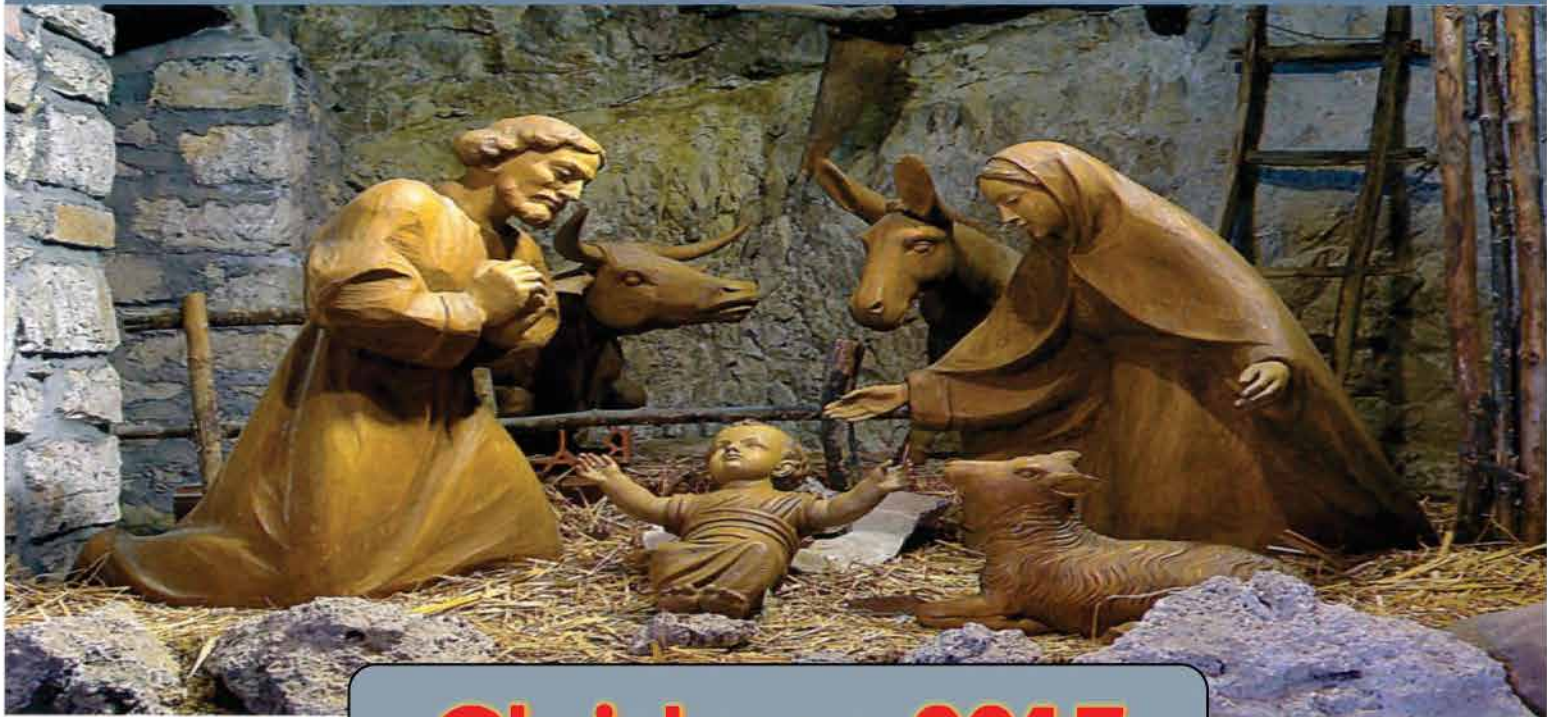


The Bridge

*Bringing together the
Parishes of Clontarf and Dollymount*



Christmas 2017



St. Gabriel's



**Clontarf and Scots
Presbyterian Church**



St. Anthony's



**St. John the Baptist
Seafield Road**



The Methodist Church



**St. John the Baptist
Clontarf Road**

SAINT ANTHONY'S PARISH

WELCOME

A man dies and goes to Heaven.

One day he meets Mary the Mother of Jesus. He says to Mary "While on earth I always wanted to ask you a question." "Whenever I saw a statue of you, you always seemed a bit sad" Why was that?

Mary answered; "Well to tell you the truth, I was hoping for a girl!!

