



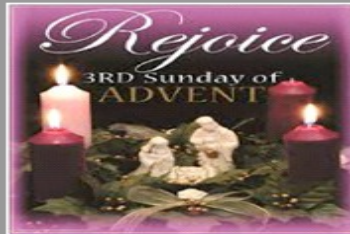
St. Columba's Church
Douglas
 021-489 4128 (Office)
 087-261 7143

Sunday Mass
 6 pm Vigil, Sun 9.30,
 11.00



Douglas/Rochestown Parish

Sunday 13 December 2020



www.douglasrochestownparish.ie

St. Patrick's Church
Rochestown
 021-489 6797
 (Office)

Sunday Mass
 Sun 11.00 12.30



BAPTISMS

Daniel Diarmuid MacSweeney, son of Rebecca & Brian, The Vicarage, Douglas
Ali Grace Dunlea, daughter of Helen & Paul, The Crescnt, Broadale.
Jacob Thomas Lahive, son of Anne & Colin, Delford Drive.
Alice Ki Ki Tuohy, daughter of Shelley & Cathal, Yewlands.

WEDDINGS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following who were married recently: : **Úna Lannin**, Douglas Road & **Eamonn McMahon**, Co. Louth. We wish them a long and happy life together

DEATHS

The deaths took place of the following: The deaths took place of the following: **Alan Murphy**, Donnybrook, beloved son of Kevin and Chris and adoring father of Kevin. May they rest in peace. Ar dheis lámh Dé go raibh siad.

News Desk

Christmas Masses Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Douglas & Rochestown

St. Columba's : Christmas Eve: 4.00pm. 6.00pm. 8,00pm. Christmas Day: 8.30am, 10.00am & 11.30am

St. Patrick's: Christmas Eve: 3 30pm; 5pm, 6 30pm & 8 30pm, Christmas Day: 9 30; 11 & 12 30 TICKET ONLY – further details later.

Diocesan Advent/Christmas Carol Service 2020

Sunday 13th Dec. '20 at 7.30pm from the Cathedral of St Mary and St Anne Cork. This will enable us to connect with other parish churches of the Diocese by allowing a small number of people drawn from the parish choir to participate via their church webcam. This will then be streamed into the Cathedral as part of the Carol Service.

It is hoped that people throughout the Diocese especially those who are members of choirs will be able to gather with their family to participate in the Carol Service from their own home

13 December 2020 • Gaudete Sunday

A bearer of light

Last week we were introduced to John the Baptist as part of our Advent journey. We hear his story again but this time from the fourth Gospel. Light and darkness is a key theme of the fourth Gospel and in its opening verses proclaims that this light has always shone in the dark; the darkness cannot overpower it. The evangelist goes on to tell us that John the Baptist's mission is that he has been sent by God to 'speak for the light'. John is a light bearer, he is not the light, but he points to the light. He is a witness to the light of God in our world, a light that cannot be put out.

We celebrate this light today on Gaudete Sunday, Gaudete which means 'rejoice'. We light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy. As our world continues to battle this pandemic, there is much fear about. People might not feel like celebrating or being joyful. But nature shows us that Spring always follows Winter. Like John, we are called to be light-bearers. To carry Christ's love and light to those we meet in our daily lives. Our world needs light-bearers, especially in these Winter months. It might be a good opportunity to ask today 'Who have been the light bearers for me in these past months?' And also, 'To whom can I carry light to this week?' In this way we observe Christ's ongoing incarnation in the world today.

*'Lord there is much darkness in society and in our church. We thank you that someone always comes on the scene, sent by you as a witness to speak for the light ... teachers, community leaders, grandparents, children, a friend ... they bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light shines that darkness cannot overcome **Intercom***

13 December 2020 •

Gaudete Sunda

1. 'There is one among you whom you do not know'. We can know about Jesus but do we know him. What helps you to know Jesus in a way that enables you to follow in his footsteps, trusting God as he did, and seeing other people as he did?
2. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news of the gospel that God loves you – a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have you borne that witness?
3. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?
4. John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness? Do these questions have any special relevance to you in the midst of the current situation in our country?