

Sunday 6th December 2020

Parish Newsletter

Reflection

Isaiah's message, which resounds in this second Sunday of Advent, is a salve on our wounds and an impetus to prepare with commitment the way of the Lord. Indeed, today the Prophet speaks to heart to tell us that God condones our sins and comforts us. If we entrust ourselves to Him with a humble and penitent heart, He will tear down the walls of evil, He will fill in the holes of our omissions, He will smooth over the bumps of arrogance and vanity, and will open the way of encounter with Him. It is curious, but many times we are afraid of consolation, of being comforted. Or rather, we feel more secure in sorrow and desolation. Do you know why? Because in sorrow we feel almost as protagonists. However, in consolation the Holy Spirit is the protagonist! It is He who consoles us, it is He who gives us the courage to go out of ourselves. It is He who opens the door to the source of every true comfort, that is, the Father. And this is conversion. Please, let yourselves be comforted by the Lord! Let yourselves be comforted by the Lord!



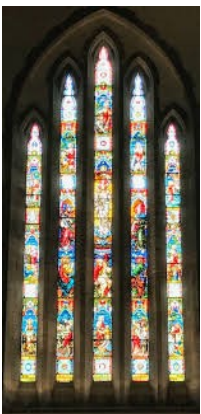
Parish Notices:

Boxes of Weekly Envelopes for 2021

Weekly boxes of Envelopes are available for collection from the Parish Office Monday—Thursday from 10am to 1pm for those that are registered. Should you wish to register for weekly envelopes please call to the Parish office or telephone 061 414624. We are most grateful for your continued support.



Welcome back to your Church



A very warm welcome back to the Church as we resume public liturgies'. Sincere thanks for your patience and co-operation during this difficult time.

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.

Mass times are as follows: Monday - Friday 10am, 5.45pm.
Saturday 10am, 6pm (vigil)
Sunday 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon & 7pm.

Confessions: Confessions resume after 10am Mass on Saturday's.

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

Baptisms



Baptisms have resumed again. These will take place on Saturday 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 Linda Fleming, winner of last weekend's draw (Sun 29th Nov). 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.

The response from you all over the past two years has been just amazing, with so many of you generously giving to such a worthy cause.

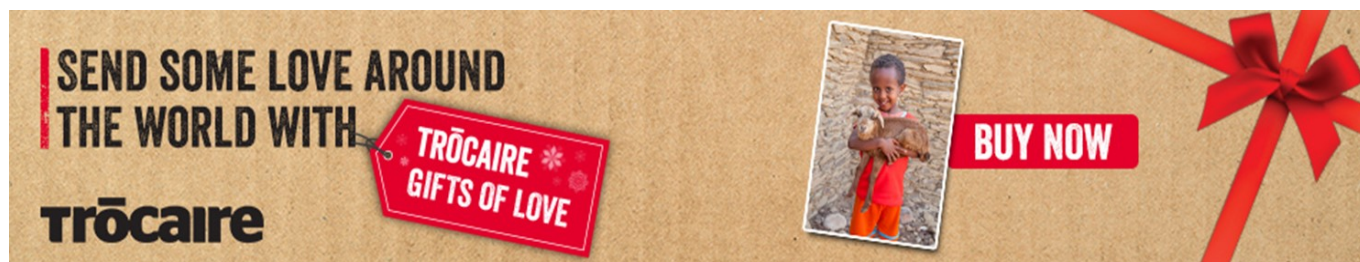
This year's Giving Tree can't be placed in the Cathedral and gift tags cannot be taken, however we can still find a way to give. The gifts can be given for:

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.