That would have been a surprise

But the real surprise of Christmas is that we celebrate and remember the birth of a baby in a stable in Bethlehem two thousand years ago, who is God with us.

We would like to invite you to join St Anthony's Parish Community over Christmas. If you are home on holidays, living in the area, believer or not, or just curious, you are welcome.

Christmas has a message of Hope, Encouragement and Peace that we all need to hear .

Happy Christmas

Fr Larry.

A BLESSING FOR CHRISTMAS

The Christmas symbols of the Crib, Christmas Tree and a lighted candle reminds us of the true meaning of the birth of Jesu. Perhaps you would like to bless your traditional symbols at home.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Lord,. We thank you for the light of creation, the sun, the moon and the stars.

We thank you for Jesus Christ, Your Son. May your blessing come upon our home as we illuminate our family tree. May the light and cheer it gives, be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to know the joy of the Christmas gift of salvation and peace. Amen



BLESSING OF THE CRIB

God of all people from the very beginning you made known your love. When our need for a Saviour was great, you sent your Son, Jesus, into our lives to bring joy, peace, justice, mercy and love. Lord bless our Crib, may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, who is God with us and Saviour of all. Amen



LIGHTED CANDLE

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world. You come to dispel the darkness of sin and death. Bring peace and harmony to our lives. Be with those who are alone or suffering and light our journey into the New year. Amen



SUGGESTED PRAYER BEFORE A MEAL

All make the sign of the Cross

Lord, we thank you for the food before us, the family and friends beside us and the love between us. Amen

MASS INTENTIONS



Sunday 10th December —

Saturday 16th December

Sun.

Sunday 10.00am	John & Máire Sexton Anniv Pat Fox Rec Decd
11.30am	Thomas Wright Anniv Andy & Breda Thomas Anniv Meta & Austin Moran Annivs
Mon. 7.45am	Donor's Intentions
10.00am	Special Intentions
Tues 10.00am	Michael Fox Anniv
Weds 10.00am	Frank Kennedy B/Day Remb
Thurs 7.45am	Special Intention
10.00am	Miriam Dunphy Rec Decd
Fri 7.45am	Jim O'Keeffe Anniv
10.00am	Elizabeth Travers & Catherine McClean Annivs
Sat. 5.30pm	Michael Murphy Anniv

ST. ANTHONY'S TRAVELLER APEAL

As has always been the tradition in St Anthony's Parish, we are once again relying on your generosity to provide foodstuffs for the 25 Families who suffer hardship throughout the year.

Please donate a gift of food items or toys
on **Sunday next 17th December.**

Please leave your gifts at the foot of the Altar

VINCENT de PAUL COLLECTION

To-day at all Masses we have the Annual St Vincent De Paul Collection.

It will replace the SHARE COLLECTION

Seafield Singers Clontarf Present

A Festival of Christmas Music

St John the Baptist Church

Seafield Road

Friday 15th December at 8.00pm Tickets €15

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is running on hard times

When was the last time you experienced this Sacrament?

Has our understanding of what sin is changed?

At the same time we are all in need of healing and reconciliation in our relationships.

Christmas is an opportunity to reflect pray & experience this very human encounter with God & ourselves.

The 3 Cluster Parishes join together to celebrate the Sacrament of Healing and Reconciliation on

Tuesday 19th December at 7.30pm

in St Anthony's Church

Pope Francis described confession as "Getting a hug from God"



Reconciliation

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful

Hello everyone

I want to thank you all for your kind words of welcome and encouragement, at this the beginning of my time here in the grouping of Clontarf/Dollymount. I am thoroughly enjoying being a member of the pastoral team.

I want to begin by congratulating the 6th Class boys and girls in Belgrove Senior Girls, Belgrove Senior Boys, Green Lanes and Howth Road Schools, as they celebrated their Enrolment mass for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

As a member of the pastoral team I am privileged to be part of, and share this beautiful journey with the children and their families. We have a busy new year, with parents leading the 'You Shall Be My Witness' Programme for the children during January and February. In March the children will promise to abstain from alcohol and drugs in front of their families and their faith community. The Service of Light will be celebrated in May, when parents will pass back the light of faith to their children that they have been carrying for them since Baptism.

