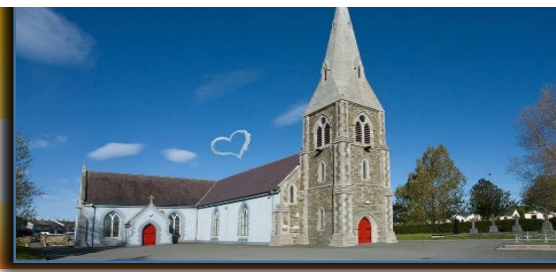


Dunleer Parish Bulletin

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Issue Date: Dec 3rd 2017

MASS INTENTIONS	
Dunleer	
Sat, 2 nd -Dec-2017 @ 7.30 pm	
Av	Dec'd of Torris family
Sun, 3 rd -Dec-2017 @ 11.30 am	
Av	Jimmy & Sarah Mallon Thomas Callan
Mon, 4 th -Dec-2017 @ 10.00 am	
Av	Molly Kelly
Tue, 5 th -Dec-2017 @ 10 00 am	
Av	Dec'd of Mc Connon family
Thu, 7 th -Dec-2017 @ 10 00 am	
Av	Brendan Browne
Sat, 9 th -Dec-2017 @ 7. 30pm	
Av	Alice Mc Grane Richard, Robert & Patrick Woods Brendan & Margaret Mc Evoy
Sun, 10 th -Dec-2017 @ 11.30 am	
Av	Dec'd of Mc Ardle family Patsy Mc Mullan
Dromin	
Sun, 3 rd -Dec-2017 @ 10.30 am	
Av	Thomas, Gerard & Anne Flanagan
Philipstown	
Sun, 3 rd -Dec-2017 @ 9.30 am	
Av	Annie & George Johnston
Sun, 10 th -Dec-2017 @ 9.30 am	
Av	Paddy Halpenny

Advent means 'coming'. This is a season of joyful expectation, of watching and waiting and preparing. Each time we celebrate the Mass, we begin with a short period of preparation that takes the form of an examination of conscience before meeting Christ in Word and Sacrament. Likewise, John the Baptist was told by Zechariah his father that his divinely-given task and vocation was to 'go ahead of the Lord to prepare the way before him, to make known to his people their salvation through forgiveness of all their sins'. This is a season of preparation and prayer to enable us to take Christ's coming seriously and to await his coming. We don't possess God, in book, institution or experience; we wait for him.

No other God, the scripture tells us, acts like the God we believe in towards those who trust in him. We hear the prophet Isaiah calling on God to 'tear the heavens open and come down'. We (and nature), he tells us, would melt in God's presence. The preparation that is required of us is to act with integrity and to keep God's ways in mind. Then, we are told; God will guide us and keep us in his ways. Despite the hardness of heart, the lack of integrity and the wrongdoing of God's people, we are told that God does not remain angry, or allow us to wallow in sin. The images used by the prophet are of a people who are unclean, even filthy in their behaviour and practices. He speaks of a people who are blown along like withered leaves and who make no attempt to invoke God's name or to 'catch hold of God'. This is a people from whom God has hidden his face and who are at the mercy of the consequences of their sins. 'And yet Lord', continues the prophet, 'you are our Father; we the clay, you are the potter. We are all the work of your hands'. The psalm continues this call to God to visit his people. The image used this time is of a vine that God has planted 'with his right hand'. The call to God is not to forsake his people but to give life so that they may call on God's name. Saint Paul reminds us that God is generous and God is faithful. God showers us with gifts and graces, often through the people in our lives who have moulded and shaped us. He encourages us to keep, 'steady and without blame'.

Saint Mark's Gospel is brief and direct in style. His Advent message and his Gospel are in character. He tells us simply to 'be on our guard', to 'stay awake' carrying out our allotted tasks, like a servant awaiting the master's return. He tells us of the necessity of constant preparedness, of always being in a state of grace.

Parish Notices

Carers **Group 'A'** on duty.

Envelope collection 26-11-2017 €1,835.00.

Pray For:

Michael Donlevy Donegal (father of Veronica Farrell)
Fr McCloskey Kilanny

St Kevin's Lotto result 23/11/2017 No's 01.02.04.26. Wkly winners Barry Brennan & Susan Butterly. J'pot €8,200.00.

Lann Leire Lotto results 29/11/2017 No's 08.11.19.23. Wkly winners Sinead Faulkner & Gretta Carney. J'pot €15,000.00.

Dec 8th is a Holy Day of obligation. Mass Thurs eve at 7 30 and Fri 10 a.m.
 Fighting Blindness Church Gate Collection Dec 9/10

Parish Council Collection of envelopes etc Thurs Dec 7th at Parochial House 8p.m.