

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

On the 12th January at 10.30am we will have a Mass of thanksgiving for Fr Michael Sharkey's pastoral care of our parish.
Please save the date.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY.

St Michael's will be hosting next year's Unity Service for the local Christian community at 6pm, Sunday 19th January.

YOUTH MASS

Every third Sunday of the month during term time

SANTA DOESN'T ALWAYS GET IT RIGHT RAFFLE Jan/Feb 2025

We know Santa doesn't always get the right presents to the right people every time

So if you have one of those presents please do consider dropping it off at the back of Church in the New Year to go towards our fundraising raffle in February.

2025 PARISH QUIZ WITH FISH AND CHIP SUPPER Date to be confirmed

CHRISTMAS MASS CARDS

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

Thought for the week Fourth Sunday of Advent 22nd December, 2024

‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired.’

In our own lives, where love is imperfect, we tend to think that we can ‘earn’ love or respect or esteem by our actions. It’s not that we harbour ulterior motives – it’s just that by making sacrifices for those we care about, we feel we are proving our love. God does not need that sort of proof from us. Amazingly, He loves us unconditionally, regardless. Even when we offend and neglect Him, He carries on loving us and waiting for us to turn back to Him.

So, if He doesn’t need sacrifices as proof of our love, what does God want from us? I can hear you ask: “What about that business of self-denial, of taking up our cross and following Christ? Surely that’s a sacrifice.” Well, yes, but it is more for our benefit than for God’s. It is putting ourselves through some sort of difficulty to strengthen us, to prepare us, perhaps, for hardships which may come our way, unbidden. It’s about trusting Our Lord to be with us ‘until the end of time’; accepting His Will for us; seeing us through our difficult times as well as delighting with us in the happy times.

Today, as we are just a few days away from the Birth of Our Lord, the Gospel features Mary, our great rôle model when it comes to trusting God and accepting His Will without demur. After her initial puzzlement as to how this event was going to happen, Mary just accepts it with those words with which we should end our every prayer, paraphrased as:

‘Let Thy will be done’.

If sacrifices and offerings help us to become stronger and more resolute in our desire to draw closer to God, then - good. But, all God wants from us is our love – proved by our willingness to do His Will, wherever that leads us.

May God bless us all at this wonderful time of the year.



We ask you please, to pray for the following people who need your prayers:

Please pray for Rogan, (Peter Halter's sister Jean's great grandson) whose Leukaemia has returned and very sadly they say nothing more can be done. Prayers are needed more than ever now. Please also pray for Jean herself who has macular degeneration.

Please pray for Mary Edwards who is awaiting knee surgery and for her son Ian who is unwell.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Robert Brooks who is now undergoing chemotherapy and awaiting further blood test results

Thank you for all your prayers for Joe Bunton who is transitioning into a care home and continues to need our prayers as he lives with Tuberos Sclerosis, Epilepsy and Autism with Severe learning difficulties. These conditions present huge challenges to his life.

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

Please pray for Savanna Clark (aged 3 with eye trouble).

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

Please pray for Mary Hagger.

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

Please pray for Vera Bird's Great, Great Grandson Harry.

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

Please pray for the children and staff at St Martin's school

Please pray for our parishioners in St Luke's and Abbeycrest Nursing Homes



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

Paul Fay, Bride McGarry, Tessie McNamara, Bridget Mullaniff, 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, Maud Cooper, Gino Dell'Aqua, Ivy Edna Roberts, Charles Harris, Kathleen Harris, Mickey Harris, Bridget O'Loughlin, Frederick Everett, John Halter, Kenneth de Silva, Danny Jenkins(sr), John Owain Lewis.

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