

PARISH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

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December 12th/13th 2020 – Third Sunday of Advent

❖ Mass for the coming week: Monday to Friday at 10am

❖ Gaudete Sunday

John the Baptist said to his contemporaries: “There stands among you one whom you know not.” He was referring to Jesus, who was present among his people, even though he wasn’t noticed. Jesus is present among us as we gather to celebrate this Eucharist.

First Reading: (Is. 61: 1-2; 10-11)

The writer declares that he has been sent by god to usher in the age of salvation. Jesus used this prophecy to announce the programme of his own ministry.

Second Reading: (1 Thess. 5:16-24)

St. Paul tells the Thessalonians how they ought to live as they await the second coming of Christ.

Gospel: (John 1:6-8; 19-28)

John the Baptist declares that he is not the Saviour. His task is to prepare the way for the Saviour, who is already among the people, though they do not recognize him.

Reflection

Sometimes people expect something extraordinary or even miraculous to happen at Christmas

But when Christ came on earth
He came clothed, not in the extraordinary
But in the ordinary.

He came dressed in the cloak
Of our weak, fragile, mortal humanity.
They wrapped him in swaddling clothes
And laid him in a manger.

Online Carol Service. Our annual Parish Christmas Carol Service will be available online from Friday, December 18th to view and to download from the parish website – www.laurellodgeparish.ie

Our local conference of the Society of **St. Vincent de Paul** normally hold their annual indoor Christmas Collection at all Masses on the second weekend in December. However, as indoor collections are not being held at present, they are appealing for people to take an envelope from the tables at the back of the church which is marked **Second Collection** and your donation will go direct to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Volunteers will also be outside after all Masses this weekend 12th/13th December. Thank you very much for your continued support to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. It is very much appreciated.

❖ Christmas Pastoral Offering Envelopes(dues).

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic Christmas Pastoral Offering Envelopes **will not** be delivered to homes this year. However, Pastoral Offering Envelopes are available from the tables at the back of the church. Christmas Mass times will be published on the parish website in the coming week. Thank you for all your support.

❖ MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday	6.30pm	Brendan <i>and</i> Cora Woods Anniversaries
Sunday	9.30am	Florrie O’Keeffe Recently Deceased
	11.00am	Gerry O’Neill Anniversary
	12.30pm	William Webster – Anniversary <i>and</i> Deceased members of the Webster <i>and</i> Lazenby families

❖ Remember those recently deceased:

Santina Shuldham, Bern Ormsby *and* Anthony O’Connor.

❖ Also, those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Margaret Ryan, Frances *and* Christina Ormsby,
Gerry Fitzpatrick, Solvi Holgersen, Bjorn Kjvorsvik,
Jimmy Roche, William Evans *and* deceased members of the
Keenan *and* Birney families *and all those whose names are on the*
Altar List of the Dead

May they Rest in Peace