



Parish of St. Vincent de Paul

Newsletter

18th December 2022

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Mass Intentions

Sat 17: John Dwerryhouse

Sun 18: Mary Thompson

Mon 19: Tom Power RIP

Tue 20: Maurice Cavanagh

Wed 21: Tony & Betty Keatly

Thanksgiving

Thur 22: Mikele

Fri 23: Sarah Benjamin & Family

Sat 24: Christmas Flowers

Sun 25: Parishioners



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Regular Mass Times

Sunday	10.00
Monday	07:30
Tuesday	07:30
Wednesday	09.00
Thursday	07:30
Friday	09.00
Saturday (vigil)	18.00

Homily Notes

Emmanuel; God with us, God who walks among us. God, as foretold by Isaiah, was eventually brought into the world by Mary and Joseph, the willing players in God's plan for us. And Emmanuel must be as concerned as we are about how easy it is for us humans to forget his all-loving decision to become human and why exactly he came and lived with us and died for us. Walk around the city just now and it is full of light – but a light that leads nowhere, a light that is drowned by all the lights that are there, supposedly to give us joy and raise our spirits in mid-winter. But, with the possible exception of the window display at the Pauline Media Centre and the crib on Lord Street, there is no indication of the real light, the true light, that shines in the darkness, to lead us out of darkness and into the light of Christ – the Emmanuel. Our garlanded streets only lead into a pagan, capitalist festival of mid-winter light that will send many families spiralling into debt and indebtedness.

The true light that matters is not the glittering, plastic lights that cheer us for a moment and tempt us to spend on what will be gone tomorrow, but the light of welcome, the light of love in our eyes when we meet the stranger, the light that says, “you are a person, and you count in my eyes”. This is the light of Christ. This is the light that will lead us out of darkness and into the Kingdom of God.

Terry

Advent Thoughts

Below is an extract from the Angelus message of **Pope Francis** on the 1st Sunday of Advent, based on the Gospel of the Pharisee and Publican. It is still pointedly

relevant for us on this last Sunday of Advent!

“Dear brothers and sisters, John and his “allergic reactions” make us think. Are we not at times a bit like those Pharisees? Perhaps we look at others from top to bottom, thinking that we are better than them, that we have our lives under control, that we don't need God, or the Church, or our brothers or sisters on a daily basis. We forget that in one case it is legitimate to look down on someone else: when it is necessary to help them get up. This is the only case; the others are not legitimate. Advent is a moment of grace to take off our masks – every one of us has them – and line up with those who are humble, to be liberated from the presumption of the belief of being self-sufficient, to go to confess our sins, the hidden ones, and to welcome God's pardon, to ask forgiveness from those whom we have offended. This is how to begin a new life. There is only one way, the way of humility – to be purified from the sense of superiority, from formalism and hypocrisy, to see ourselves, along with our brothers and sisters, as sinners, and to see Jesus as the Saviour who comes for us, not for the others, for us, just as we are, with our poverty, misery and failings, above all with our need to be raised up, forgiven and saved.

And let us remember one thing: with Jesus, there is always the possibility of beginning again. It's never too late. There is always the possibility to begin again. Be courageous. He is near to us and this is the time of conversion. Everyone might think: “I have this situation inside, this problem that I am ashamed of”. But Jesus is next to you. Begin again. There is always the possibility of taking a step forward. He is waiting for us and never gets tired of us. He never gets tired! And we are annoying, but he never gets tired! Let us listen to John the Baptist's appeal to return to God. And let us not let this Advent go by like days on the calendar because this is a moment of grace, a grace for us too, here and now!

May Mary, the humble servant of the Lord, help us to meet Him, Jesus, and our brothers and sisters on the way of humility, which is the only one that will help us go ahead.”

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Christmas is a good time to seek reconciliation with yourself, with others and with God.

This Sacrament helps us turn to God for forgiveness for our sins and for healing, making it easier to forgive ourselves and forgive others.

