

A few words from the Parish Priest.....

A newly appointed Bishop was giving a retreat to a group of priests in a neighbouring diocese. As he went to give the First Talk, he was a little nervous. Sitting in the front row were a group of old priests; ancient in days, well fed and somewhat intimidating. As the Bishop began his remarks, one of the elderly priests started fidgeting with his hearing aid. The man sitting beside him, nudged him and said, "don't waste your batteries on this fellow." That certainly did not comfort the Bishop.

As you know, communication is 80% plus, non verbal. Our bodily stance or posture speaks. The celebration of the Eucharist (mass) is the action of the whole people of God gathered in the power of the Holy Spirit. A sense of unity of being a part of the living Body of Christ, the Church, should pervade our celebration. Our common posture expresses our belonging to one another.

We should stand until after the Opening Prayer of the Mass. Then we sit to listen to the Word of God in Holy Scripture.

We stand for the Gospel because we are hearing the Word of Jesus Christ. After sitting for the Homily – which hopefully is not too long – we stand for the Creed and Prayers of the Faithful.

Seated during the presentation of the Gifts, we stand when the priest invites us; "Pray my Brothers and Sisters that my sacrifice and yours etc."

After the "Holy Holy Holy" we normally kneel in Ireland.

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer we stand for the Lord's prayer and after we say "the Lamb of God Prayer" we kneel for the Communion prayer.

After Holy Communion has been distributed we stand for the final prayer and the Blessing. Of course, all these common postures apply only if we are not suffering from any disability. We should keep hold of our common sense.

Let us not forget that gathering together to pray and allow Jesus Christ to encounter us in the Eucharist is a beautiful blessing. We leave the Church affirmed, loved and equipped to share the Lord's love with others.

Christmas Dues envelopes are available from the tables in the entrance area for those who did not receive any in the post. Dues are for the support of the priests of the parish and the sick and retired priests of the diocese. As some of the retired priests are now being cared for in nursing homes it is really helpful if everyone could make some contribution to the Dues. Your priests, past and present are deeply grateful for your ongoing support

Pianist at 6.15pm Evening Mass We urgently require a pianist for the Sunday evening Mass. This will be a temporary position, and if you can help, please contact our Pastoral Worker, Jackie Hearne at 087 7422653. *Thank you.*

Collections 1st December 2019

Offertory Collection: not available
St Vincent de Paul Collection: not available

Christian Meditation takes place every Thursday morning before 10.00am Mass in the Church. Meditation is the quiet prayer of faith, silence, stillness and simplicity handed on to us by the Benedictine Monk, John Main O.S.B. All are welcome.

The Parish Carol Service will take place this Thursday, 19th December **at 7.30pm**. Do try and come; it is an evening for everyone to gather and join in the music and readings that are so much a part of our Christmas celebration. It's a very simple, joyful service of about 50 mins, with some lovely hospitality afterwards.

Beechwood Parish will host the Ranelagh Singers for their Carol Service on Monday 16th December at 8.00pm. There will be a collection in aid of the Alice Leahy Trust.

Crosscare have advised us they will have no food collection at the Church this Christmas, but they will collect during the year instead.

Bambinelli Sunday will be held today Sunday 15th December and all children and families are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their homes to be blessed. Blessed straw will also be available at the back of the Church after all Masses, so please help yourself.

Advent Reflection Series Journeying through Advent in song, with hymns, psalms, chant, and dánta Dé, in the Avila Carmelite Convent, Bloomfield Avenue, Dublin 4. Join Kerrie O'Connor, Vocalist; Mary Louise and Teresa O'Donnell, Harpists; and Naomi Dunleavy-O'Shea, Violinist. The last reflection for the season will be on Tuesday 17th Dec 7.30pm - 8.30pm.

Children's Programme for Advent. As St Patrick's Hall is still not available, the children will go to the Sacristy as usual during Mass for a short lesson and some prayer time followed by Arts and Crafts. The capacity of the Sacristy means we may have to restrict the programme to children under 6 years of age, and if any older children are excluded, the craft will be available after Mass.

Poinsettias and Red Plants to decorate the Church for Christmas will be most welcome. Please leave your gift outside the Mortuary Chapel.

Books for Advent *Dipping into Advent*, by Alan Hilliard, and *Advent and Christmas*, by the Irish Jesuits' Sacred Space, are available to purchase at the back of the Church price €10 and €5 respectively