



Kilbrittain Parish

Weekly Bulletin

No 218

Second Sunday of Advent

10 Dec 2017

Masses This Week

Mon: 9.00 am
Tue: NO MASS
Wed, Thurs and Friday 9.00 am
Sat: 10.00 am

CAROL SERVICES

Mon 11th December
Kilbrittain N.S. will hold their Christmas Carol Service this Monday night December 11th at 7 pm. All welcome.
Sunday Dec 17th,
St Patrick's Church, Kilbrittain, at 7.00 pm
Carol Service on the theme of the Family and Ancestry of Jesus as we look forward to the World Meeting of Families in Ireland 2018.

Lectio Divina

In Barleyfield each Thursday night in December at 8.00 pm. Contact Jim on 0868306312. All welcome.

Tidy Towns Calendar on Sale

The Kilbrittain Tidy Towns Calendar 2018 featuring photographs of the parish by local photographers is now available for sale in Hickeys Foodstore, The Post Office and The Creamery. Price €10.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The annual St Vincent de Paul collection will be taken up at they Masses on this Sat 9th/Sun 10th Dec. Your continued support and generosity is greatly appreciated and we emphasise that all donations given are used

in the Bandon and local parish communities. Also if you need help now or coming up to Christmas, phone 086-8255092 or write a note with your name and address and send it the the Shop in Weir St, Bandon, where it will be dealt with in confidentiality.

St Joseph's Young Priests Society Retreat.

Retreat to Moyross Woods Sunday 17th December. Times TBC. Seats to be booked with Cormac O'Connor on 087-6167835 or Denise (office) 023-8849196 before Friday 15th December.

Eucharistic Adoration

Usual Adoration this week: Mon 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. Wed 2.00 to 8.00 pm.
If road conditions are in any way unsafe this week or through the winter, do not feel obliged to take any risk in order to fulfil your hour.

Collection Envelopes.

Boxes of Sunday envelopes, together with Christmas Offering envelopes and parish calendar are ready for distribution now.
For 2018 we are including the Priest's collection envelopes (Spring and Autumn Dues and Easter and Christmas collection) in the Sunday boxes in order to avoid four deliveries during the year. This is an experimental measure and if there is a poor level of use of these envelopes we will go back to the brown envelopes again.

Websites: www.kilbrittain.org
www.frcremin.com

BAPTISMS:
Sat and 11.30 Sun or by arrangement.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:
Mon 9 to 1; Wed 2 to 8

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, KILBRITTAIN

Fr Jerry Cremin PP
Member of Irish Confraternity of Catholic Clergy
023-8849637 / 087-7857712
Email: mail@frcremin.com

If you have put your name on your Sunday envelope anytime in the past two years you will be given the same envelope number as before. Also for the first time this year we are giving personally-addressed boxes to any household who identified themselves on any brown envelope. If you would prefer that your number not be identifiable, please take a random box from the church porch to use instead.

PASTORAL AREA NEWS

The Priests of the Parishes of Bandon, Enniskeane, Newcestown and Kilbrittain have invited a number of people to step in, in the event of a priest becoming ill or being unavailable at short notice for weekend Masses.

This group of people have been trained to step in:

- To inform the congregation gathered where the next available mass will be celebrated.
- Facilitate the congregation present with the Liturgy of the Word and the reception of Holy Communion.

Advent Penance Services

Tue 19th Dec 7.30 pm Enniskeane
Wed 20th Dec 8.00 pm Newcestown
Thurs 21st Dec 7.30 pm Bandon

We are now on the second Sunday of Advent. People are already doing the countdown for Christmas. And definitely, most of us are making preparations for this long-awaited event of the year. Yet, the same thing happens: most preparations are only on the material and superficial levels.

The season of Advent, therefore, aims to direct us towards the more important aspect: the spiritual preparation. Hence, this Sunday, the main figure of Advent, St. John the Baptist, is being presented to us. He is the voice crying in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" The preparation that St. John refers to is not about decorations, gifts and parties. Rather, he is talking about internal and spiritual preparation. Based on our readings this Sunday, let me point out the elements of this kind of preparation. The first element is the virtue of faith. We must be sure that our belief in the coming of the Lord

is firm and strong. Jesus comes into our lives in three ways: his coming in history, which is what we celebrate every Christmas; his coming in mystery, which happens everyday in the celebration of the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist, and in our encounter with other people; and his coming in glory at the end of time. As Advent people, we wait with patience and faith. And the best way to keep our faith strong is constant prayer. As St. Padre Pio said, "prayer is the oxygen of our soul."

The second element is humility. This is clearly shown in the teachings and example of St. John the Baptist: "I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals." Knowing how sinful we are, we bow our heads in sorrow and shame, yet full of hope – for we have faith in a merciful and loving God. The Lord comes only to people whose hearts are pure and humble. Hence, humility is an essential element in our preparation for the Lord's coming.

And the third element is repentance. The message of St. John the Baptist is constant and urgent: "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!" As we wait for the Lord, we look at ourselves, and humbly admit our sinfulness and unworthiness. Sadly, this element is missing among many people nowadays. The loss of the sense of sin is so evident in our society. St. John pointed out to the people: "Look! There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!" It is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. How many people still believe this truth?

Items for the Bulletin can be given or emailed to Denis and Margaret Collins: killeenskilbrittain@yahoo.ie or to Fr Cremin: mail@frcremin.com.
Deadline for receipt of submissions each week is Thurs night 9.00 pm.
Weekly Bulletin online at <http://www.frcremin.com/news.html>