



# NEWSLETTER

27 NOV 2022. FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT.

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

## ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>, 6pm. Tom Bray. William, Eillen, Seamus & Peg Leech.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am. Noreen Whyte.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am. Paddy Greene MM. Christy Doyle. Betty Garty.

## ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

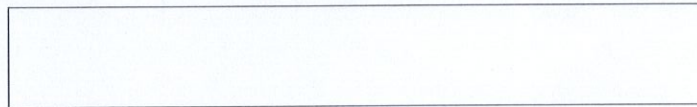
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>, 10am. Annie & Billy Doyle & dec.d members of Doyle and North families.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6pm. Michael & Annie Quinn & family. The Sheils family in Edmonton & New York.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>, 10am. Frank Farrell.

Weekday Masses: *Raharney: Tues + Thurs 9pm Rathwire: Wed + Fri 9pm*

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €510  
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €540



**Charity shop:** at Rathwire church opens Tues, Thurs & Fri 11am – 1pm.

**Parish Mass of Remembrance;** to especially remember those from the parish who died during the last year, will take place on Sun 27<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am in Rathwire.

**Mullingar Choral Society** will host their Christmas Concert in the Cathedral of Christ The King Mullingar, on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 starting at 7pm.

Tickets are available from any choral member, The Cathedral Shop, or, at the door on the night.

## Preparing for Christ

“The Son of Man is coming at the time you least expect” ([Mt 24:44.](#)) That is a frightening prospect.

• What if Jesus comes when there are still nearly two and a half billion people living in countries where the annual per capita income is \$400 or less?

• When there are still about 40,000 people dying every day from hunger?

• When a billion people, one fifth of the human race, still do not have decent housing?

• When there are still 20 million Latin American children sleeping in the street?

• When there are still hundreds of millions of people without basic medical care?

• When one out of every four human beings still has no access to safe drinking water?

• When we are still burning down rain forests, depleting the ozone layer that protects us from the sun, depositing black crude oil along the delicate shoreline of the world, sending noxious gasses into the atmosphere so they return to earth as acid rain and pollute lakes and streams, playing games with radioactive materials that will be around to torture us for centuries?

“It is now the hour for us to wake from sleep ([Rom 13:11.](#))” The challenge to “beat our swords into ploughshares” ([Is 2:4](#)) has been around for centuries, as have other biblical challenges to “cast off deeds of darkness ([Rom 13:12.](#))” The season of Advent is a time for us to wake ourselves up and begin preparing better for the coming of Christ.

Hope in the coming kingdom is already beginning to take root in the hearts of men. The radical transformation of the world in the paschal mystery of the Lord gives full meaning to the efforts of men, and in particular of the young, to lessen injustice, violence and hatred and to advance all together in justice, freedom, brotherhood and love.

Synod of Bishops, [Justice in the World](#)

Adoration  
of the  
Blessed Sacrament



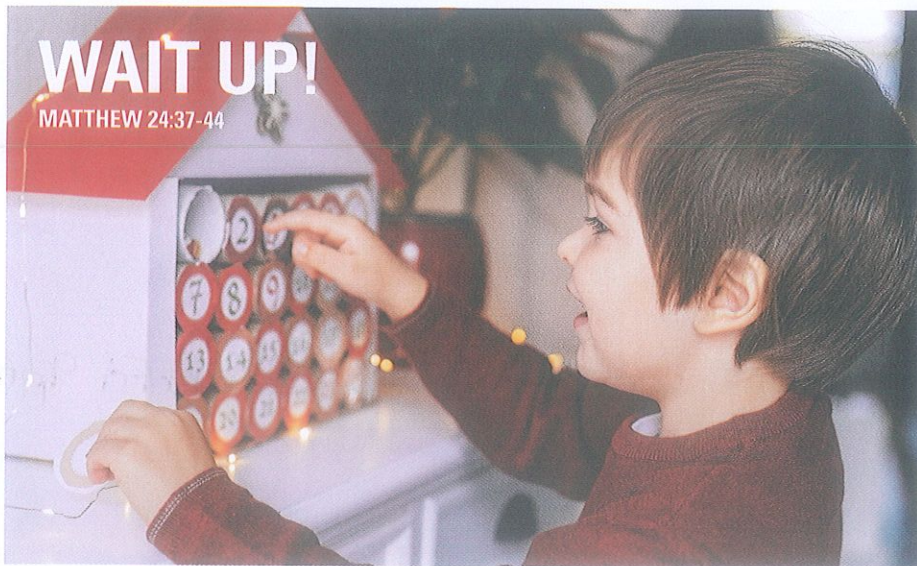
In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.  
& St. Brigid's Wed. 5pm-10pm:  
*Special Diocesan intention of prayer  
for vocations and the family.*  
Take one Hour with the Lord

