



Welcome/Fáilte/Bienvenue/Bienvenido

STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

SAINT JAMES'S PARISH, Dublin 8

Ph:4531143 or Urgent calls: 087-2525196

Parish Office (Echlin Street), Mon-Fri 9.30—12.30



MASK



SOCIAL DISTANCING



WASH

**SVP ANNUAL COLLECTION:** Next weekend the 11th/12th of December is the Annual Collection for St. Vincent De Paul. This collection will replace the 2nd collection for that week-end. The Society of St Vincent de Paul hope to raise funds for those less fortunate or disadvantaged in our Community who are struggling this Christmas. Please support if you can.

**WE REMEMBER AT CHRISTMAS:** A reminder that our Christmas Book of Prayer intentions is still at the front of the Altar. You are welcome to write the Names of those who, for one reason or another, cannot be here with you for Christmas in this book. We will include their names at Mass at Christmas time.

**SICK & INDIGENT ROOM KEEPERS SOCIETY:** A sincere thank you to all of our wonderful parishioners for their generous contribution to the RoomKeepers Collection last Sunday, which amounted to €340

**THEATRE ROYAL REMEMBERED:** Thank you to the organisers and everyone involved at last Fridays Theatre Royal event. It was such an enjoyable evening. Thank you to all who joined us in the Church and online.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:** Tickets for our Annual Christmas Raffle are available after Mass this weekend or from the Parish office Monday—Friday. Tickets are €2 each or a book of 5 for €5. Thank you for your continued support.

**MASS CARDS:** We have a selection of new Mass cards, Mass bouquets, Christmas cards and Christmas Bouquets available from the parish office, just call in to us to have a look at our new collection

**HOLY DAY:** *This Wednesday, the 8th of December is the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mass will be at the usual time of 10am.*

**SEASON OF ADVENT**

This Sunday is the 2nd Sunday is our season of Advent, a time when we all come together as we wait and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

This Weekend we will light the **Bethlehem** candle. This is the second candle on our Advent wreath and it symbolises our **FAITH** and reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

**Mass intentions 4TH/5th December**

**Sat. 6.30 pm :** Tess Rudd and Josie & Jimmy Blythe

**Sun. 10.30 am:** Noel Darbey, Deceased members of the Dobbins Family and Deceased members of the Lee & McGuinness Families

**O Come,**

**O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O come,  
Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive  
Israel,  
That mourns in lonely  
exile here,  
Until the Son of God  
appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee,  
O Israel.

**Be Not Afraid**

**Be not afraid; I go before you always:  
Come, follow me  
and I will give you rest.**

You shall cross the barren desert,  
But you shall not die of thirst,  
You shall wander far in safety,  
Though you do not know the way.  
You shall speak your words  
in foreign lands  
And they will understand.  
You shall see the face of God and live.  
**Be not afraid;.....**

**Regret City!**

**FORGET THE FORMER THINGS; DO NOT DWELL ON THE PAST. SEE, I AM DOING A NEW THING** Isaiah 43:18-19

I had not really planned to take a trip this year, yet I found myself packing anyway, and off I went, dreading it. **I was on another guilt trip!** I booked my reservation I booked my reservation on wish-I-had Airlines. **I didn't check my bags everyone carries their own on this airline,** and I had to drag mine for what seemed like miles through Regret City Airport. People from everywhere were there, struggling under the weight of bags they have packed themselves. I caught a cab to Last Resort Hotel and found the ballroom where my event would be held—The Annual Pity Party. As I checked in, I saw all my old friends on the guestlist; The Done family—Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda. The Opportunities—Missed and Lost. The Yesterdays—too many to count, but they'd all have sad stories to share. Shattered Dreams and **Broken Promises would be there, along with Don't Blame Me and I Can't Help It.** And of course hours of entertainment would be provided by that renowned storyteller—It's All Their Fault. **As I prepared to settle in for a really long night, I realised that only one person had the power to send all these people back home and break up the Party—me! All I had to do was return to the present and welcome the new day!** The only power the past has over you is the power you give it. The only place it can live is in your memory. That's why God is saying to you today, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" (Isa 43:18-19).

**Are you going to heed Him?**



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Over the past few years, there has been a welcomed interest in revitalising the South Inner City through building and regeneration projects.

For the faith communities of the Liberties, too, this is also a time of change. There is a rich tradition of Christianity in this area stretching back over 1000 years. The Churches in Francis Street, Meath Street and James's Street have long been places of faith, hope and love. Generations of people have come to our Churches to gather together, to celebrate happy occasions and to mourn the dead. It is important that we remember and honour those who have passed to us the gift of faith.

At the same time, we must be realistic in facing the future. There has been a decline in population of the area along with a more general decline in the numbers attending Mass. Churches that were once full to the brim on a weekly, if not daily, basis are now struggling. We must act with the firm intention of preserving our Christian faith for those who will follow.

With this in mind, Archbishop Dermot Farrell has tasked the Parishes of Meath Street, Francis Street and James's Street to build a viable future for the Church in the Liberties. This will mean working closely with our neighbours in a spirit of faith and co-operation. It will take time and patience. The unique history and tradition of each Parish must be maintained while at the same time, we build a new future.

As a first step, Archbishop Farrell has appointed Fr. Eugene Taaffe, PP of James's Street as Moderator of all three parishes. In doing this, the hope is that the parish clergy can begin to facilitate discussions between themselves and between the parishes as to how best to move forward.

For Meath Street Parish, April 25<sup>th</sup> 2022 will see the end of the Augustinian Order looking after the Parish. With a decline in the number of priests, the Order have informed Archbishop Farrell that they are no longer able to care for the Parish, however the Order will continue to have presence in John's Lane. It is hoped that the occasion will be marked in a suitable way and that we can formally thank the Augustinian Order for their dedication and commitment to the people of Meath Street over the past 50 years.

With all this change, it is a time of hope and of opportunity. This is the beginning of a slow and gradual process. Pope Francis has asked that over the next few years, communities engage in deeply listening and responding to the needs of the people. It is this vision of 'synodality' we will use in the months and years ahead.

All of us, people and clergy, are standing on holy ground that has been gifted to us. We have a firm foundation of 1000 years of Christian living. It is up to us to ensure that future generations of this area will know the name of Jesus, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the love of God the Father.

Fr. Niall Coghlan OSA P.P – Meath Street Parish

Fr. Richie Goode OSA C.C – Meath Street Parish

Fr. Martin Dolan Adm – Francis Street Parish

Fr. Eugene Taaffe P.P – James' Street Parish