As we in Ireland prepare for the World Meeting of Families in August 2018, I invite you, the faith family of these young people to keep them in your prayers during their time of preparation. Also during this season of Advent, may we all prepare our hearts and homes to receive the Light of Christ.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year
Deirdre (Conformation Co-ordinator)



PARISH DETAILS

Parish office : Monday—Friday 9.30am-12.30pm Tel 01 8333459 e-mail saint anthonyyclontarf@gmail.com

Fr. Larry White PP 0864143888

St Anthony's House 01-8335300

Mass Times: Monday—Friday 7.45am & 10.00am

Saturday: 10.00am & 5.30pm (Vigil Family Mass)

Sunday: 10/00am & 11.30am

Church of St. John the Baptist, Seafield Road

Christmas Service Arrangements

Sunday 17th December – 9 Lessons & Carols 6pm (no 8.30 or 10.30 service)

Sunday 24th December: Christmas Eve – Christmas Holy Communion 11pm
(in addition to usual 8.30 & 10.30 morning services).

Monday 25th December: Christmas Day – Christmas Holy Communion 8.30am & 10.30am.

Sunday 31st December – 8.30am Holy Communion & 10.30am Service of the Word



One Lord, One Faith Ecumenical Conference

L-R: Dr Andrew Pierce, Dr Gesa Thiessen, Mary Cunningham, Fr Gabriel Daly, Archbishop Michael Jackson, the Revd Lesley Robinson, Gillian Kingston and Philip McKinley at ecumenical conference in the Church of St John the Baptist in Clontarf.

An Ecumenical Conference entitled ‘One Lord, One Faith’ was held in the Church of St John the Baptist, Clontarf on Saturday 24th June, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in Germany. Introducing the event, Mary Cunningham, co-organiser with the Rector, the Revd Lesley Robinson, highlighted the many and growing list of ecumenical initiatives in Clontarf, including a Good Friday Way of the Cross, an Easter Sunrise Service, the Pentecost Camino and Ecumenical Bible Study. The conference was ably facilitated by Philip McKinley, who commented on the power of anniversaries as opportunities to think wide and think big and to look again through our 2017 lens at what life was like in the 16th century. The first speaker was Dr Gesa Thiessen, spoke of the background to the Reformation and gave an insight into Luther’s theology. The second speaker, Dr Andrew Pierce, reflected on the Ecumenical Journey So Far. Fr Gabriel Daly OSA, followed with a talk entitled An Ecumenical Theology of the Eucharist, and Gillian Kingston, wrapped things up with some thoughts on where we can go from here, in a talk entitled Stepping Stones Towards Greater Unity. Full report on <https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2017/06/26/the-reformation-ecumenism-the-eucharist>

Boys’ Brigade 12th Dublin Company 125th Anniversary Celebrations

The 12th Dublin Company attached to our parish, celebrated its 125th anniversary in November. Eighty-Five members, past members and friends enjoyed a sumptuous, 3 course dinner in the Parish Centre on the Saturday evening, while on the Sunday morning there was a magnificent Service of Thanksgiving at which Bishop Roy Warke presided, ably assisted by Mark Acheson (the Rector was on the Diocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land at the time). The 12th Dublin company continues to meet on Monday evenings and would welcome new members. Please contact Mark Acheson on 087 9674885 if you would like more information.





Clontarf and Scots Presbyterian Church

A Blessed Christmas and 2018 from Clontarf & Scots Presbyterian Church.

Our Advent Dates are:

3rd December	11am	1st Advent Worship Service
10th December	11am	2nd Advent Worship Service led by the ladies in our congregation.
17th December	11am	3rd Advent Worship FAMILY SERVICE
17th December	7pm	CAROL SERVICE
24th December	11am	4th Advent—Christmas Communion
Christmas Day	10.30am	Family Service



Clontarf Methodist Church

Our regular Sunday morning Worship Services are at 11.30am each Sunday followed by tea and coffee

Our Church is open from 10.30—11.30 for prayer before the Service

On Sunday 24th Dec. we will have our Christmas Eve Service in Clontarf Church at 11.30am. The Methodist Congregation from Sutton will join us for this Service

On Christmas Morning the Methodist Congregation from Clontarf will travel to Sutton Methodist Church for a Service at 10am

"When the angels had left them and gone into Heaven, the shepherds said to one another, let's go to Bethlehem and see...." (Luke 2:15)

They took time off to visit this special baby called Jesus. May we also take time to meet this wonderful Jesus over this Christmas period.

