

Mass Intentions

Saturday:

6.00 pm Noreen Lombard (Rec Dec)

Sunday:

10.00 am Special Intention

12.00 pm Special Intention

Weekdays

Tuesday

Mary Menton (Rec Dec)

Also Susan Lee (Anniv)

Wednesday

Patrick Gartin (Rec Dec)

Also special intention

Thursday

Bridget Corkery (Anniv)

Friday

Jack Keegan (Anniv)

Saturday

Patsy Morgan (Rec Dec)

Closing Time

The Church will close
at 12 noon on
Christmas Day.



Thank You

We would like to thank Stafford
Funeral Directors for their
donation of our Christmas Flowers.



Congratulations

We would like to congratulate
Anna Maguire and Colm
Lardner on their recent
Marriage here in St Johns.



Christmas, 2023.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I hope you are all well. It is hard to believe that it is Christmastime again. Also, it is my second Christmas in Clontarf and seems a very short time since I arrived here.

We have all sorts of thoughts at Christmastime. This year will be no exception. We have experienced momentous events in 2023: the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the horrific attack on the people of Israel by Hamas and the horrific attack on Palestinians by IDF on the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank and, of course, the violence on the streets of Dublin a few weeks ago. Many more violent incidents could be added to the list. However, I feel we need to see what Christmas is about and how it can give us hope.

Firstly, Christmas is about the birth of the Prince of Peace and also of hope. Yes, we celebrate Christmas in all sorts of ways and important ways....gathering to enjoy the company of family and friends; giving gifts to show how much we love and care for others. However, we must not lose sight of Jesus and his message. If we keep Him as a central part of our celebrations then all that we do at Christmas will help us to be hopeful even as violence seems to be all around us. The experience of being together in church at Christmas is an important part of our celebrations and the experience of praying together, singing together (even if we haven't great voices) and celebrating the Eucharist together helps us greatly to experience the wonder of Christmas, which builds our sense of hope. We had a Carol Service here in the church last week with very young children singing the seasonal songs and it was wonderful, literally. I felt it in our church.

What can we do ourselves?

Pope Francis puts it well: 'Each of us is called to be an artisan of peace, by uniting and not dividing, by extinguishing hatred and not holding on to it, by opening paths to dialogue and not by constructing new walls! Let us dialogue and meet one another in order to establish a culture of dialogue in the world, a culture of encounter.'

If we do that, then we will contribute to hope and peace in ourselves and in our world.

Thanks to all who support this parish community in so many ways: with prayer, words of encouragement, financially and in all sorts of other ways. You are much appreciated.

Have a wonderful time with family and friends. May you be blessed in every way in 2024 and be full of the peace and love of the Lord Jesus.

Fond regards and best wishes,

Fr. John (O'Brien)

