the coming week:

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| MONDAY | 11 am | Michéal & Jim Gordon & deceased family |
| TUESDAY | 8 am | Kathleen & Paddy Shaughnessy |
| | 11 am | Frank Lannon |
| WEDNESDAY | 8 am | Morning Mass |
| | 11 am | Special Intention |
| THURSDAY | 8 am | Kathleen & Robert Derby |
| | 11 am | Brian Neilan |
| FRIDAY | 11 am | Frank & Mary Lynch Kathleen & deceased family |
| SATURDAY (Shared Intention Mass) | 11 am | Dominic & Catherine Raftery Nicholas Smyth Oliver & Enda Gannon Raphael Molloy Delia & Leo Dolan |
| | 7 pm | Bridie Keane (Month's Mind) |
| SUNDAY | 9 am 11:30 am | Morning Mass Morning Mass |



We also remember Declan Harrington whose anniversary occurs at this time.



RECENT DEATHS: Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of:
Nancy McDermott, Tulsks sister of Julia McDermott, Golf Links Road.
Mary Beirne, Lisadurn.
Leo Hunt, Golf Links Road.
Very Rev. Fr. Raymond Browne P.E., St. Brigid's Church, Kilbride,
 Four Mile House.

We offer sincere sympathy to their bereaved families and friends.

REOPENING OF THE SACRED HEART CHURCH

Further to the government announcement on Friday, we are looking forward to reopening the Sacred Heart Church to public Mass on next Tuesday December 1st at 8.00am.

Our Mass schedule is as follows:

Monday: 11.00am

Tuesday: 8.00am & 11.00am

Wednesday: 8.00am and 11.00am

Thursday 8.00am and 11.00am

Friday, 11.00am

Saturday 11.00am and 7pm (Vigil)

Sunday 9.00am and 11.30am

Please note given the large population of our parish along with the capacity of 80 approx. in Roscommon church as per Covid restrictions, weekend Masses will be arranged on a station area basis until further notice.

As we reopen, parishioners are kindly requested (A) Not to attend church if they suffer from flu like symptoms or have tested positive for Covid 19 (B) Wear a face covering (C) Bring their own hand sanitiser if possible as an added safeguard against coronavirus (Church will be sanitised by volunteers between Masses) (D) Follow the directions of stewards when they attend Mass (E) In the interests of health and safety of all concerned, not to attend church at weekends if the Mass is not allocated to your parish/station area.

Thank you for your continued prayers, support and cooperation and we look forward to meeting you over the coming days and weeks.

Weekend Masses for the 5th / 6th December arranged for parishioners on a station area basis are as follows:

7 pm Athlone Road (incls Goff St), Ardsallagh Beg & Ard Na Greine

9 am Ard Aoibhinn, Ardkeel/Ballybride & Cloonbrackna (incls Essex Lawn & Boyle Road)

11.30 am Ballygalda & Ballybohan

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

We are trying at present to facilitate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for parishioners. Due to Covid restrictions it will be done by appointment only.

If you want to book a slot, please phone the Parish office on 090 6626298.

N.B. In the interests of privacy for penitents, it is only necessary to give a phone no when making a booking.

ALTAR SOCIETY: Group V is scheduled for the coming week.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

St Vincent de Paul Roscommon Town Conference very much regret that due to Covid restrictions it will not be possible to provide food hampers/toys this Christmas.

As we will not be having our usual means of raising funds we would appreciate any financial assistance that you can give to us at the address below - thank you.

Any families that are having financial difficulties due to job loss or any other reason please contact us in strict confidence and we will do our best to help as much as possible.

Address: 15 Castle View, Castle Street, Roscommon, F42 K446. **Tel:** 0860741352

MASS BOOKINGS:

We are currently taking 11 am Mass bookings for 2021. Bookings can only be made by phone 090 6626298 or email: roscommonparish3@gmail.com . Please note all 11 am Masses next year will be shared intention Masses if the need is required. Funeral Masses will also still be celebrated at the 11 am Masses should they occur with any booked intentions prayed for at that Mass. A private Mass will then be celebrated for the given intention at a later time.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People ALONE national support line supports older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

The Irish Hospice Foundation Bereavement Support Line

Have you been impacted by a bereavement during COVID-19? Are you finding it more difficult to cope with a pre-Covid bereavement at this time? Would it help to talk to someone in confidence about your loss? The Irish Hospice Foundation Bereavement Support Line is a national freephone service 1800 80 70 77 which is available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday. The line aims to provide comfort and emotional support

Sunday's Offertory Collection: €1,765.00

Thank You