ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Parish Newsletter ***Second Sunday of Advent*** ***Sunday 4th Dec 2022***

Liturgy Corner

This weekend sees the beginning of the Second Week of Advent. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word "ad-venire" which means "to come" and during Advent we pray and think about two different comings of Christ. The first part of the season focuses our hearts and minds on Christ's second coming at the end of time and then in the latter part, from December 17th on, the focus changes to our annual celebration of Our Lord's birth at Christmas. Advent is a season of preparation when we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Our Lord. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, and the season also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing and quieting our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. There are changes in the liturgy during Advent, for example the colour of the vestments worn at Mass changes from the green of Ordinary Time to violet or purple and the Gloria is not said or sung until the Vigil Mass of Christmas when, as the Angels sang it with great joy to the Shepherds that first Christmas night, we raise our voices in praise and gratitude for the love that the Father lavishes on us.
Most people have a crib at home, the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ can be traced back to St Francis of Assisi, who prepared the first Christmas crib or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223. The following blessing could be used when the crib is first set up or on Christmas Eve.
All make the sign of the cross as a family member says: "Our help is in the name of the Lord." *and all present reply,* "Who made heaven and earth."
The family members goes on, God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation
you have shown us your love: when our need for a Saviour
was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon our crib; may it remind us
of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Saviour of all, and who lives and reigns
forever and ever. Amen.

Advent Stations continue next Friday 9th December at 7pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.

Pro Life Mass

At St Michaels Church
Denmark Street

lLast Thursday of each Month, starting with Rosary at 7pm followed by Mass with Music. All very welcome to attend.

Eucharistic Ministers

Meeting this Tuesday evening 6th December at 7pm in the Parish Centre.

Penitential Service

Will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Castletroy on 20th December at 7pm,
All are very welcome to attend

Celtic Brothers to give Christmas Concert in Abbeyfeale.

The very popular group ***Celtic Brothers***, formally known as the *Willoughby Brothers* will give a Christmas Concert in Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Abbeyfeale on Sunday the 11th of December. The concert will begin at 7.30pm. Tickets for the show can be booked by ringing 089 – 4314765. For Video Clips of Celtic Brothers and more information on the show log on to www.abbeyfealeparish.ie

Recent Baptisms

Welcome to the Christian Community.

Darragh John Nealon
Brian Kaydon Scanlon

We offer our sympathies to the families and loved ones of the recently deceased.

Bridie Deveraux RIP

Split the Pot

Congratulations to ***Dave Coffey*** winner of last week-end's draw. (27/11).

Saturday 10th December, 10:30am to 5pm: Advent Desert Day in Limerick Diocesan Centre

Step aside from the ordinary into the lovely surroundings of Lim Diocesan Centre for a one-day Advent Retreat.

The day takes place in an atmosphere of silence with reflections, guided meditations, prayer, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day will conclude with the celebration of the Eucharist. Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea/Coffee/Snacks provided. The retreat will be facilitated by Phyllis Moynihan RSM and Sharon Collopy. Booking is essential as places are limited. Contact Phyllis at 087 963 6893 or email: moynihanphyllis525@gmail.com. Donation: €20.

Theology on Tap

Young adult event at Bobby Byrnes on Tuesday, December 6. Evening starts at 7:30pm with finger foods, followed by a presentation by Fr. Raphael Okanumen; Daring to Be Different: A personal reflection on John 11.

Gifts of Love Christmas Appeal

Christmas is a time for giving and for spreading hope and love, so once again this Christmas we are planning to support Trócaire's Gifts of Love Christmas Appeal. This will be our fourth year supporting Trócaire at Christmas and over the past three years we have raised an incredible €7,500.

When you buy a Trócaire Gift of Love, your money goes to the developing world –funding critical work in Trócaire's justice, resource rights, and women's empowerment programs, as well as providing ongoing support those worst effected due to the worsening effects of climate change.

There are many Trócaire gifts to choose from, such as chicks, water, solar lamps, and many more, ranging in price starting from €5 upwards. Gifts will be available to purchase in the Cathedral over this weekend of the 10th/11th December. Gifts will also be available to purchase in the Cathedral shop in the lead up to Christmas, or can be ordered online at **https://trocaire.org/gifts** or by calling **1800 408408.**

Trócaire envelopes will also 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 sustainable and life changing Trócaire Gift of Love on behalf of a loved one and send some love around the world this Christmas.

Trócaire - Until Love Conquers Fear