

Baptism

We welcome to the Christian Community:
Maria Carmel Hayes

Wedding

Congratulations and every good wish to:
Marguerite Barrett and Christopher Walker

Rest in Peace

We pray for the repose of the soul of:
John Keohane, Ballinroher

A Carol Service will be held in the Parish Church this Sunday, December 17th at 7.30pm. After the Carol Service all are welcome to the Parish Centre for refreshments. All donations of baking are gratefully appreciated for this event from 6.30pm.

A Reconciliation Service for Christmas will take place on Monday December 18th at 7.30pm in the Parish Church. Priests from the Pastoral Area will be present to hear confessions.

Scripture based reflective prayer for Advent, led by Sr. Magdalene, will take place this Tuesday Dec 19th after 10 am Mass in Parish Centre. All welcome.

A new rota for the Ministers of the Eucharist is available in the sacristy.

Christmas envelopes are now available in the church.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Masses on Christmas Eve morning will be at the usual Sunday Mass times.

In the evening there will be a Vigil Mass at 7.30pm and 11pm (Midnight Mass) in the Parish Church.

Masses on Christmas Day will be at 8.30am, 10.30am and 12 noon (Children's Mass) in the Parish Church.

Mass on Christmas Day in Darrara will be at 10am.

CLONAKILTY PARISH NEWSLETTER

Church of the Immaculate Conception

Clonakilty

&

Sacred Heart Church, Darrara

Priest on Duty: 087-6828076

Sacristy: 8834441

Urgent Calls: 086-8760608

Third Sunday of Advent (B)

Gaudete Sunday and Bambinelli Sunday

17th, December 2017

First Reading: (Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11) As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations.

Second Reading: (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24) Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything. Retain what is good.

Gospel: (John 1:6-8, 19-28) I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.

Reflection

This, the Third Sunday of Advent, 'Gaudete Sunday', we light the rose colour candle on the Advent Wreath to rejoice in the Lord and remember that His coming at Christmas is now near at hand.

Today, the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of God's "anointed one" who will be sent "to bring the good news to the poor". It was this that Jesus himself quoted to explain his earthly ministry. Then St Paul in the Second Reading informs the Thessalonians what they need to do as they "wait in joyful hope" for the coming of Christ. Finally, in the John's Gospel, we learn that John the Baptist was "the witness to the light". Obviously, the light was Christ Our Lord.

John the Baptist was a wonderful witness by his words, deeds and actions. He said that "there stands one among you whom you know not". Is this true in our world today? Christ has come into our world and remains in it as He promised. However, Jesus today still needs witnesses who will make Him present to others simply by letting "His light shine" by the way we live, doing what Christ did showing love and mercy and so bringing "the good news to the poor".