



# Welcome/Fáilte/Bienvenue Bienvenido



## SAINT JAMES'S PARISH, Dublin 8

Ph:4531143 or Urgent calls: 087-2525196

**CHRISTMAS DUES:** Christmas Dues envelopes are available at the church doors or can be collected from the office for anyone who would like to make a contribution your support is greatly appreciated. A sincere thank you to all who have already sent in a Christmas Dues envelope.

**MINISTRY:** A warm invitation is extended to all who have not ministered as a Reader or a Minister of the Eucharist and wish to be involved in our celebration at Mass please do so. Please come forward and speak with Fr. Eugene or contact the parish office.

**CAMINO PASSPORTS:** While the Camino Office remains closed, for the winter, Camino passports are still available to purchase at the Parish Office (entrance on Echlin Street). Monday to Friday 9:30am—12:30pm

**ST JAMES' PRIMARY SCHOOL:** A reminder to all Parents and Guardians who wish to present their child for First Holy Communion this year that baptism certificates and application forms must now be returned to the class teacher. PLEASE NOTE: all children must be baptised and have a baptism certificate in order to make their First Holy Communion.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:** There are still some raffle prizes left to collect from the parish office. If you are unable to collect your prize at the moment please let the parish office know. A thank you again to everyone involved in this year's raffle. Your contributions to the upkeep of our church is greatly appreciated.

**CHURCH NEWSLETTER:** We are grateful to have our Mass Leaflets/Newsletter back but due to rising numbers in covid cases we would ask that parishioners not share the leaflets at Mass and to take their own copy home. Our Newsletters are now available to view online on our website [stjamesparish.ie/parish-newsletter/](http://stjamesparish.ie/parish-newsletter/)

**SYNODAL PRAYER CARDS:** The Archbishop has invited all parishioners to recite daily the Synodal Prayer. Copies of the Prayer are available at the Church doors and we would encourage you to pray this prayer each day.

### Mass intentions 8th January



**Sat. 6.30 pm :** Kit & Michael O'Brien,  
Annie, Gerry and Christy Keogh



**Sun. 10.30 am:** Bridget Cosgrove

**STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**



MASK



SOCIAL DISTANCING



WASH

### How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

**Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.**

**Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art! .**

### 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.



### PARISH HALL {Repeat Notice}

The Diocese has over time carried out a professional Survey and Assessment of parish properties **throughout the Diocese**. Among the properties examined was the buildings in our own parish including the Parish Hall.

Both the Survey and the Assessment showed the Premises to have very high fire risk. These results prompted site visits and survey inspections by DMCA on 9 September 2020 and again on 15 October 2020. These site visits, inspections were followed by a joint inspection of the Premises by DMCA and Richard McCrae of MCE Fire Safety Engineers on 21 October 2020.

These site visits, inspections and joint inspection concurred with the Survey and Assessment of a very high risk of fire in the Premises. The Premises are therefore deemed unsafe and present a very high fire risk to all users. The advice of MCE Fire Safety Engineers and DMCA is that all use of the Premises should cease.

In light of the above and acting on the advice of the fire safety experts the **Diocesan authorities** have instructed that the Parochial Hall cannot reopen due to a very high fire risk to all users.

This is a difficult decision but the Health and Safety of parishioners and other users of the buildings must be the priority.

To those disappointed or upset by this decision we offer sincere apologies but it would be irresponsible, even dangerous for anyone to ignore the advice given. When further instructions from the Diocese are received I shall be sure to inform you. - **Fr Eugene**



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

