

# PARISH NEWS

29th November 2020

**"CHRIST THE KING PARISH — A FAMILY OF FAMILIES"**



**Dear Fellow Traveller,**

This weekend we begin the formal preparation for Christmas with what is known as "Season of Advent". The word "Advent" literally means "coming" or "arrival", and has become the word used among Christians to refer to the "Coming of Christ". Various customs and symbols have over time attached themselves to the concept of Advent.

**The History:** Like many of our Church traditions, the use of the Advent Wreath with its evergreens and its lighted candles finds its origins in pagan tradition and ritual. Pre-Germanic peoples used wreaths with lit candles during the dark and cold of winter as *Signs of Hope* in the future warmth and lengthening sunlit days of spring. Similarly, Scandinavians lit candles which were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn the wheel of the earth back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth. In the middle ages, Germanic peoples began incorporating a lighted wreath into the Christian season of Advent. It didn't gain widespread popularity until the 1800s

**The Symbols:** The evergreens used for the wreath itself are reminders of life. Shaping them into a circle reinforces that meaning. The circle is also a sign of everlasting life as well as the eternity of God. The four candles used, three purple and one rose, mark the Sundays of Advent before Christmas. The purple candles are reminders that this should be a time of prayer and sacrifice to prepare us for the second coming of Christ. On the third Sunday, the rose candle is lit to announce 'Gaudete Sunday' (Gaudete means rejoice) a Sunday of rejoicing for Christ's coming is near. With the lighting of that third candle, brightness is growing and the darkness is being overcome. A fifth and larger white candle in the centre represents Christ. It is lit on Christmas Eve as a declaration that Christ has come into the world and the darkness is vanquished utterly. The Advent Wreath serves as a powerful visual reminder of the holiness of the season. The lights of the candles on the Advent Wreath break through the darkness, reminding us of the Light of Christ that we anticipate during this holy season of Advent. It provides an invitation to wait and pray in hopeful anticipation for the coming of Christ. We are called to welcome the light of Christ into our lives. The Galway Diocesan Website has a lovely series of Reflections for Advent you may find meaningful.

**Parish Finance:** Big Thank You to everyone who has donated and continue to support the Parish during this time either through the weekly envelopes or by dropping in an envelope or direct debit. We greatly appreciate your support.

**December Plans** for Christmas in Salthill Parish:- we will continue with our on-line Masses, keep the parish office open and the church will remain open daily for private visits and personal prayer. We will be encouraging families to visit the Crib as a family over the Christmas period. Arrangements for Christmas Mass are up in the air but presuming we get to Level 2.5+ with limited numbers we will probably be asking people to attend **One Mass per family over the 8 days of Christmas** (Dec. 24th to Jan. 3rd). That way most parishioners will get to attend Mass over Christmas as would be their want. We will have approximately 20 Masses in Salthill Church over that period. There will be Booking and Tickets by Lottery (via Parish Office), social distancing, wearing of masks, regular sanitation of church etc. We invite people will continue to pray with us by tuning in to Mass-on-line and over the Christmas period we would hope to bring Holy Communion to all those cocooning in the "higher risk" category or unable to come to church. Our primary focus continues to be keeping everybody safe and to get through this. The news of vaccines is encouraging but may I fear, take longer than hoped. Recent announcements by medical companies have I suspect, as much to do with "Stock market" prices as with availability of medical supplies on the ground, but we live in hope. We would welcome your thoughts and ideas how we as a parish community might get through this pandemic. Further details about Christmas Masses next week.

**Croi Nua, Rosary Lane:** - "Advent Zoom meetings" over next two Monday nights Nov 30<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Also in these unusual times, there will be an "Advent Retreat" on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm each evening – again on Zoom. and more details will follow. If you would like to participate in any of these evenings, please email Croi Nua [croinuacentre@gmail.com](mailto:croinuacentre@gmail.com) and they will send you the link.

Have a good week and stay safe - G.J.

Salthill Parish is committed to the protection of all children and young people in our Church. See notice boards for contact persons.



## Mass Intentions this Week

We pray for those who died recently **Phyllis Fahy**, Upper Salthill; **Bernie Casey**, Threadneedle Rd and for all with Anniversaries, Birthday Remembrances etc.at this time of the year and all who have gone to God.

Sat 28th	5:30pm	Gerry Gray (A) P.J.Coyle (A) Fintan Fogarty (A) Joe Burke (A)	G.J.
Sun 29th	9.30am	Christy Manning (A) Special Intention	G.J.
	11 am	Páid Mc Gee (A) Sally O'Halloran (A)	D.W.
	12.30pm	Maureen Concannon (1st A) Pascal Mc Daid (1st A)	G.J.
	6pm	Special Intention	G.J.
Mon 30th	10am	Kate & Thomas Caslin (A); Fr Alfie O'Halloran; Special Intention Michael Hogan (A)	G.J.
Tues 1st	10am	Special Intention	G.J.
Wed 2nd	10 am	Michael John & Rose Silke (A) Special Intention	MSC.
Thurs 3rd	10am	Special Intention	C.S.
Fri 4th	10 am	Dermot & Phyllis Byrne (B'day Remb) Special Intentions	C.S.
Sat 5th	10am	Yvonne Nihill R.I.P.	C.S.

### Next Weekend

Sat 5th	5:30pm	Jimmy Ward (Snr) and Jimmy Ward (Jnr) (A) Harry Begley (A); Juliatt Mc Hugh (A) Maura Tonge (2nd A); Tony O'Connor R.I.P. Michael & Ita O'Flynn (A) and Patricia O'Flynn (A) Paddy & Nora Walsh (A); Clare Fahy (A)
Sun 29th	9:30am	Private Intention
	11 am	Paul Duffy (Rockbarton) Months Mind Rory Hayes (5th A); John Joe Fleming (7th A) Colman O'Halloran (A); Paul Colleran (A)
	12:30pm	Breeda Caulfield (A)
	6pm	Pat O'Sullivan (A) and Tadhg & Gertie Manning (A)

**Communion at Home:** We are very conscious that many parishioners have been unable to receive Communion since the lockdown. Many of you join with us for Mass via the Webcam. We invite you, to join us in our Web Cam Masses and in the privacy of your homes be in 'communion with the Lord', i.e. to feel the presence of the Lord with you. House calls including First Fridays are not permitted during Phase 5 Lockdown (emergencies excepted). We can however bring Holy Communion to your front door in a pix and you can receive Jesus privately. Contact Parish Office for details and to arrange day and time.

**Charities** of all kinds (including our Parish) are struggling to raise finance to keep the show on the road.

**Our Vincent de Paul Society** will not be doing it's traditional door-to-door collection this Christmas but it's work does on. Parishioners are asked to think of this and other Charities in a special way this Christmas.

**Trocaire**, (the official Third World Charity of our church) in another charity you might think about making a donation to, as well as a host very many "Good Causes".

Donations in an envelope marked for a particular charity can be dropped in to the Parish Office and we will pass it on. If we all do a little it will help a lot !