St. Gabriel's Notes

CHILE

I was privileged to be part of a study group to visit Chile with some fifteen Dublin priests, a deacon and his wife. The aim of the visit was to learn about the Chilean Church and the contribution the Columbans and volunteer Dublin priests made to the Church in Chile over the past forty years.

We were told of the coup d'état in 1973 and human rights violations under Pinochet when thousands of people were tortured and many "disappeared". We visited the **Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos** (*Museum of Memory and Human Rights*) which recounted those tortured, killed and "disappeared". This was followed by a visit to the **Villa Grimaldi** where many people were tortured and killed. With this background we had a most inspiring talk from **Mariana Aylwin**, whose father replaced Pinochet in 1990. She herself is a politician and served for a time as Minister for Education. She told us how the Chilean people did not lose hope during the Pinochet regime and the great support the Catholic Church was to the people.

We also met with the Cardinal Archbishop of Santiago, **Ricardo Andreollo** where seven million Catholics live in 213 Parishes. Serving these are 230 Diocesan priests (50 retired and 25 in nursing homes). There are 360 married deacons and 246 Religious. Like Ireland, there is a great fall-off in numbers going to Church.

Next we visited some Columban parishes. Fr. John Greene (a volunteer priest from Dublin) showed us his parish, St. Matthew's, which has sixty thousand Catholics in nine different Churches, served by two priests, four deacons and five sisters. We sat in on a First Holy Communion meeting. It is a two-year programme where parents meet with a Catechist weekly and the children also have weekly classes. The children are about nine or ten when they receive their First Holy Communion and Confirmation is administered to young people when they are fifteen or sixteen.

On Sunday some of us went to Mass in St. Columbanus' Parish, where we received a very warm welcome. The different churches in the Parish came together for a wonderful celebration with traditional music. The Mass was followed by traditional dancing and a reception in the Church. Some went to Fr. John Greene's parish for two Masses in different communities (very few attending).

We also went on pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Teresa of the Andes – the patron Saint of Chile – the equivalent of our Knock. We met with lay missionaries working with Columbans and visited a Mission House where they run retreats.

Our final day was with the Columbans in their main house – starting with an outdoor Mass in thanksgiving for the number of Dublin priests who have worked with the Columbans over the past forty years – Fr. Chris Mangan who was in St. Gabriel's was one of the first Dublin Priests to volunteer.

I came home exhausted from the trip but enriched greatly. The Chilean Church is suffering as we are here with the drop in numbers and the increasing age profile of both priests and people. But they have a great sense of hope. Also with the scarcity of priests the people are taking more responsibility for their parish communities. A very worthwhile trip, and my thanks to my fellow travellers, our host Fr. John Green and the Columbans for making it so special.

Fr. Pat

(More photos on our website www.stgabrielparish.ie)



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WITH MARIANA AYLWIN



CARDINAL RICHARDO ANDREOLLO



FHC Meeting



CHURCH OF ST. COLUMBANUS

Notable Events of 2017 in Our Parish

World Day of the Sick — 12th February — a very special day the sick, inform or disabled throughout the Diocese. St. Gabriel's proved to be excellent hosts. Pupils from Holy Faith and St. Paul's College, together with Clontarf GAA, helped make the day so special for all who came for this special Blessing from all over the Diocese.



Parish Golf Outing — 5th May — in St. Anne's Golf Club This year the Lord blessed us with a sunny day. The day enabled us to give **Crosscare** €4,000 to help the homeless.

Parish Bar-b-que — 26th May — After three wet evenings in previous years, the sun shone for us and it was enjoyed by young and old.



Wedding Anniversaries Celebration — 15th October.
As part of the World Meeting of Families Year we had a wonderful celebration with about thirty couples celebrating with their families.

Saturday 2nd December Archbishop Martin, the students from DCU Chaplaincy Course and the Dublin Diocesan Music Group set us up for Christmas with the Dublin Diocesan Advent Service.



Prayers for our Christmas trees As this is the year when we hope Pope Francis will come to Dublin for the **World Meeting of Families** in August, our decorations have that theme from the Icon commissioned for the occasion. Please write your prayers on our decorations.

Toy Sunday on Sunday 18th December we ask that children - as in previous years - bring a NEW toy to all Masses to be given to poor families.



World Meeting of Families Icon We hope to have the Icon in St. Gabriel's in Holy Week 2018. Further details later.

