

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James.

Do not lose heart for the Lord's coming will be soon.

Now be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'. This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

*A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me'.

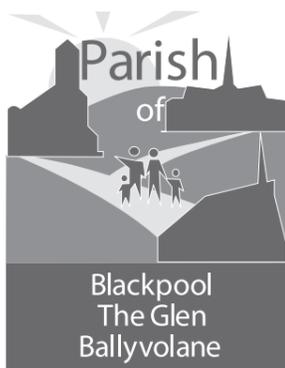
As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



THE PARISHES OF
**THE CATHEDRAL, BLACKPOOL,
THE GLEN, BALLYVOLANE
& SUNDAY'S WELL**
Newsletter



December 15 2019
Third Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

God himself is coming to save you

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

This is the word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: Come, Lord, and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

PARISHES OF THE CATHEDRAL, BLACKPOOL, THE GLEN, BALLYVOLANE & SUNDAY'S WELL

V.Rev. John O'Donovan PP ADM. Tel: 021 4304325 • Rev. Damian O'Mahony CC, Cathedral Tel: 021 4304325
Parish Offices: **Blackpool** 4300518 | **Email:** info@blackpoolparish.com | **Website:** www.blackpoolparish.com | **Parish Mobile:** 087 2381187
Parish Offices: **Cathedral** 021 4304325 | **Email:** cathedral@corkandross.org | **Website:** www.corkcathedral.ie

SACRISTY / OFFICE HOURS:

Blackpool: 021 4300518
 Tuesday 10am to 12 noon
 Wednesday 9am to 12 noon
 Thursday 11am to 1 2noon
 Friday 9am to 10.30am
 Sunday 11am to 12 noon

Cathedral: 021 4304325
 Sacristy: 021 4210717

Cathedral Parish Office Hours:

Monday: 8.30am – 4pm
 Tuesday: 8.30am – 4.30pm
 Wednesday: 8.30am – 4.30pm
 Thursday: 8.30am – 4pm
 Friday: 8.30am to 4.30pm

Last weeks' Offertory Collection from the four churches of the parishes came to:

Cathedral: €1,505
 Blackpool: €1,134
 The Glen: €673
 Ballyvolane: €839

Sincere thanks for your generous support.

The Second Collection this weekend is for the Maintenance / Renovation Fund.

WE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Bridie Jeffery
 Tom Quilligan
 Gerard O'Donovan
 Kevin Sheehan

Prayer for the lighting of the Third Advent Candle

God our Father, you chose the Virgin Mary to be the Mother of your Son. On Calvary, Jesus gave Mary to us to be our eternal Mother. As the feast of his birthday draws near, help us to learn from Mary how to put all our trust in you. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. AMEN.

Bambinelli Sunday



Pope John Paul II instituted the celebration of Bambinelli Sunday on the Third Sunday of Advent, or Gaudete Sunday. The Pope invited the children of Rome to assemble in St Peter's Square bringing the little statue of the Baby Jesus from their nativity set at home. Pope John Paul II blessed the little figurines and gave instructions for the Baby to be placed under the Christmas tree at home until Christmas day, where he would then be placed in the manger – marking the arrival of Christ.

Take home, with great care, the little statue of the Infant Jesus, also as a sign of the Pope's love for you and your families. Put it in your Crib with intense faith, with that faith wherewith the Blessed Virgin, the Mother of God, laid the new-born Jesus in the manger (cf. Lk 2:7).

Invite your father, your mother, your brothers and sisters, the whole of your family, to gather round the Crib in these days of the Christmas Novena, to recite together the prayers learned on your mother's lap, to sing the sweet carols, so charged with human and Christian sentiment.

May the Infant Jesus, present in the Crib of your home, be the concrete sign of a limpid and sincere faith, which will enlighten, guide and direct your life and that of your dear ones.

