



St. Paul's Parish Ayrfield

Fourth Sunday of Advent – C 19th December 2021

4th Sunday
of
Advent

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Pastors Desk

With Christmas just around the corner, the days of Advent waiting are almost over. In today's gospel we hear the account of how Mary and Elizabeth meet, and we are told they were filled with joy. Experiencing Joy is one of the cornerstones of human living. We can experience Joy at the birth of a baby, the homecoming of family members for Christmas, finding employment once more, when we pass an exam, when we get good news after a health scare etc. so the types of joy we experience throughout our lives can be very diverse.

In today's gospel we find the two women sharing the joy of the miracle of new life that is stirring within them. Both of their pregnancies were touched by wonder. Elizabeth for example was getting on in years and Mary was a virgin. Both of their lives had been touched by God and we are told that they were filled with joy.

All our lives are touched by God daily even though it may go unnoticed. Maybe during these final days of Advent, we might take time to reflect on how God has touched our lives individually so that we may enter a Joyful celebration of Christmas. Perhaps our prayer could be 'Here I am Lord, I've come to do your will'.

Fr. Matthias – Message of appreciation and farewell to St. Paul's Ayrfield Parish



On the 8th November 2018 I arrived in the Archdiocese of Dublin, my first time on the island of Ireland. Based on the good history of the Irish missionaries in my country Uganda, it was an exciting moment. Time has gone so fast! On the 15th January 2022, I return to my home diocese in Uganda! When I arrived here, I was attached to St. Paul's Ayrfield and Holy Trinity Donaghmede parishes. In this short message, I express my thanks to the Parish Team: Fr. Gerard Deegan Co-PP, Fr. Gerry Corcoran Co-PP (Mod.), Parish Secretary Freda Kane, Sacristan Mai Cass, the PPC members; Eucharistic ministers, Ministers of the Word, Choirs, musicians, clubs members, our lovely volunteers, and teachers with whom I closely served God's people. I heartily thank all the people in this parish as well as others for the love, hospitality, friendship, care and all the good shared with me. It has been an enriching faith- experience. Please, allow me express my appreciation to the members of Legion Mary. Their devotion to Mother Mary and apostolate brought me closer to many people in our parishes. I remain indebted to you all.

While here, you allowed me share some of your social moments; of joy and sorrow! I never lacked a cup of tea, a chocolate, a bread, etc..! You allowed me join in the inevitable challenging moments; of sickness and grief! Some of the people I got to know so well have gone to the Lord. May they rest in peace! Covid 19 also exacerbated the sad moments! Thank you for the support during the lock-downs.

Friends, to you I have been a priest serving you, but in reality a human being with my limitations. For those moments I did not meet your expectation, please accept my sincere apologies! A special thank you to those who in a friendly way advised me in a number of ways! God bless you. While with you, as St. Paul says in 1Cor 3,5-9 I have merely made a small contribution to God's work. Please, rest assured of my prayers. Please, remember me in your prayers. Merry Christmas, blessed year 2022 and beyond.

Fr. Matthias Jjooga

Mass Times

Saturday : 6 pm Vigil

Sundays : 10:30 am & 12:30 pm

Weekdays : Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Fri. 10 am

Contact:

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Silent waiting in Advent - We are not there yet

Sometimes waiting feels good, like when we are looking forward to meeting someone, or waiting to go on holidays.... Advent waiting is different to waiting for the bus to come, or the phone to ring.

When it is good to wait, it is because we believe that we will be fulfilled, that something wonderful and great will happen. Advent invites us to wait, to wait consciously, to wait openly for God, to wait and notice God in our lives, in the bits and pieces of everyday, and in the silence.

Advent invites us to live each day in expectation, God is not in the past, in all our mistakes and failings and things we have left undone. God is not in the future, in all things we are rushing to do. God is in the present, trying to break through, to become incarnate in our world right now, in this moment. But only those who are waiting, in silence, expecting, watching for something wonderful, will notice.

Tickets for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses are available from the Sacristy.

Christmas Mass Times :

Monday 20th to Thursday 23rd Mass at 10 am

Confession in the **Parish Centre after 10 am Mass**

There is **No 10am Mass or confessions**

on **Friday 24th Christmas Eve**

Christmas Eve 24th 4:30 pm, 6 pm & 7:30 pm

Christmas Day 25th 10:30 am & 12:30 pm

~ **Saturday 25th no vigil mass**

Sunday 26th December, St. Stephen's Day,

Mass at 10:30am & 12:30pm

Weekday masses will be held at 10am and will be offered for all those on the Christmas Mass Bouquets List.

An Irish Christmas Blessing

*God grant you lightness in your step,
A smile on every face you meet,
Loved ones gathered at your hearth,
And at your door, good friends to greet
A holy hymn upon your lips,
A window candle burning bright,
And may the Good Lord bless your
Heart and come to dwell there
Christmas night.*

*We wish all our parishioners a
very Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas.
Fr. Gerard, Fr. Gerry, Fr. Matthias &
Parish Staff - Freda, Mai & Peter.*

*We remember at Mass
and in our prayers
those who
have gone before us*



Saturday 18th	<i>(Vigil Mass)</i>	6:00 pm
Margaret Gough		Anniversary
Maureen Doherty		Anniversary
Maurice Foley		5 th Anniversary
James, Margaret, Keith, Bernadette & Josh Fitzsimons		Anniversaries
Sunday 19th		10:30 am
Emer Harmon		Anniversary
Mary, Martin & son Martin O'Grady		Anniv.
Sunday 19th		12:30 pm
Nora & Shay Mahady		Anniversaries
Celia, Sam, Joe & Walty Hurley		Anniv.
Richard McDonnell		Anniversary
Harry Lennon		Months Mind

Monday 20th		10:00 am
Kathleen Fitzsimons		Birthday Rem.
Thursday 23rd		10:00 am
Nodlaig Carr		Birthday Rem.

May they rest in peace

As **Friday 24th December is Christmas Eve,**
there will be **no 10am Mass**

Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards
are available in the Sacristy, **€6** each.



Christmas Remembrance discs



Remembering is a fundamental dimension of our Christian tradition, which we call '**The Communion of Saints**'. We believe that our loved ones have only departed this life and are very much alive in another life. One way to remember our loved ones at Christmas time is to list their names on any of the **Remembrance Discs** that can be obtained from **Mai** in the **Sacristy**. These are hung on the Christmas tree in the Church over the advent and Christmas period to help us remember our departed loved ones.

Copies of **St. Paul's Parish Calendar 2022**
are available on the church stands

Notice to Coeliacs: *If you have been advised to abstain from Gluten, please contact the Priest before Mass so that we can try to accommodate your requirements.*