My thanks to all who helped during the year to make our Parish Community such a wonderful place to be.

May i wish you every blessing for Christmas and 2018.

Fr. Pat

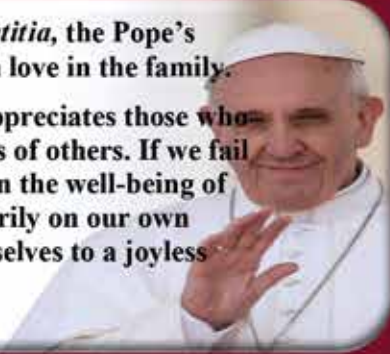


Photo taken by Fr. Martin

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH CLONTARF

Quote from *Amoris Laetitia*, the Pope's apostolic exhortation on love in the family.

"Our Lord especially appreciates those who find joy in the happiness of others. If we fail to learn how to rejoice in the well-being of others, and focus primarily on our own needs, we condemn ourselves to a joyless existence" (Par. 110).



Carol Service

The parish Christmas Carol Service will be celebrated next Sunday, 17th December, at 4.00 pm. The choir have been preparing for this event for some weeks now. We thank them for all their work and we hope there will be a good gathering on the day.

Parish Finance Committee

There will be a meeting of the Parish Finance Committee this Tuesday, 12th December, in the Presbytery, 186 Clontarf Road at 7.30 pm. I would like to thank the members of this Committee and, in particular, the chairperson, Eugene Gallagher, for their careful stewardship and management of the resources of the parish. Fr Martin



Taize Prayer

A time of meditative prayer in the style of the monastery of Taize in France will take place in our parish church this Sunday, 10th December, at 7.30 pm. It will be a lovely Advent moment.



Baptisms

We welcome into the Christian community the children who were baptized during the month of November: Ava Doyle, Orla Bourke, Grace Drysdale, Yasmin Cameron, Matthew O'Flaithbertaigh

Delivery of Parish Christmas Card to parishioners

The Parish Christmas Card, including the Christmas Dues envelope, is available for delivery in the Parish Office. Once again, we call on our faithful group of deliverers to drop the card into houses that are adjacent to where you live. It would be great if we could get everything delivered before next Sunday. Many thanks in advance to everyone. Fr Martin

Mass Intentions

Sunday

- 6.00 pm:** Sheila O'Rourke (An)
- 10.00 am:** Collette and Frank Jennings (An)
- 12.00 pm:** Jim Teeling (An)

We also remember

Nan Hamill, Kitty and Alex Wyvar, Michael Toomey, Chris and Isobella Mullally, Edward, Margaret and Sadie Carberry, Gerald Kelly, Michael Toomey, John Prior, Margaret Thornton, Sean Madigan, Kathleen and Mary McGrath, Michael Clarke

Sunrise over Clontarf, November 2017



Photo taken by Fr. Martin

Parish Office: 833 4606

Email: sjtbclontarf@eircom.net

Parish Centre: 805 3333

Fr Martin Hogan: 833 8575

Fr John Callanan S.J.: 087 2296894 Website: www.stjohnsclontarf.ie

Bethany Bereavement Support: 087 6445309



Deepest Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those who were buried from our parish church during the month of November : John Prior, Kincora Drive, Con Cusack, Vernon Park. May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

Belgrove Junior Boys School

Parents who intend sending their sons to Belgrove Junior Boys' School next September, 2018, should make application immediately if they haven't done so already. The closing date is 31st January 2018.

Clontarf Historical Society.

Talk on "The Dublin Camino " By Cathy Scuffil. Historic places in Dublin associated with St. James and pilgrimages to Santiago Monday 11th Dec at 8.15pm in the Parish Centre. Visitors welcome €5.



Seniors Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas Party for the Senior Members of our Parish Community will take place in the Parish Centre this Wednesday, 13th December, at 2.00 pm. It is always a great afternoon of merriment, and, of course, Santa himself arrives with a present for everyone in the audience.

Do this in Memory Mass

The next *Do this in Memory* Mass with a special focus on first communion children will be celebrated in our parish at the 10.00 am Family Mass, next Sunday, 17th December. A meeting of the parents who plan this Mass will take place this Monday, 11th December, in the Parish Office. We have another great team of parents this year. Many thanks to all.



