ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Priests: Fr James Boyle MHM: Fr. John Nevin MHM: Fr. Gerald Doyle MHM
Registered Charity N0: NO: 103983

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Cycle A) 2nd DECEMBER 2017

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:
6pm Sat: 2/12: Intentions of Colette Mc Geen
10am Sun: 3/12: Seamus Kelters RIP
9am Mon: 4/12: Intentions of Paul Floyd & Family
1pm Mon: 4/12: Joseph Smyth RIP
9am Tues: 5/12: Intentions Bill Walsh & Family, Months Mind Dominic Mc Crossan
1pm Tues: 5/12: Grace Dorman RIP
9am Wed: 6/12: For Lost & Forgotten Souls
1pm Wed: 6/12: Anne Gavin RIP
9am Thurs: 7/12: Thanksgiving Luke Trigg
1pm Thurs: 7/12: Bell Mc Mullan RIP
6pm Thurs: 7/12: Vigil Mass Michael Mc Clure RIP
9am Fri : 8/12: Dolores Brady (sick))
12 Noon Fri: 8/12: Kieran Mc Guinness RIP
1pm Fri 8/12: Intentions of Brigid Quinn
6pm Fri: 8/ 12: Kevin Mc Guigan RIP (Birthday)
9am Sat: 9/12: Intentions of Eileen Perkins
1pm Sat : 9/12: Daniel Gallagher RIP
6pm Sat: 9/12: Eleanor Mc Grath RIP

Let us remember the SICK in our Prayers: Paddy Gilliland, Michael Ryan, Peter Monaghan, Joe Faszcza & Betty, Jack Burns, Jan & Malachy, Martin Donaghy, Anne Rose, James, Clare, Terry Fullerton, Elsie Cooney, Eileen Delaney, Anne Lambe, Donna Carey, , Danny Mc Kee, David, Dolores Kelly, Dinny Murphy, Sinead Ward, Colette Kearney, Sarah Keyland, Cian Travers, P McCloskey, Mary O' Neill, Maria Antonia Peres, Shannah Smyth, Pat Carville, Sheila Smith, Barry Mulholland, Paul Connolly, Joan Smith, Briege, Kumacho, Nora Mc Mahon, Marie Mc Guigan, Paddy Mc Geough, Paul Kelly, Annie Crawford, Nuala Mailey, Paul Mc Larnon, Patsy Mullan, Larry Mc Gurk, Bernadette Boswell, Seán & Phyliss Smyth, Netta Tracy, Linda McDonald, Christopher Browne, Kevin Heaney, Martha Foley, Louise Green, Marian Hunter, Colm Gallagher, Margaret Mc Cafferty, Anna, Kohl Thelis, Deirdre O'Neill, Bridie Mc Crossan, Brenda McKervey, Donna, Margaret McCriskin, Sr. Eileen Ryan, Margaret Mc Kenna, Jean Kelly, Joseph Duffy, Elizabeth Magee, Arder Carson, Al Mc Comb, Joel Rivera, Nora McDonagh, Maire Mc Kenna, Eddie O' Neill, Martha Foley, Billy Houston, Mick Hughes, Annie Mc Nally, Patrick McAnulty; Tony Lindsay (sick) Paddy McGeogh; Alex Vernon, Kathleen McMullan, Patsy Callaghan-Donnelly, Sean Mc Donnell, Eadie Staton.

LAST WEEK COLLECTIONS: Nest Week

THIS WEEK COLLECTIONS: 1. Running expenses of the Church
2. Diocesan Priests' Welfare

NEXT WEEK COLLECTIONS: Heat & Electricity

FRIDAY BUILDING FUND COLLECTION: Next Week
SILVER CIRCLE: Alex Vernon; Patricia Harvey; Danny Curran; Tony Valente

DECEMBER 8th - A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and Bishop Noel will celebrate the 6pm Mass at St Mary's on that day to officially open the completed Church and Grotto Development work. I ask you please to make an effort to be present. Traditionally, December 8th is a day that some of our people go to Knock and maybe you could change that this year to another day. Our Lady will understand!! There is a meeting in the Hall next Tuesday 14th Nov.

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: *Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b;64:2-7*
Isaiah prays for the Lord's forgiveness of the people.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19*
A prayer for the Lord's protection

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*
Paul gives thanks to God for the faith of the Corinthians.

Gospel Reading: *Mark 13:33-37*
Jesus warns his disciples to be watchful so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the season of , which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man..

Loyola Press

WHEN YOU SEND SOMEONE A CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUET CARD, signed by one of the Mill Hill priests at St Mary's, you are telling the recipient that they will SHARE in a Mass. The donation for this is £3.00 for the share in the Mass and £0.50 for the card. The Mass will be said on the missions and four will share in *one* mass. Fr. James

THE CHANGING LIVES INITIATIVE: is are a cross jurisdictional initiative working between West Belfast, County Louth and the Argyll & Bute region of NHS Scotland. We are supported by the European Union's Interreg VA Programme and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). The Changing Lives Initiative is aimed at families of children aged 3 to 7 years. It offers a free programme for families consisting of an information and awareness session, a screening session and an intervention in the form of a 20 session Incredible Years parent programme focused on behaviours consistent with ADHD.

The programme is aimed at helping parents to:
a) Build a stronger relationship with their child.
b) Help their child learn positive behaviours.
c) Improve their child's confidence and self-esteem.
d) Build upon their parenting skills.
e) Help parents and families feel better about themselves and their children.
f) Improve communication within the family. Alongside our parent based initiative we are also offering, Teacher and Early Years Practitioner Information and Awareness sessions with information on ADHD and how it might present in children. ADHD related symptoms and learning problems will be examined. Participants will be introduced to techniques, interventions and strategies to enhance outcomes and ensure success for children experiencing behaviour consistent with ADHD. **You can contact us at**: The Changing Lives Initiative, Unit W2, Dairy Farm Centre, Stewartstown Road, BT17 0AW, Telephone: 028 9691 9960, Please use full STD code, E-mail: changinglives@newcolin.com

A PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN Heavenly Father, in your love for us, protect against the wickedness of the devil, those helpless little ones to whom you have given the gift of life. Touch with pity the hearts of those women pregnant in our world today who are not thinking of motherhood. Help them to see the child they carry is made in your image, as well as theirs, made for eternal life. Dispel their fear and selfishness and give them true womanly hearts to love their babies and give them birth and all the needed care that a mother can give. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord who lives and reins with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen

PLEASE REMEMBER: DECEMBER 8th DECEMBER 8th, THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, IS A HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION AND WE ARE HAVING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE RECENT CHURCH AND GROTTO REFURBISHMENT **AT THE 6PM MASS.** THE BISHOP WILL CELEBRATE WITH US. PLEASE MAKE IT A PRIORITY FOR YOU TO **BE HERE.**