

St Monica's Parish

Bulletin

2nd Sunday of Advent (Year C) 5th December 2021

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Parish Priest: Fr. Ghislain B. Mulumanzi.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Monday-Saturday: 9am-9.55am
SUNDAY MASSES: Vigil at 4pm
10am (livestream) 12 Noon & 5pm

WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday – Saturday 10am
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA: Monday 2pm
CONFESSIONS: 30min before the Mass in the sacristy

BAPTISMS: Please speak to Fr Ghislain

For parents requesting the christening of their children, their attendance at mass in the church with the congregation on the weekend is a very important part of the preparation.

MARRIAGES: Please speak to Fr Ghislain.
Please note 6 months' notice is required.

First Reading: Bar5:1-9

Responsorial Psalm: **What marvels the Lord, worked for us! Indeed we were glad**

Second Reading: Phil 1: 3-6, 8-11

Gospel: Lk 3: 1-6

Reflection

2nd Sunday Advent C. Prepare the way for the Lord

There was a famous preacher who Sunday after Sunday faced a large, attentive congregation. One Sunday as he approached the pulpit the words of the Gospel were ringing in his ears: 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight.' A thought suddenly struck him: it is not the Lord's paths that need to be straightened out but ours. From the pulpit he looked into the expectant faces of men and women before him and wondered what these words might mean for them. What are the things that needed to be straightened out in their lives? He realised that only they could answer that. Nevertheless, there was one area he felt qualified to speak about- their often twisted and tangled relationships. He had known these people for a long time, they had come to him for help and guidance with their problems. He knew the petty spites that embittered their heart, the animosities that set neighbour against neighbour, the silly quarrels that were kept alive, the jealousies and misunderstandings, the stubborn pride.

He decided to address to those bitter, unbending ones who refused to forgive and forget. He would impress on them that life was too short to harbour grudges and resentments. He would plead with them for mutual tolerance and understanding. He would speak to them from the heart as though he was speaking to each separately. So, he began: My dear brothers and sisters, let me repeat to you the words of the Gospel: 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.' It is not the Lord's paths that need to be straightened out but ours. We need a straight attitude. We may be living next door to one another, yet, because of a hostile or unforgiving attitude, we are unable to travel the few yards that separate us from one another. We let misunderstanding run on from year to year, meaning to clear them up some day. We keep quarrels alive because we cannot quite make up our minds to sacrifice our pride and end them. We pass people sullenly, not speaking to them out of some silly spite, and yet knowing that it would fill us with shame and remorse if we heard that one of them, they were dead tomorrow. We let our neighbours starve, till we hear that they are dying of starvation.

If only we could realise that the time is short, how it would break the spell. How we would go instantly and do the thing which we might never have another chance to do. I repeat: 'It is not the Lord's paths that need to be straightened out but ours. So, if there is some crooked attitude, or some crooked way of behaving, or some crooked relationship that needs to be straightened out, let us straighten it out. Then we will truly be preparing a way for the Lord come to us.



Offertory Collection: £949.25

Building Fund: £170.00

There will be a second collection this weekend for the building fund.

Second collection next weekend 11/12 for Catholic Education

Many thanks for your great generosity and support

500 Club Winners

1st Prize: No. 330 E McAdams

2nd Prize: No. 170 E McGovern

3rd Prize No.55 D McCall

Weekly Offering

If you wish to donate your weekly offering to the parish online, below are the parish bank details.

Account Name: RCDM St Monica's

Sort Code: 83 17 13

Account Number: 00163062

Can you spare some time to help your Parish?



In preparation for Christmas, we are looking for volunteers to help clean the Church after the 10am mass on Saturday 11th December.

All age groups are welcome!

Christmas Fayre

The Parish Christmas Fayre will take place on **Sunday 12 December** after the **10am** mass with special guests at 1pm. We are now full for Christmas stalls, and you are all in for a treat.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Tombola

Can you please donate items for the tombola at the Christmas Fayre on 12 December?

We're looking for bottles etc to be donated.

Thank you



Parish Gift Tree

Be a Secret Santa and donate a gift today

We ask if you can please participate in the Giving Tree Appeal and help spread Christmas cheer and excitement, through the gift of surprise! Even the smallest of gifts that are sometimes taken for granted are most welcome.

Please take a gift tag from the tree and a gift should be bought for the person on the tag.

Please place your gift under the tree on or before 19 December

Thank you!

Thank you to the donor of £1000 to our Building Fund in memory of the late Ann Craig.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Please remember in your prayers

Recently Dead: John O'Rourke, Margaret Ryce, Margaret McAuley, John Hogg

Sick: Niamh Cassidy, Ann & John McShane & Family, Linda Webb, Michael McAdams, Nicolas Hardy, Isobel Reilly, Gerald McDonald, Carol McGuinness, Pauline O'Rourke, Janey Mullen, Ben McGovern, Anne Marie Snodden, Catherine Donnelly, James Donnelly, Jim Gallacher, Alice Lindsay, Patricia McGhee, Frances Hynes

Months Mind: James, Elizabeth & Sadie Prunty, James Deigan, Margaret Deigan, John Deigan, Anne Marie Deigan, Mr & Mrs William Deigan Snr & Jnr, Mr & Mrs Deigan & Brian, Mr & Mrs Andy Prost, Mr & Mrs John Fagan, Mr & Mrs Frank Grant & Marie, Mr & Mrs Tommy Deigan Jack Gill, William, Patrick, Agnes & Helen Docherty, Joseph, Elizabeth, James & Peter Silvestro, Alex & David Thain, Anna & Joseph Pearson, Jenny Wright, Margaret & Andrew McKinlay, Anna, Brian & Joseph Tierney, Agnes & William McAuley, Rab Bannen, John Diamond, Helen Diamond, John Wallace, Hamilton, Annie, Jim & John Pettigrew, Steven Pettigrew, Charles & Isabel O'Hagan, John McGregor, George Ferguson, Brian Lowe, Bill Paul, Lawrence Molloy, Agnes & Frank Wilson

Anniversaries: Margaret Docherty, Margaret Diamond, James Innes

Baptisms: We welcome Christopher W. McDonald, Molly Elizabeth J. McDonald, Kenneth J Cox, Rhea Oakes, & Reagan Oakes; we implore God's blessing upon them and their families as we welcome them into our parish community

Please also remember the souls who have no one to pray for them

Services this week		
Monday Requiem Mass for John O'Rourke	10am	Holy Mass
Tuesday St Ambrose – Memorial Requiem Mass for Margaret McAuley	10am	Holy Mass
Wednesday The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Solemnity	10am	Holy Mass
Thursday	10am	Holy Mass
Friday	10am	Holy Mass
Saturday	10am 4pm	Holy Mass Vigil Mass
Sunday 3rd Sunday of Advent - C	10am 12 Noon & 5pm	Holy Mass