

Sunday 20th December 2020

Parish Newsletter

Reflection

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.



Parish Notices:

Update on Christmas Mass tickets: There are tickets available for the following days & times—

Wednesday @ 8am, 10am and 12.30, Christmas Eve 8am, Christmas Day 8am

Monday is the last day for ticket collection you can call to the Parish Office between 10am and 2.30pm.

Tickets must be presented on arrival for Christmas Mass.

The regulations say that there are to be no gatherings of people in the church grounds, so to avoid this we have provided a ticket system to control our numbers and keep everyone safe. We respectfully ask that those who do not have a ticket would not come to the Cathedral at Mass times.



Your weekly envelop boxes are available in the Sacristy for collection. It would be of great assistance if you could call in to collect them.

Christmas Dues envelopes are available at the back of the Cathedral for the support of the priests of the parish. We thank you for your Kindness and generosity.

2021

There are also copies of our 2021 calendar available.

The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 22nd December 2020 and re-open on Monday 4th January 2021 at 9.30am

With the recent easing of COVID-19 restrictions the public are permitted to attend Mass (numbers are limited). We must continue to abide by Public Health guidelines and use hand sanitizer as we enter and exit the church, social distancing still applies and face masks must be worn.

Confessions: Confessions take place after 10am Mass on Saturday's.

Christmas Mass Times & Confessions

Monday 21st & Tuesday 22nd December Mass times as Normal
Confessions after all Masses

Wednesday 23rd December Mass 8am, 10am, 12.30pm & 6pm

Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve) Mass 8am, 10am, 12.30pm, 6pm & 9pm

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day) Mass 8am, 10.30am & 12noon No Evening Mass

Saturday 26th December Mass 10am. Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 27th December Mass 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon & 7pm

Monday 28th December - Friday 1st January Mass 10am. No Evening Mass

Saturday 2nd January Mass times resume as normal

Please phone parish office 061 414624 to book a place at any of the above Masses on 23rd, 24th & 25th December (availability is now very limited)

The Cathedral Shop is open Monday — Saturday 11am to 1pm

Baptisms

Baptisms take place on Saturday's at 3.30pm and 4.30pm. Should you wish to book your baby's baptism please contact the parish office at 061 414624 between 9.30am and 4pm Monday to Friday.



Split the Pot

Congratulations to Gayle Cantillon winner of last weekend's draw (Sun 13th Dec). Draw envelopes can be dropped off during Church opening times.



The Giving Tree - Be a Secret Santa with the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

SVP provides help to thousands of families at Christmas, which includes gift vouchers, toys for small children, gifts for young people as well as gifts for older adults.

This will be our third year here at St. John's Cathedral supporting SVP with their Giving Tree Christmas Appeal and despite the current restrictions we would like to continue to support those in most need in our community, as best as we can.

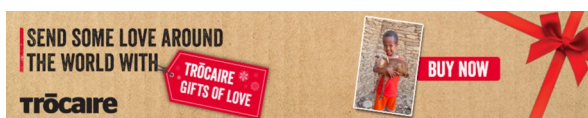
This year's Giving Tree can't be placed in the Cathedral and gift tags cannot be taken, however we can still find a way to give. The gifts can be given for:

Girl or Boy – Ages: 0-6yrs or 6-12yrs, Teenager Boy or Girl, Adult

Unwrapped gifts can be dropped into Kieran in St John's Cathedral Sacristy and these gifts will be delivered to SVP for distribution by a network of local SVP volunteers. All public health restrictions will be adhered to at every stage of the process.

Trócaire's Gift of Love Christmas Appeal

When you buy a Trócaire Gift of Love, your money goes to the developing world – buying life-changing gifts for people who really need them as well as funding critical work in Trócaire's justice, resource rights, women's empowerment programmes and more recently, support during the current Covid 19 pandemic.



Last year was our first year supporting Trócaire's Gifts of Love and over one weekend last December we managed to raise an incredible €2,500.

This year, due to current restrictions, gifts cannot be sold at the back of Cathedral; however there will be a limited number of gifts of love cards available in the Cathedral shop. There are also many other ways to purchase these life changing gifts or just donate to Trócaire's Christmas Appeal, either online at <https://trocaire.org/gifts> or by calling **1850 408408**.

There are many Trócaire gifts to choose from, such as chicks, water and solar lamps, ranging in price from €5.

Also Trócaire envelopes will be available at the back of the Cathedral to take home with you and can be brought back and collected at any mass in the lead up to Christmas..

Buy a Trócaire Gift of Love and send some love around the world this Christmas.

