

Christmas Newsletter



25 December 2016



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Fr. Teddy & Fr. Pat wish all our parishioners a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a good New Year. Nollaig Shona díbh go léir!

News Desk

Finance: Offertory Collection last Sunday: St. Columba's: **€3435** St. Patrick's: **€1515**. Many Thanks for your generosity.

Fr. Teddy

I take this opportunity to thank you for all the cards, prayers and good wishes that I have received over the last number of weeks. I appreciate it very much. I hope to be back with you in a couple of months, Please God. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and every blessing in 2017

After Christmas Weekday Masses

St. Columba's: Mon 26 Dec.

11am From Tues 27 Dec: **10.00am**

St. Patrick's

Mon 26th Dec – Fri 30th: 11.00AM



Office Hours Christmas 2016 – St. Columba's & St. Patrick's

Closed from: Friday 23rd Dec. to Tues. 3rd Jan.

Pocket Calendars Parish of Douglas & Rochestown

Pocket calendars for 2017 will be distributed by our Parish Assembly members at all Masses on Christmas Day.

Christmas Concert - St. Patricks, Sun Dec 11th.

The sum of **€3,000** was collected at the concert. Many thanks for your generosity. All proceeds to Cork Penny Dinners.

Crib Offerings Christmas 2016

This year's Crib offerings in St. Columba's will be sent to **COPE FOUNDATION**.

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 1:1-18

1. John opens his Gospel with a profound reflection on the meaning of creation, of life and of Jesus. Remember when you had a special awareness of the gift of life that filled you with gratitude to God for creation, and the beauty and wonder of the world: 'All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being.'

2. We hear the gospel message frequently. Sometimes it goes in one ear and out the other. Then there are occasions when it made us feel more alive, times when it helped us see the way ahead, like a light that shines in the darkness. Recall when the gospel gave you hope in the midst of anxiety or sadness and helped you to see what action would be most life giving for you and for others

3. Bring to mind people who have had a prophetic voice in the world – speaking the truth for the world to hear, like as a witness to testify to the light. Some of these may have been public figures. Others were ordinary people who have helped you see the 'light' by the witness of their own lives and words.

4. 'No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son of God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him know.' Jesus came to us to teach us about God and put a human face on God for us. For the people of his day, and for us, that was a mission of getting us to think again about how we see God, and to believe in a God who is a God of love. Recall how the life and ministry of Jesus have changed your picture of God. **Intercom**

Notices

Saint Vincent De Paul Dec. '16

St. Columba's & St Patrick's church gate collections for December totalled €15,931.

Our next church gate collection: Sat. 31 Dec./Sun. 1 Jan. '17. We would like to thank you for your generous support throughout the year. Have a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MUSINGS: Midnight Mass

Luke 2: 1-14 And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son... (Lk 2:7) - In the Gospel

accounts of Jesus' birth we don't hear anything of what Mary might have gone through giving birth in a smelly, cold stable on that starry night. We have sanitised it. Why? To emphasise pain and holiness are not good bedfellows; to claim sweat and blood are unholy things? We're well aware of how women were treated by our Church after giving birth in the past. We don't sanitise the death of Jesus. We hear his last agonised cries from the cross. Pain is an essential step along the path to glory. God wants us to know that holiness comes through living life to the full which will bring joy and sorrow. In charitable love there is great satisfaction but it comes at a price. For Jesus, it was death on the cross. The pain of childbirth is a bonding moment. The death of Jesus is, also, a bonding moment for us with the God who came to save us. Through pain a fierce and tender relationship is established. Ask any mother! So, as we gaze into the crib this Christmas may we wonder at the beauty of our being and the unbreakable bond God wants with us. **Intercom**