



Bandon Parish Bulletin

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Sunday 9th December 2018 No. 2502

Second Sunday Of Advent

Preparing for the arrival of someone important takes care and attention. Think of a family preparing to welcome a loved one home from abroad, perhaps a son or daughter who lives in Australia or someone who has been off traveling the world. They get their bedroom ready, buy their favourite foods, perhaps put up banners or even organise a 'welcome home' party. It is all done with great excitement and love, and is a way of easing the path home for the traveller. Or imagine new parents, preparing for the arrival of a baby. There are practical considerations such as buying nappies and clothing and getting a cot ready, and of course the nerves and excitement as they prepare to welcome the new arrival.

On a larger scale, when an important dignitary visits a venue or a country there is also a flurry of activity in preparation. We saw it in the painstaking arrangements made for the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland earlier this year. Such high profile visits often involve a literal preparation of the way - organising a welcome reception, planning the best route from the airport, clearing the streets of traffic, as well as much chatter and anticipation.

Today's Gospel brings these two types of welcome to mind. During Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus by our actions, when we are generous with our time, patient with our families, and help those in need. And do we do all these things with excitement and love, so that Christ will find the warmest of welcomes and a clear route into our hearts.

Triona Doherty, Athlone.

FIRST READING*Ba 5:1-9*

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

God means to show your splendour to every nation.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.' Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Ps 125*

R. What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. *R.*
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
'What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. *R.*
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. *R.*
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. *R.*

SECOND READING

Ph 1:4-6. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Lk 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All mankind shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**BAMBINELLI SUNDAY - GAUDETE SUNDAY
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Bandon Parish Assembly invite all parishioners to bring their "Baby Jesus Crib Figurine" (Bambinelli) to Mass next weekend December 15th/16th for a blessing.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION BOXES 2019

The boxes of envelopes for the Offertory Collection in 2019 have arrived and are available at the usual outlets throughout the Church.

However, if you are in the Tax Scheme or are interested in joining the scheme please call to the Sacristy for your numbered envelope.

TRÓCAIRE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Millions of people have had to flee conflict in South Sudan and Yemen. In one area alone in northern Uganda, 33,000 mainly women and children from South Sudan have taken refuge. They witnessed and experienced the worst kind of violence and have arrived traumatised and broken. Trócaire's Christmas Appeal will help these people and many others rebuild their lives.

RECENT BAPTISM Olaf Stary, Devonshire, Kilbrogan Hill.

DO THIS IN MEMORY The next Mass in the Parish Preparation for First Holy Communion Programme will take place next Saturday December 15th 6.00pm Mass.

DUNMANWAY TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER Christmas Day in Cox's Hall, Dunmanway from 11:30am-3pm. Open to everyone and anyone, whether for one or for a group/family. Come and soak up the warmth of our community celebration. Good company, entertainment, smiles and a fabulous Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings is guaranteed. Booking is essential - Please Call Jo on 085 865 9782 to book.

CHRISTMAS FLORAL DEMONSTRATION by D.J. Murphy of Bandon Garden Centre on Wednesday 12th December at 8pm in the Riverstick Community Centre, hosted by Ballymartle ICA Guild. Admission is €10 and tea and home baking will be served.

CONCERT St Peter's Church, Bandon Friday, December 14th at 8pm. Donations towards St Vincent de Paul and St Peter's Church. Taking part will be the Glaslinn Choir, Bandon Concert Band, Mairéad Casey and students of Cork ETB School of Music.

GRAMOPHONE CIRCLE Monday 3rd December at 8pm in Gateway Hall.

BANDON FLOWER CLUB Presents a Christmas Flower Arranging Demonstration by Bernadette Scanlan AOIFA from Limerick on Monday 10th December at 8pm in The Munster Arms Hotel. A Christmas Sales Table will also be held. Visitors welcome.

INSIDEOUT CORK MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS GROUP Will be holding a meeting in St. Michael's Centre, South Main Street, Bandon on Wednesday 12th December at 7pm and 2nd January 2019.

PEACE LAMP Bandon Boy Scouts will bring the Peace Lamp to 7:30pm Mass on Saturday December 15th. The lamp is lit from a continuously burning flame from the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem. We invite you to bring your candle or lantern to be lit from the flame.