

Preparing for the arrival of someone important takes care and attention. Think of a family preparing to welcome a loved one home from abroad, perhaps a son or daughter who lives in Australia or someone who has been off travelling the world. They get their bedroom ready, buy their favourite foods, perhaps put up banners or even organise a 'welcome home' party. It is all done with great excitement and love, and is a way of easing the path home for the traveller. Or imagine new parents preparing for the arrival of a baby. On a larger scale, when an important dignitary visits a venue or a country there is also a flurry of activity in preparation. We saw it in the painstaking arrangements made for the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland earlier this year. Such high profile visits often involve a literal preparation of the way - organising a welcome reception, planning the best route from the airport, clearing the streets of traffic, as well as much chatter and anticipation.



St Joseph's SMA Church, Blackrock Road Parish, Cork

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Second Sunday of Advent Year B - Psalter Week 2 9th December 2018

Reception Christmas Extension Hours

Please Note that on Saturday 8th and on Saturday 15th December our reception will be open from 9.30am-7.00pm.

Wedding: Congratulations to Rose Crowley & Gerard McCarthy on the occasion of their recent wedding.

Parish Council Meeting

On Tuesday 11th December at 7.30pm in the Parish House.

Volunteers Needed

A special appeal for volunteers to help distribute Christmas Cards and dues envelopes to all in the parish. If you could give to those near to you it would help lighten the load.

Christmas Carol Service

On Thursday 13th December we invite you to join us for our Carol Service at 7.30pm. It is an opportunity for us to come together to share the Christmas Spirit. Our Parish Choir, Sisters from Ardfoyle and the children from Crab Lane School will sing for us.

Flowers for Christmas

We are appealing for donations towards Flowers for the Altar this Christmastime.

Penitential Service

Tuesday 18th December at 7pm. We encourage you to avail of this opportunity to prepare us more fittingly for Christmas.

Blackrock St Pio Prayer Group

Next meeting of the Blackrock St Pio Prayer Group will take place on **Wednesday 12 December**, Ardfoyle Convent, Blackrock. Rosary 1945 hrs. Mass 2000hrs. All welcome.

School Christmas Concert

Will be held here in the Church on 20th December at 11.00am.

OLA Sisters Mission yesterday and today exhibition – an exhibition of artefacts collected over 140 years service in Africa by the OLA sisters will take place at their convent in Ardfoyle, Ballintemple on December 8th and 9th from noon to 7pm each day.

SMA Website where you will find news of the SMA, its work in Africa and other parts of the world www.sma.ie.

Mass Times

Sunday: 10.00am and 12 noon

Saturday Vigil: 7.00pm

Weekdays: 7.15am, 10am.

Confessions: Saturday 10.30am & 6.20pm.

Sunday Devotions: 5.00 p.m.

Adoration: 1.30 - 3.00 p.m.

Reflection

In his reflection at the Angelus on the First Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis reminded the faithful that Advent is not just a time of preparation for Christmas: we are also looking forward to the return of Christ at the end of time, as well as our own, personal encounter with Jesus at the end of our lives. In these four weeks of Advent, he said, "called to leave a resigned and routine way of living, and to go forth, nurturing hopes and dreams for a new future."

Masses Saturday 8th December 2018

7.00pm Vigil: Michael O'Mahony R.I.P. 2nd Anniv.

Masses Sunday 9th December 2018

10.00am Liam Stack R.I.P. 4th Anniversary

12 noon Mary Murray / Con & Kitty O'Leary R.I.P. Anniversaries

Advent prayer request for Fr Luigi Maccalli, SMA.

Our SMA Provincial Leader, Fr Michael McCabe, is asking parishioners to pray the **Angelus** every day during Advent [2 -24 December] for the safe release of Father Maccalli [from Italy] who was kidnapped in Niger Republic on 17 September last where he has been a missionary for over ten years. There is still no news of his whereabouts.

In Remembrance/Anniversaries

Con & Kitty O'Leary / Mary Murray

Sean Hanley / May O'Leary

John, Nora, Martin, JP O'Mahony

Desmond Barry / Margaret Cummins

Liam Stack / Mary Kelly

Pat, Catherine & Mary Bell

Mary Keohane / Michael O'Meara

Recently Deceased R.I.P.

Noel Quinn / Patty Graham

May they Rest in Peace

If you don't remember the Angelus then any prayer of your choice will be good. Thank you for your support.

Church collection €915

P.A.F.A. collection €660

Thank you for your support and generosity.

Next weekend's 2nd collection is for Church Renovation Fund