

Your contributions last week to support:

- Your priests - 1st Collection : **€815**
- Annual St. Vincent de Paul Collection: **€4,149**
- Running expenses of the parish (Family Offering / Weekly Envelope - **€865**

Are you playing your part? Family Offering envelopes / Standing Order forms are available through the parish office.

Wall of Remembrance

If you would like a deceased loved one remembered at Mass this Christmas please leave their name/s into the parish office by next **Wednesday, 19th December, at the latest.** The names will be put up on our Wall of Remembrance.

Poinsettia - In Remembrance

You are invited to bring a **red poinsettia** plant to the church for Christmas, in remembrance of a loved one who died recently or long ago. The plants will form part of the decoration of the church. **Plants can be left into the sacristy or parish office during the coming week.**

The Bible Group will not be meeting this Monday, 18th December. The group will resume meetings on Monday, January 8th from 7.30pm - 8.30pm in Shalom Parish Centre.

Church Art calendars for 2018 are on sale in the parish office @ **€2 each.** The shop/office is open Monday to Friday, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Eucharistic Adoration

There will be **NO Eucharistic Adoration** next Friday, 22nd December.

A purse was found in St. Mark's Church car park early this week and handed in to the office. If you have lost a purse please contact Marian in the parish office with some details, etc., tel. 01-4620777.

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

St. Mark's Parish

Christmas Eve

6.00pm - Springfield Family Mass
7.10pm - Fettercairn Carols
7.30pm - Fettercairn Mass of the Lord's Nativity
9.00pm - Springfield Mass of the Lord's Nativity

Christmas Day

10.00am - Springfield
10.00am - Fettercairn
12.30pm - Springfield

St. Thomas the Apostle's Parish, Jobstown

Christmas Eve

4.00pm - Jobstown Family Mass
8.00pm - Jobstown Mass of the Lord's Nativity

Christmas Day

11.30am - Jobstown

St. Aidan's Parish, Brookfield

Christmas Eve

5.30pm - Brookfield Family Mass
9.00pm - Brookfield Mass of the Lord's Nativity

Christmas Day

10.30am - Brookfield

The Deep End - Light and Darkness

Last week we were introduced to John the Baptist as part of our Advent journey. We hear his story again today, and in this account, from the fourth gospel, we hear John's voice and his testimony about Jesus. Light and darkness is a key theme of the fourth gospel and 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 Guadete Sunday. Guadete means 'rejoice'; we light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy. It might be a good opportunity to ask today: 'who have been the light-bearers on your own faith journey'? Who testified to the Light of God and passed the torch on to you? We thank God for them.

Lord there is much darkness in society and in our Church.. We become cynical and settle for mediocrity. 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.

Michel De Verteuil

Jane Mellett



WE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING:

Paul Hughes who died recently

ANNIVERSARIES

Corinna Spratt (Month's Mind)

Joseph Kelly

Noel Duggan (Birthday Remembrance)

John Walsh

Peter and Bridget Hughes and their deceased relatives

Seán Culleton (Birthday Remembrance)

Patrick Flood

Vera Donoghue

Michael Connaughton

Maggie and Frank Scullion

Thomas and Anna Kavanagh and their deceased relatives

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

BOOKINGS FOR BAPTISMS:

Bookings for baptisms take place in the parish office (church porch) Mon to Fri- 10.30am -12.30 pm, tel: 4620777. **Three month's notice is required.** Baptisms take place: 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month in St. Mark's Church at 1.30pm.

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

St. Mark's Church

Monday - Friday: 10am

WEEKEND MASSES

St. Mark's Parish Church

Saturday: Vigil - 6.30pm

Sunday: 12.30pm

1st Sunday of the month: 12.30pm - Family (Children's) Mass

(St. Mark's Youth Choir - 12.30 Mass 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month)

Church of the Incarnation, Fettercairn

Sunday: 10.00am

Last Sunday of the month: 10am - Family (Children's) Mass

1st Saturday of the month: Vine Mass (Taize style): 7.00pm

Confessions

Saturday, 23rd December - 11am - 12 noon

17th December 2017 - Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)



Blue Christmas

A time of quiet for those who find Christmas difficult

Christmas is traditionally the season of joy and goodwill but, for many, it is also a painful time. It may be the first Christmas without someone you love; it may be a time when you feel alone or caught up in a difficult relationship.

To all who struggle at this time of year, we invite you to join us on the 21st December - the longest night of the year - as we take time and space to acknowledge our sadness, as we come together with others who are also struggling and as we turn, in an atmosphere of quiet prayer, to the God who loves us and who walks with us. To Him we bring all the feelings of loss, anger, heartbreak and despair which flood our hearts and threaten to overwhelm us. In the midst of our pain, we have this comfort: we are not alone.

When: Thursday 21st December

Where: Jobstown Parish Church

Time: 7.30pm -

Followed by tea and refreshments

All are Welcome

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light

Fr. Pat McKinley
68 Maplewood Rd.
Tel. 451 3109

Fr. Jimmy McPartland
Brookfield

Rev. Bill O'Shaughnessy
70 Maplewood Rd.
Tel. 4590746

Parish Office
Monday to Friday
10.30 - 12.30pm
Tel: 462 0777

Duty Phone
087 4652258
(emergencies only,
when above contacts
are unavailable)

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