6.30pm Tuesday 20th

No one is excluded from God's healing love: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life". Jn 3:16

CHRISTMAS AT

❄️ St VINCENT'S ❄️

20 Dec: Service of Reconciliation in church at 6.30pm

24 Dec, Saturday: Christmas Vigil Mass, 8pm

On Christmas Eve, the church will be open from 7.30pm. There will be Carol Singing before Mass and Refreshments after Mass. All are WELCOME

25 Dec: Christmas Day Mass 10am

A New **Monthly Catholic Newspaper**, the "Catholic Post", is available, free, at the back of the church.

Lottery Results - 12th December

01 04 06 10 11 14

Jackpot £450

OFFERINGS 4th December

Envelopes: £ 20.00

Plate: £ 103.00

😊 *Thank you* 😊

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

With availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Friday 11.00am to Noon

PREPARATON FOR INFANT BAPTISM

A new course for the preparation of Infant baptism will be given on Saturdays 21 & 28 January 2023.

Participation is necessary for the preparation of the baptism of your children. *Please contact Fr Ferdinand if you wish to baptise a child in 2023.*

News from CAFOD

The COP27 climate talks ended in Egypt with governments agreeing to set up a 'loss and damage' fund.

The decision means a specific fund will be created to support countries that have contributed least to causing the climate crisis but which are seeing communities devastated by its impacts – including the loss of crops and livestock to drought or being displaced from their homes due to rising sea levels.

CAFOD called for governments at COP27 to set up the fund, while the Holy See intervened to back calls for the fund from countries most vulnerable to the climate crisis. Neil Thorns, Director of Advocacy at CAFOD, said: "The establishment of this fund is a major step forward in supporting communities whose lives, livelihoods and cultures have been destroyed by the climate crisis. "The next step is to ensure that the fund works under clear principles of justice and is capitalised without delay."

CAFOD called for leaders to pledge to take action to reduce emissions generated by food production and to make local food supply chains more resilient to the impacts of the climate crisis.

Neil Thorns said: "There was slow progress on work delivering sustainable food systems, the Sharm El Sheikh work programme does not take the holistic approach needed if we are to reform our broken food system which currently harms the planet and leaves people hungry."

Christmas Flowers and Christmas Tree

Please help us decorate the church for Christmas. Donations can be put in an envelope with your FAMILY name and put in the collection.



ON-LINE ADVENT

There are many aids on line to help us live a more reflective and meaningful ADVENT and keep our minds focused on the Christmas event.

The Archdiocese Pastoral Development Office offers you some reflections here:

<https://togetherforthecommongood.co.uk/resources/synod-podcast-series>

Others can be found here, thanks to the Independent Catholic News:

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45993>

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Sr Siobhan offers on her website, www.sistersiobhan.org, reflections for Advent. Why not take a look?

Christmas Raffle

There is still time to participate in the Christmas Raffle.

Proceeds go towards the new KITCHEN in the church. The draw will be on Christmas Eve. Please take some books to sell the tickets.

**AFTER MASS REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE SERVED ON THE 2ND
SUNDAY OF THE MONTH,
BEGINNING IN THE NEW YEAR**

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Our Prayers are asked for the following who are sick: Lorraine ALLEN, Natasha BAKER, Kitty BAXTER, Baby Bobby ENWRIGHT, Christopher BROWNE, Emma DOLAN, Baby Daisy Marcia DUNN, June DUNNE, Joe EDIE, Jean ENNIS, Baby FRANKIE, Irene GREEN, Mary HOWARD, Raymond JOYCE, Kai, Jane MANN, Helen MARTLEY, Eddie McKENNA, Mary MELODY, Sarah MORGAN, Cathy MURRAY, Ava RUDZINSKI, Eileen SALTERS, Jean TAYLOR, Camila WILD

Also, for the intentions of: Kathy BANKS, Anne BAXTER, Ryan EDWARDS, Rita & Jimmy FLATLEY, GERMAINE, Beverley HARPER, Joan HART, Theresa HASTIE, Frances KERWIN, Ian McNICHOLAS, Ann MOORE, Susan MORSELLINO, Maureen RICE, Sarah Jane, Teresa SWIFT, David THOMAS, Cath WILSON, **And for those who have died:** Mary Hughes