# Sunday Message

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## THE WORD

Year A • 27 November 2022 • Season Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 1



### WAIT UP!

MATTHEW 24:37-44

Today we begin the season of Advent, the great season of waiting. We are waiting for the coming of the Lord at Christmas; we wait expectedly for the one who saves us.

During this season, we contemplate two different comings of Jesus into our world. The first refers to his birth as our Saviour more than 2,000 years ago. The second refers to his future return in glory as judge at the end of time. It is only from the Fourth Sunday of Advent that the coming of the Christ-child at Christmas moves into centre stage.

This season is a reminder to prepare not just to welcome the Lord at Christmas but for an even more wondrous coming – of the Lord at the end time. Advent challenges us to consider how we are preparing for the Lord's arrival. What is it we are waiting for? Are we living day-to-day in such a way that we are ready when he comes?

We all know that waiting of any kind is difficult today. We live in a culture of wanting things now. Having to wait at a red light annoys us; being stuck in a barely moving queue frustrates us. If our internet connection isn't working, we get angry. Like instant messaging and instant coffee, we demand instant results, and we want them now.

It can be the same with our relationships. If my relationship with someone is in difficulty, I can be tempted to give up on it. If things start to go wrong for me personally, I can feel like quitting or even giving up on life itself.

It's the same with our relationship with God and the church. When God is slow to answer our prayers or doesn't seem to answer them at all, we can be tempted to stop praying or give up on God altogether. The scandals in the church can leave us angry, disillusioned, and inclined to walk away.

Patience or stick-at-it-ness is challenging in so many ways and areas of life. Advent challenges this thinking; it is about patient, hopeful waiting. One of the most striking things about Jesus was his patience. People resisted his message; many opposed him; even his closest friends misunderstood him, but he didn't give up on them. Time and again, he is patient with them. Remember how Peter denied him three times, yet Jesus forgave him and welcomed him back.

It's how God has always treated God's people. In the Bible, the people of Israel kept turning their backs on God, letting God down. But God never gave up on them; over and over again, God forgave them. In the end, God even sent his Son among them to save them, to show them how to live. ■

## REFLECT

So as we begin this season of Advent, think about how good you are at waiting. This season offers us an assurance and a challenge.

First, it reminds us of something wonderfully consoling: God never gives us on us; God is ceaselessly patient with us. Even when we let him down; even when we turn our backs on God; no matter what we do or don't do – God forgives us, puts up with us, never abandons us. God is constantly calling us into relationship with him.

Second, this season challenges us to practise patience in every dimension of our lives. Slow down, take time to notice things. Learn to be a little more patient with yourself and with others, too. Do something to build up anticipation as you journey through this season: dress a Jesse tree, use an Advent calendar, say a daily Advent prayer. Let the season build momentum.

Advent calls us to persevere on our faith journey, never to give up, for God is faithful to God's promises. ■

## LEARN

Advent marks the beginning of the church's new year.

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the Lord's coming at Christmas. It also prepares us for the second coming of Christ at the end of time.

The Christian is always ready for the coming of the Lord.

## DO

Make some extra time for prayer each day during the season of Advent.

Talk to your children or grandchildren (or a young relative) about the meaning of Advent.

Make an Advent wreath.



## SAY

Come, Lord Jesus.

## PRAY

Ask the Lord to help you live in such a way that you will always be ready for his coming.