The tradition continues to this day in Rome and is now celebrated by parishes across the world. Many homes in our parish still give a central place to the crib among their Christmas preparations. On the weekend of Saturday and Sunday the 14th and 15th of December we invite you to bring the Baby Jesus from your home to mass and they will be blessed by the celebrant.

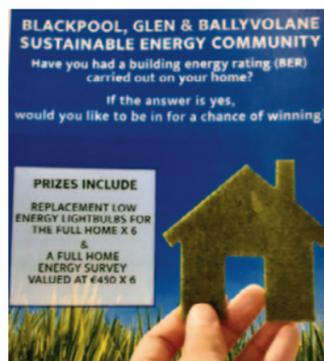
Blackpool, Glen & Ballyvolane Sustainable Energy Community

We are working in partnership with the Blackpool, Glen and Ballyvolane Sustainable Energy Community, who are currently holding a competition for homeowners living in this area. This voluntary group is currently carrying out an Energy Master Plan and are looking to analyse as many Building Energy Rating's (BER's) as possible within the project area to see what kind of sustainable energy opportunities are there for improving homes in the Blackpool, Glen and Ballyvolane area.

You are invited to participate in this study if a BER has previously been carried out on your home and you live in Blackpool, Glen or Ballyvolane. All you have to do is fill out the consent form. No confidential information is required, the BER is just related to how energy efficient your home is. This information will just be used to inform how we can make houses in the area more energy-efficient and cheaper to heat.

Please complete & return the form no later than Thursday 19th to the Church. As an incentive to encourage as many homeowners as possible to participate, the following prizes will be awarded among participants:

Full home energy survey, valued at €450 each – 6 Prizes
Replacement low energy bulbs for full home – 6 Prizes



CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If anyone would like to donate Poinsettia Plants to the Cathedral for the altar for Christmas would they please pass them into the Cathedral Sacristy or the Parish Office/Visitor Centre.

AUTUMN DUES ENVELOPES

are available in all the Churches of the Parishes.

Christmas Novena Mass Cards



Christmas Novena Mass Cards available in **all Churches of the Parishes** and also in the **Cathedral & Blackpool Parish Offices and Blackpool Post Office** at the cost of €2 per card.

CATHEDRAL

Saturday 14th December 5pm (Vigil):
 Eileen Walsh R.I.P.
 Margaret and Richard Rose R.I.P. Anniversary
 Dan Garvin and Neenan Family Anniversary
 Emily Neenan Months Mind and Tony Neenan 19th Anniversary

Sunday 15th December 11.30am:
 Kathleen Long R.I.P. Anniversary
 Ellen O'Connell 4th Anniversary
 Maura and Joe Leahy R.I.P. Anniversary

Sunday 15th December 5.30pm:
 Eleanor McGarry 9th Anniversary
 Christy McCormack R.I.P. Anniversary
 Joe Morley R.I.P. 9th Anniversary

Monday 16th December 10.15a.m.:
 Sean Barrett R.I.P.

Tuesday 17th December 10.15a.m.:
 Thomas & Mary Coughlan R.I.P.

Wed. 18th December 10.15a.m.:
 Shared Mass

Thursday 19th December 10.15a.m.:
 Susan Lettice R.I.P. 2nd Anniversary

Friday 20th December 10.15a.m.:
 Golden Book of Remembrance

NORTH PRESENTATION CONVENT

Sunday 15th December 9a.m.:
 Pat and Jimmy Hennessy R.I.P.

CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Saturday 14th December 6pm:
 Patrick Jones RIP
 Michael Cooney RIP
 Thomas and Annie Daly RIP

Sunday 15th December 12 noon:
 Alice Healy 1st Anniversary RIP

Tom Cuffe Recently Deceased RIP
 John O'Donnelly RIP

Monday 16th December 9.45am:
 Jeremiah and Molly O'Callaghan RIP

Wednesday 18th December 9.45am:
 Jerome, Madge and Noreen O'Reilly RIP

Friday 20th December 9am:
 Shared Mass

ST OLIVER'S, BALLYVOLANE

Saturday 14th December 6pm:
 Daniel, Anne, Donal and Michael O'Sullivan RIP
 Rose McNamara RIP
 Special Intention

Sunday 15th December 11am:
 Marie Brennan RIP

Charlie Riordan 8th Anniversary RIP
 Sheelagh O'Riordan 1st Anniversary RIP

Tuesday 17th December 9am:
 Sheelagh O'Riordan 1st Anniversary RIP
 Tom and Sheila Holland and Michael & Statia Riordan RIP

Thursday 19th December 9am:
 John, Peggy and Paul Mackey RIP

ST. BRENDAN'S CHURCH THE GLEN

Sunday 15th December 10am:
 Patricia McCarthy R.I.P.
 John O'Mahony R.I.P.
 Margaret & Christy McCarthy R.I.P.

Monday 16th December 10am:
 Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Friday 20th December 9.45am:
 Thanksgiving Mass

Saturday 21st December 9.45am:
 Special Intentions

Christmas Mass Schedule

CATHEDRAL	BLACKPOOL	THE GLEN	BALLYVOLANE
Christmas Eve Night: 5.00pm & 9.00pm	Christmas Eve Night 6.00pm & 9.00pm	Christmas Eve Night 7.00pm	Christmas Eve Night 7.30pm Only
Christmas Day: 11.30am			
NORTH PRESENTATION CONVENT	Christmas Day 9.00am & 12noon	Christmas Day 10.00am	Christmas Day 11.00am
Christmas Day: 10am			

Penitential Services will be held on the 21st/22nd December in the Cathedral after the 11.30am & 5.30pm Masses and in the Church of the Annunciation after the 6pm Vigil and 12noon Masses.

Christmas Concert 2019

On Sunday December 1st a capacity audience was treated to a magnificent Christmas Concert at the Cathedral. Our own Cathedral Choir were joined by the Dundanion Singers and the fabulously talented Junior Cork Youth Orchestra to mark musically the start of the Advent Season as we begin our journey towards the great feast of Christmas.

We were honoured that our Lord Mayor, Cllr. John Sheehan and his wife Eadamar took time out of their busy schedule to be with us.

Carols both old and new were sung by the choirs and assembled congregation while appropriate readings, read by Anne Twomey, created an atmosphere of wonder and awe in our Cathedral. Special lighting effects were provided by Spain Audio Visual Services and this added dramatically to the Concert highlighting the beauty of this Sacred Space.

The musical directors and accompanists, Ann Roche, Joe Higgins, Terry McCarthy and Ann Healy Mayes have worked so diligently in preparing the music over many months deserve our special thanks while soloist, Paula O'Keeffe, from our Cathedral Choir sang 'O Holy Night' with the voice of an angel.

The Concert was streamed live on the Internet and Cork People all over the world were able to tune in and join in the celebration.

The Organising Committee would like to thank all those who so generously sponsored the Concert and to the many people who worked behind the scenes to ensure its success. Plans are already underway for next year, looking forward to seeing you there. Nollaig Shona.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant's Introduction: Let us raise our hearts in prayer and supplication, that our faith may grow stronger, our love more concrete and our hope more lively.

Intercessions:

1. May the Church always proclaim the happiness of those who keep faith in Christ; may she witness concretely to that happiness.
Lord, hear us.....
2. We pray for those who oppose and mistrust faith, and fear its effects in civic life. May they be enlightened by Christ and won over by the goodness of his followers.
Lord, hear us.....
3. We pray for those who suffer doubt, who wonder if Christ is really the answer to the longings of their hearts. May they be confirmed in their faith.
Lord, hear us.....
4. Even in his imprisonment, John the Baptist sought to understand Jesus. May life's hardships and challenges not deflect Christians from following Christ as their Lord and Master.
Lord, hear us.....

Celebrant: Give us joyful hearts, Father, on our Advent journey, as we make these and all our prayers. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.