



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

**Douglas/Rochestown  
 Parish**

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



**Sunday 3rd Dec '23**

**Sunday Mass**  
 Sat Vigil 6.00pm  
 Sun 9.30am & 11.00am

**Sunday Mass**  
 Sun 11.00am &  
 12.30pm

 **DouglasRochestownParish**

[www.douglasrochestownparish.ie](http://www.douglasrochestownparish.ie)

***The First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2023. The first Sunday of Advent is also the beginning of the new liturgical year when we transition into a new liturgical cycle.***

**LENS OF THE GOSPEL**

**First Sunday of Advent  
 3 December 2023**

*'It is easy to interpret this passage as a warning about impending death or disaster. Recent wars and tragedies are examples. Yet the coming of the Lord is not just the moment of death, but any moment of grace. Recall unexpected graces – good things that happened when they were not anticipated.*

*Perhaps some of these were moments when you were particularly alert and aware of what was going on in you and around you and this enabled you to be open to the moment of grace. Recall the contrast with moments when that alertness and awareness were not present. The servants were given charge of the household 'each with their own job'. See yourself as a person given a responsibility within the household of God's people. What is it like for you to see yourself trusted in this way by God? What has it been like for you when you have been shown trust in this way by another person? Jesus says that what he is saying to his disciples he is saying to all. Have there been times when you have been a messenger of hope to others, encouraging them to wait for a moment of grace. Who have been the ones to encourage you?'*

**Intercom.**

**Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart.** The 2024 Pioneer calendar is available from Pioneer centres and from Central Office (01 805 4226). The calendar is designed to offer spiritual support and encouragement to families which are being impacted by alcohol and addiction. The calendar is priced at €5. [www.pioneerassociation.org/calendar](http://www.pioneerassociation.org/calendar)

**DEATHS**

The death has taken place of: **Michael O'Brien**, Rochestown, dearly loved husband of Mary (née O'Connell) & much loved father of Louise, David, Maeve and Conor. *May he rest in peace. Ar dheis lámh Dé go raibh se.*

**NEWS DESK**

**Finance:** The Offertory Collection last Sunday: St. Columba's: €2505. St. Patrick's: €1370. Many Thanks for your generosity.

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> DEC '23 - Holy Day of Obligation**

Mass Times: THU 7<sup>th</sup> DEC @6.00pm (Vigil), 8<sup>th</sup> DEC @10.00am.

St. Patrick's, Rochestown: 8<sup>th</sup> DEC @ 9.30am

What the **Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception** means is that from the first moment of her conception, God, foreseeing and anticipating the merits of Jesus's passion and death, and knowing Mary would say "yes" to becoming the Mother of the Saviour, filled her with grace, and preserved her free from all stain of original sin. The Church assumes Mary herself was conceived in the normal way through loving intercourse of her father Joachim with her mother Anne. The date of the solemnity is co-ordinated with that of Mary's Nativity on 8th September (nine months later). The names and tradition about Mary's parents, Anne and Joachim, come from the apocryphal gospel of St. James and the apocryphal gospel of the Nativity of Mary (2nd century). The tradition is that Anne was the youngest daughter of a priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Joachim, who was a native of Galilee. She was childless for twenty years, but after the fervent prayer of both spouses, they had a daughter who would bring blessings to the whole human race. Anne is the patron of childless women, pregnant women, and grandmothers; Joachim is the patron of grandfathers. Both have their joint feast on 26th July.

**VINCENT DE PAUL church gate collection on 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> December.**

**LITTLE NELLIE OF HOLY GOD, Little Nellie received her First Holy Communion on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1907.**

**NOTICES**

**PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION - Daring to Hope Irish Religious Sisters Embracing the Unknown (1923 -2023).** Available for Viewing at **SMA Wilton, Cork, from FRI 1<sup>st</sup> DEC to WED 6<sup>th</sup> DEC '23.** This photographic exhibition shares the multifaceted story of Irish Religious Sisters between 1923 -2023, coinciding with the centenary of the Irish State. It reflects the social history of the Sister's journey, with dedicated colleagues throughout the past 100 year. Told through photographs, videos and stories, this exhibition reveals how Sisters often worked within the context of extreme poverty. At home and overseas, they worked also with the context of wars, racial discrimination, strict religious and social mores, political unrest and grave injustice. *Come and see, All welcome!*

**CORK LIONS CLUB ONLINE AUCTION in aid of the CHRISTMAS food appeal.** Bidding opens on **MON 4<sup>th</sup> DEC and closes on 8<sup>th</sup> DEC at Midnight.** We are grateful to the Cork Business Community, who have donated items to date for the auction. The proceeds from the auction will go towards the Cork Lions Club Christmas Food Appeal. Every year Cork Lions Club distributes food hampers to deserving families in Cork City, with over 500 hampers distributed in 2023. ([www.corklionsclub.ie](http://www.corklionsclub.ie) for details).

**THE DOUGLAS LIONS CLUB** will be holding their **Annual Christmas Food Appeal** Collections as follows this year: **Douglas Ct. Shopping Centre, outside Dunnes** and at **Ryan's Supervalu in Grange, Thur, Fri, Sat & Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. (4 Days).** *Thank you for your support as always.*

**TRÓCAIRE CHRISTMAS GIFTS OF CHANGE** bring real hope & opportunity to families and communities living in poverty across our world, and a chance to create lasting and positive change. There are gifts for everyone starting at 5 euro for the Gift of Soap. You can support the gifts by buying them online at [trocaire.org/gifts](http://trocaire.org/gifts); by phone 1800 408 408/021-4275622; by post or in person to Trócaire, 9, Cook Street, Cork, T12 F583. Here is a link to some videos which explain the gifts in good detail if you wished to share the power of the gifts on your parish social media <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10759640>

**MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE FROM CORK AIRPORT,** Group Leader Jim Keogh, **5<sup>th</sup> JUN '24,** Aer Lingus. Contact: Jim Keogh 021 4885371. Please note €100 off per person for bookings paid in full before 15 NOV '23. N.B. Our places are strictly limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. See also Notice in Notice Board Church Porch.