

SACRED HEART CHURCH ROSCOMMON

PARISH NEWSLETTER
6th DECEMBER 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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TURNING BAD NEWS INTO GOOD NEWS

Since March we have been all but too familiar with phrases like 'incubation period' and 'onset of symptoms'. However, I recall many years ago watching a science documentary on none other than the common cold in which the presenter claimed that when we start sneezing, or suffer from a sore throat or cough, it's actually time to celebrate as these things signal that our body is beginning its fight against the mild virus. The worst phase we were told was the incubation period, after we first contract the virus, as it is during this time our condition is worsening, though we be unaware of it as we have no symptoms.

Similarly, whilst many in the past have faced the shock and upset of a diagnosis from a routine screening, it is precisely this awareness that has proven crucial in fighting certain conditions and diseases. What at first glance appears to be bad news turns out to be good news as it helps achieve a 'lucky escape' from the damaging effects of a later detection.

Our gospel today starts with sentence 'The beginning of the good news according to Mark' and yet it seems that the first character we meet, John the Baptist, brings us some 'bad' news straight away as he points out to us that we are sinners. However, yet again it is this awareness of our spiritual illness that proves crucial in improving our lives as it prompts us to act.

We indeed hope and pray that fewer and fewer of us live through the incubation periods of viruses like Covid 19, but let us be aware that even when things return to normal, we will all still have our 'blind spots' and that lurking beneath the surface are our weaknesses and maladies, that with God's grace and mercy we can find remedy.

Fr Kevin

Mass Intentions for the coming week:

MONDAY	11 am	Mary Kenny
	7 pm	James Gleeson
TUESDAY <i>(The Immaculate Conception)</i>	8 am	Nora & William Siggins, & Michael Mc Niff
	11 am	Mary & Patrick Spellman
WEDNESDAY	8 am	Annie & Joe Keegan, & Joe Keegan (Jnr)
	11 am	Special Intention
THURSDAY	8 am	Michael Beirne
	11 am	Alfie Macklin
FRIDAY	11 am	Thomas Egan
SATURDAY	11 am	Michael J Padden & deceased family
	7 pm	Joe Treacy (Month's Mind)
SUNDAY	9 am 11:30 am	Morning Mass Morning Mass



We also remember Kathleen Durkin & Mary Lyons whose anniversaries occur at this time.



RECENT DEATHS: Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of:
Padraig Connolly, brother of Margaret Connolly, Abbey Street.
Daniel Cullen, Belfast brother of John Cullen, Lough Road.

We offer sincere sympathy to their bereaved families and friends.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

We remember in our prayers 3rd Class pupils from Gaelscoil de hÍde and St. Coman's Wood who will be making their First Holy Communion both before and after Christmas. We thank their parents and teachers for their continued help and support at this important milestone in their journey of faith.



CHRISTMAS MASSES 2020

In an effort to give as much an opportunity as possible for parishioners to attend Mass at Christmas, as well as trying to adhere to Government Covid protocols, the Parish Pastoral Council have decided the following:

The Christmas Mass schedule will be as follows:

Christmas Eve: 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 9.00pm & 11.30pm

Christmas Day: 8.00am, 10.00am & 12.30pm

Admission to Christmas Masses will be by ticket only.

Booking for tickets can be done from Monday 14th December to Friday 18th December from 6.00pm to 8.00pm by phoning **083 1100717**.

***Ticket booking will not be possible outside of these times.**

Thank you for your support and cooperation as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's birth in our parish this Christmas.

Weekend Masses for the 12th / 13th December arranged for parishioners on a station area basis are as follows:

7 pm Ballinagard & Brookvale Ave

9 am Blackstick Rd, Upper & Lower Walk

11.30 am First Holy Communion

ADVENT WREATH: The Advent Wreath Is made from evergreen leaves that are woven around a circle of wire. A purple ribbon is then wound around the leaves. Three purple candles and one pink candle are placed on the Wreath. The circle of evergreen leaves represents God who is without beginning or end. The purple candles stand for penance and sorrow for sin. The pink candle stands for the joy of living in God's way of love. Today is the 2nd Sunday of Advent and a purple candle is lit along with the 1st candle of Advent (purple also).



COMMUNION CALLS:

The Priests of the Parish will attend to their Communion calls to the sick between Friday 18th—Wednesday 23rd December. If there are any others who would like a call from the Priest, please let us know. Phone Parish Office on 090 66 26298.

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

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.

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

Church Calendar, 2021: *Is being prepared for next year. If there are any voluntary Groups or Organisations who would like to be included or change their existing contact details, please phone Parish Office as soon as possible. Tel: 090 66 26298.*

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: €2,018.00

Thank You