



Parish of Saint Columbanus, Loughlinstown



1st CANDLE – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE**

We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. *“And again, Isaiah says, ‘The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.’ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* (Romans 15:12-13)

Building Hope - The Time Has Come

I am struck by the phrase from the Letter to the Romans offered to us in the First Sunday of Advent liturgy: **‘You know “the time” has come:** you must wake up now; our salvation is even nearer than when we were converted.’ (Romans 13:11). Jesus in the Gospel, reflecting on the second coming of the Son of Man, asks us all to stand ready (Matthew 24:44).

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas we open our hearts again to Jesus Christ, God-with-us, a light for all the world to see. Even in the darkest and loneliest of places he brings salvation.

His message of justice, peace and love sets us out again on a journey, this year and every year, focused on love of God and love of neighbour. **‘Let us walk in the light of the Lord’** (Isaiah 2:5), **‘that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths’** (Isaiah 2:3).

Let us turn our hearts towards Christ, who is the light that will show us the way forward, a light for our footsteps into the future God is preparing with us.

~ Extracts from the Advent Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Dermot Farrell.

Copies of the full letter are available at the back of the Church

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council will have updates of upcoming parish services in our next Newsletter.

~ Sr. Rosaleen, Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson

Crosscare Food Poverty Appeal



2022 has been very difficult for families coming to Crosscare needing help. For the first time in many years, they have seen a rise in the number of working families struggling with ongoing increases in the cost of living. The demands of Christmas put even more pressure on people already finding it hard to make ends meet. This Christmas, they are asking for help for the Food Poverty Service, where Crosscare supports families who find it hard to provide nutritious food.

You can donate online at www.crosscare.ie or call 01 8360011 or send a cheque or postal order to Crosscare Christmas Appeal, 2 Saint Mary’s Place North, Dublin D07 Y768.

Envelopes will also be made available in all Parish Churches in the coming weeks.

Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat 9th to 11th December



The Youth 2000 Christmas retreat will be taking place in Newbridge College, Newbridge. This retreat is for anyone aged 16-35. Great CRAIC!!, Excellent Speakers, Inspiring Talks & Workshops, Fantastic music, Group activities, Youth Masses, Adoration, Reconciliation, prayer, Drama, Games & plenty of time to chill out, meet new people and find out what it means to be young & Catholic today!! Donation only. **Free buses leaving from all over Ireland. Register now on www.youth2000.ie**

Calendars And Christmas Cards

We have a limited amount of 2023 Knock Calendars for sale in the Parish Office - Price: €6

**We hope to have Divine Word Missionaries Christmas Cards for sale next week
Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards also available from the parish office**

Fr. P. Enda Lloyd Co-Parish Priest

10 The Oaks, Loughlinstown, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. A96 E9H6 - Tel: 01-282 68 95
Parish Office: 01-282 4085 e-mail: parishofloughlinstown@gmail.com RCN 20016166
Website: loughlinstownparish.ie Facebook: Loughlinstown Parish Church

