



Parish of Saint Columbanus, Loughlinstown



Christmas Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Along with our Parish Teams, may I wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a good 2021. Surely 2020 was our strangest year ever!

We are grateful to be able to celebrate Christmas with Mass in our Church. Some of you have decided to celebrate your Christmas Mass in Church on a day other than the 24th or 25th of December. Thank you for that. I hope it will be a very safe time for us all, and we ask a special blessing for all our children.

My sincerest thanks to Teresa and John who have been quite wonderful from March, right through the lockdowns. Without them I do not know what we would have done as a Parish.

In the next Newsletter, I will, God willing, thank others who have been outstanding in this most challenging year.

Your Brother in Christ,

Enda L.

**All our five Christmas Masses will be streamed live through our Parish Webcam
And the following two Masses will be also on Facebook Live:**

***Christmas Eve Children’s 6pm Mass
Christmas Day 10am Mass***

Pastoral Message From Our Bishops

“Clearly it will be impossible for our usual large congregations to assemble for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We wish to remind Catholics that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended during the pandemic. But Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. It is possible to experience the spiritual richness of this special season in many ways. Our homes can become “little churches” where we invite the Christ-child in. Christmas Masses will also be widely available over our webcams. We also invite families or “household bubbles” to pay a visit to their local church at some time during the twelve days to offer a Christmas prayer at the crib and pray together for their families and for those particularly impacted by the pandemic”.

Advent Candle



4th CANDLE – (purple) THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE – The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”* (John 3:16-17)