

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION WITH CONFESSION

This Monday 18th December, 7pm

RAFFLE OF 3 WELL MATURED CHRISTMAS CAKES MADE BY FATHER MICHAEL IN AID OF CIRDIC

RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE AFTER ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND
AND THE RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN
AFTER THE 10.30AM MASS
17TH DECEMBER

Christmas Mass Cards
with details of all Services
over the Christmas period
are available at the back of Church
Please do take one

Thought for the Week 3rd Sunday in Advent (B) 17th December 2023

A true story

I started my Christmas shopping in a bookshop, looking for a Christmas book for my new nephew. The tables were groaning with beautiful children's books, lovely newly printed pages, beautiful illustrations and covers embossed with silver and gold banners. There were books about reindeer, and about snowmen, books about elves and about mice and fairies, but I couldn't see a book about the Nativity.

When I asked the smiley manager if there were any, she looked blank. Then suddenly she blinked as if she understood. But she seemed a bit embarrassed. "We don't have any here," she said, "but I think we may have one in another part of the shop." She took me right to the back of the shop and after some scrabbling about in a very bottom dusty and unloved shelf, she pulled out a small board book. It had awful block colour digital pictures of a featureless Mary and Joseph standing stiffly behind a blanketed lump in a box of straw.

I thanked her but thought I'd have a look in the same shelf myself. Among the books about myths and legends, I came across a really beautiful book by Brian Wildsmith about Jesus's birth which was exactly what I had hoped for.

But I left the bookshop feeling a bit wistful. What I had experienced was such a clichéd modern parable about the true meaning of Christmas. Then I thought about the real baby, born in a cave, in a forgotten far-flung part of an occupied territory; a baby born of humble but courageous parents. Maybe it was more fitting that the book I wanted was hidden in a dark corner. Jesus wasn't the best-seller, stack 'em high, sell 'em cheap celebrity that his followers might have wanted.

Instead, God gave us something braver and truer. And more demanding. It is up to us to find our Saviour and, once we have, it is us who must help others to find him too, because we know that God is not found in the brightly lit glitzy parts of our world, but, in the quiet and dusty corners.

A Parishioner



We ask you please, to pray for the following people who continue to ask for your prayers;

Thank you for your prayers for Wayne the husband of Sarah Woodage (who cleans the presbytery and Church hall) He is now back at home, but needs an operation in the new year so continues to need out prayers.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Robert Brooks who is back home whilst he awaits two more operations for Bile Duct Cancer.

Rosemary has asked for prayers as she prepares to undergo major surgery in the RBH later this month, for a safe and successful outcome.

Please pray for Kim, Paul and Joe Bunton (Joe has severe learning difficulties). Please pray that they get the help they need.

Please pray for Father Paul Rowan whose further recovery from cancer surgery is proving difficult.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for her great grandson Rogan who continues to need our prayers following his bone marrow transplant,

Please Pray for Jim Hardiman.

Please Pray for Maria McNamara's niece who is undergoing chemotherapy. Her name is Alison Flynn née McNamara.

Please pray for Reuben Muston aged 17 (Theresa and Mike Muston's grandson) who had Aplastic Anaemia. He still needs our prayers that he will continue to improve.

Please pray for Beth Selwood.

Please pray for Savanna Clark (aged 2 with eye trouble).

Please pray for Shirley Trollop.

Please pray for Isobel Messenger (Vera Bird's great granddaughter) she has now had her operation to improve her hearing.

Please pray for Simon Keen who is recovering from an operation.

Please pray for Mary Hagger.

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid.

Please pray for the residents and staff at St Lukes and Abbeycrest nursing homes



Please remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

Reg Adams, Margaret Allison, Mr Wojciech Motyka, Simon Barrow, Bill Condon, Agnes Creighton, Alfred May, Barbara Small, Peter Ellison, Bridget Mullaniff, George Raynard, Sheila Wright, Abigail Gonzalez, Eamonn and Nancey Keogh, Nan and Laurence Maxwell, Paul Fay, Bride McGarry, Tessie McNamara, Fr. Robert O'Neill O.F.M, Gwen Payne, Agnes Roughneen, Fr. Xavier O.F.MQ, Benjamin Roman Zambrano, Phyllis Baning-Gould, Robert Nicholson, Alfredus Warwick, Ann Wevlin.