

Week of: 21st December — 27th December 2024

Saturday: 21st December

11.00am: Funeral

Vigil Mass for Sunday

6.45pm: Eamonn Maguire (R. Dec)

Sunday

8.30am: No Intention

9.30am: No Intention

11.30am: Charles Coghlan (51st A)

Michael & Christina Carroll (A)

Jean Mangan (35th A)

Monday 10am: Funeral

Tuesday 10am: Louis Walshe (20th A)

Chris Corrigan (24th A)

Wednesday: Christmas Day No Intentions

Thursday 11am: Eugene Bent (1st A)

Elaine Wilson (A)

Friday 11am: Michael Winters (A)

Mary Moran (2nd A)

(1st A) First Anniversary

(M/M) Months Mind

(R.D.) Recently Deceased

(B. Rem) Birthday Remembrance

(I) Illness

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CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

Are there some special people to whom you like to send a Christmas Mass Bouquet? Such cards with the inclusion of the intentions of loved ones in the Masses offered by the priests of the parish at Christmas are now available. (Card & Mass Offering €4). Visit the shop at the back of the church today.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

The Repository at the back of the church is well stocked with Christmas items. There are a selection of cribs, nativity scenes, Church art calendars, advent calendars, Christmas cards, diaries and other items. You may find ideas there for Christmas gifts in the range of gift boxed rosaries, fonts etc. Call by and look at the display or speak with one of the staff.

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina has now finished for 2024 and will resume on the 9th of January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. At Lectio we look at life through the lens of the Gospel and how God speaks to each individual through the message of the Gospel. We listen, share, meditate and pray to enable us live more fully the Gospel message. All are welcome.

Confession at Christmas:

As part of our Parish Christmas Schedule, we will have Confession in the Church 10.30am – 12pm on Monday December 23rd.

Parish Office

The Parish Office will be closed from December 20th until 10am on the 2nd of January 2025. If you wish to book a Mass Intention or have any queries during this period please call to the Sacristy after any of the Masses. It has been a pleasure dealing with you all this year and see you in 2025. All the best to you and yours for Christmas and the New Year. Jason, Parish Secretary.

TONIGHT!

JOIN RATHFARNHAM GOSPEL CHOIR
AND SPECIAL GUESTS FOR

A Gospel Christmas

By candlelight

Sunday 22 December
Starts @ 7.30pm

Church of the Annunciation
Rathfarnham

FREE ENTRY
Retiring collection in aid of

A Gospel Christmas by Candlelight supporting

Laura Lynn

After the success of our gatherings in past years, Rathfarnham Gospel Choir and special guests warmly invite you and your family to join us for a special evening in the Church on **Sunday December 22nd at 7:30 pm**. The choir, who will be joined by violinist Isabella Riordan and oboist Tegan Sutherland, will perform a selection of festive favourites. Surrounded by candlelight, this promises to be an intimate and unforgettable evening.

Entry is free, but we kindly ask for a donation at the door to support our chosen charity: LauraLynn.

We hope to see you there for this heartfelt celebration.

Family Offering Envelopes

If you give to the Parish Family Offering using envelopes, your envelopes for 2025 are in the back Sacristy for you to collect. If you would like to start using envelopes for the Family Offering please contact Jason in the Parish Office. If you are collecting an envelope on behalf of a neighbour or friend we ask that you sign the sheet in the Sacristy before you take the box of envelopes. Thank you for your continued giving, it is very much appreciated.



The Annunciation Times

Church of the Annunciation, Rathfarnham

www.rathfarnhamparish.ie

Fourth Sunday of Advent Cycle C Sunday December 22nd 2024

Contact details:

Rathfarnham is one of six parishes in partnership together; the parishes are Ballyroan, Churchtown, Ballyboden, Knocklyon and Marley Grange.

Parish team:

Moderator: V. Rev. Martin Canon Cosgrove
St. Mary's Presbytery, Willbrook Rd.

Phone: 01- 495 4554. **Email:** mfc7534@gmail.com

Co P.P. V. Rev. Michael Coady,

St. Mary's Presbytery, Willbrook Rd.

Phone: 01- 4932390 **Email:** clovis78@eircom.net

Deacon: Rev. Frank Browne c/o Parish Office

Sacramental Coordinator: Carol McCabe c/o Parish Office

Email: sacraments@rathfarnhamparish.com

Sacristan: Paul Moreland

Sacristy: Phone 01- 493 8385

Parish Secretary: Jason Monahan

Parish Office:

Parish Pastoral Centre,
Willbrook Road, Rathfarnham (The Old Court House)

Monday – Friday 10 a.m. to 2pm

Phone: 01- 495 8695

Parish Website: www.rathfarnhamparish.ie

Email: parishoffice@rathfarnhamparish.com

Twitter: @RathfarnhamP

Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council:

Mary Cunneen, c/o Parish Office

Registered Charity Number: 20016166

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil 6:45pm

Sunday Morning: 8.30am (Irish Mass), 9.30am & 11.30am

Working Holy Days: Morning: 10:00am

Evening: 7:30pm Vigil: 7:30pm.

Weekdays: Monday to Friday 10:00am

Saturdays & Bank Holidays: 11:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: On Saturdays after 11am Mass & before the 6.45pm Mass

Baptisms: 1st and 3rd Saturday of the Month.

NOW TAKING BAPTISM BOOKINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2025 ONWARDS



Gospel Reflection:

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favour upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

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