Peter McVerry Trust

The outdoor collection after all the Masses next weekend, 17th December, is in support of the Peter McVerry Trust. This Trust is a charity set up by Fr Peter McVerry to reduce homelessness and the harm caused by drug misuse and social disadvantage.



Christmas Penitential Service

This Christmas, the Penitential Service for the three parishes will be celebrated in Saint Anthony's church on Tuesday, 19th December, at 7.30 pm. It is a very good opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of

Reconciliation as part of our spiritual preparation for Christmas

Prayer for the World Meeting of Families

One family, in the Spirit of your love.

Bless us with the joy of love. Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need.

Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.

Protect all families with your loving care,

Especially those for whom we now pray...

Increase our faith, Strengthen our hope, Keep us safe in your love,

Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.

This we ask, through Christ our Lord. Amen



Knitted Crib, night of Christmas Tree Lighting

Enjoying Craifty Wednesday!!



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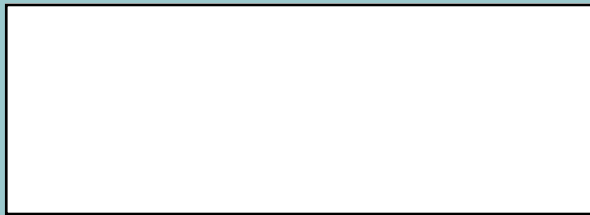
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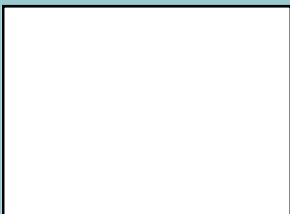
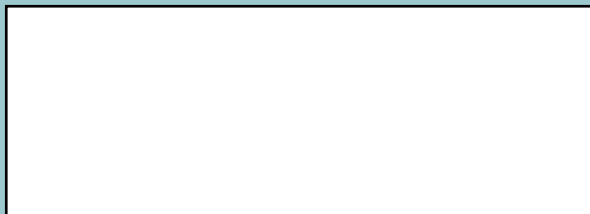


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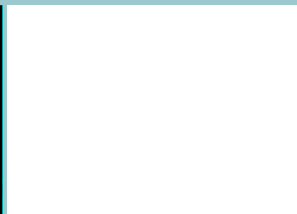
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April 2016 was indeed a milestone in our nation's history and also in my own career. Having reached fifty one years as a local optometrist in Fairview and I have none but happy memories of my time there, thanks to the kind people of the area, who were very nice to deal with, in my role as a local optician. As well as looking back we are also looking forward, as two family members, Helen and Teresa, having graduated in more recent times, will continue assisting me in the practice in the future at the same location. We will try to do our best in the future years as we have tried to do during the previous fifty. Many thanks for your loyalty to our practice.

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Christmas Celebrations

No Evening Masses on Christmas Day

St. Anthony's

4th Sunday of Advent	Saturday 23rd	5.30 Family Mass (Nativity Play)
	Sunday 24th	10.00 am; 11.30am
Christmas Eve	Sunday 24th	5.30pm Vigil (Family Mass with Nativity Play) 9.00pm Vigil
Christmas Day	Monday 25th	10.00am; 11.30am
	Tuesday 26th—Friday 5th Jan	10.00 am only
CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 23rd Dec 10.30—11.30am; 6.30—7.30pm		

St. Gabriel's

4th Sunday of Advent	Saturday 23rd	6.00 pm
	Sunday 24th	1 10.30 am
Christmas Eve	Sunday 24th	6.00 pm Vigil Mass (Youth) 9.00 pm Vigil Mass
Christmas Day	Monday 25th	9.00am; 10.30 (Family); 12noon
CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 23rd after 10.30am Mass SUNDAY 24th After 10.30am Mass until 12.30pm		

St. John the Baptist

	Sunday 17th	Carol Service at 4.00pm
4th Sunday of Advent	Saturday 23rd	6.00 Vigil
	Sunday 24th	10.00am; 12.00noon
Christmas Eve	Sunday 24th	6.00pm (Family Mass); 9.00pm (Vigil)
Christmas Day	Monday 25th	8.30am; 10.00am; 12.00noon
Feast of St. Stephen	Tuesday 26th	10.00am
CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 23RD Dec 10.30—11.30am; 3.00—4.00pm		

Communal Penitential Service
For all Three Parishes in St. Anthony's Church
Tuesday 19th Dec. at 7.30pm