



# ST. KENTIGERN'S CHURCH



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## FORTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT CYCLE B

21<sup>st</sup> December 2014

### Message from the Parish Priest

My Dear People,

Well the year is almost over and we have Christmas next week. The “Ordo” says that “After the Paschal Feast of Easter, there is no more ancient a feast day for the Church than the recalling of the Nativity of the Lord and of the mystery of His first Appearing. This is the object of the Christmas Season.”

So it had come to pass. The moment had arrived of all the time God created; the moment in time when God sent his Messenger – the Archangel Gabriel from Heaven. God sent the Archangel to a little town called Nazareth. God sent the Angel to a house in Nazareth and to the person dwelling within that house. It was the house of Mary. On that site there is now a most beautiful Basilica and you can pray at the place where our Blessed Lady received the Archangel.

Think of the mystery. God does intervene in history. He sent the Archangel. He had a message to give to the Messenger who gave the message to Mary. It was tidings of great Joy for a Son was to be born who was to be Christ the Lord.

God sent his Messenger and the Archangel Gabriel venerated the Virgin. Gabriel told Mary that she had “Won God’s favour” It is no wonder. She was the sole exception of our race- the Sinless one. Our Blessed Lady was to be given a sign. The sign was that she was to be a virgin and a mother.

This was to mark the new beginning for humanity in Jesus Christ. His origin is totally the will of God; not of the flesh or the will of man but of God.

That was to be the sign in the first instance. St Bernard says “The whole world waited, all the souls of the just waited in purgatory, all nature held its collective breath awaiting the Virgin Mary’s answer to the Angel’s Message AND ....”**BEHOLD I AM THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD, LET IT BE DONE UNTO ME ACCORDING TO THY WORD.**” From that moment on, God began his journey from earth to heaven. The Word became flesh and dwelt with us in Mary’s womb & in her heart and being.. She became the Tabernacle of the Most High. What love we owe our Blessed Lady for her great YES!

The world went about its business. The Empire of Rome was at its peak of world domination.

The bitter divisions within Israel about the puppet kings and religious groupings went on the usual way but everything from that moment was set in a trajectory of salvation and redemption. The die was cast and it was in man’s favour.

Various “signs” would be given along the way. One of the signs given by the Archangel was that Mary’s cousin Elizabeth – thought too old to have a child was with child (John the Baptist). The three Magi had the star which stopped over the house where the infant king resided. The shepherds had the angelic host in the night-sky, singing the heavenly message about peace on earth and the sign of the infant in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes. They each found exactly as they had been told. The signs really did happen in time.

It was to the humble that God disclosed Himself and Mary was the one who saw all these things and pondered them in her heart as St Luke tells us and he should know because it is tradition that he knew her very well. No one can tell what went in Mary’s soul – that soul untouched by any kind of sin. Her ministry in the Church is unique – she brings forth the Saviour and presents Him to mankind – “*Do whatever he tells you*” she tells the servants at the marriage feast of Cana. That is basically her message isn’t– submit to God and surrender to his holy will. Our Blessed Mother gives us the encouragement for us to do what Jesus tells us to do in faith.

How much our poor humanity needs to hear that message and put it into practise today in order to find itself again. It is destroying itself by its obstinate refusal to submit to any kind of Divine Law. Man has become the dictator to the heavens and it is doomed to end in sadness. Pray these days of Advent as we come nearer to the great Feast of His birthday for a great outpouring of God’s grace upon His Church to enable us to respond to the needs of the humanity. We need to be a Church strong in Faith so that the world may believe. Pray for your priests who impart the Mystery of Salvation and for our school teachers and catechists and of course Christian mothers & fathers who teach their children the Faith, the Way of Christ. Pray for Pope Francis at this holy time. He is the most wonderful and wise teacher of the Catholic Faith & a true Father to us all.

I hope you all have a wonderful and holy and blessed and warm family Christmas.

Father Tom Connolly

### Mass Schedule & Activities

#### MASSES THIS WEEK

Mon.– Fri **9.30 am**  
James Crawford & Nellie Collins (Mon)

#### Christmas Masses:

Wed, **Vigil Mass** 6:30pm  
(Arthur & Brenda Strafford,  
Harry King, Freddie King,  
Joyce Cook, Bill Cook)  
**Midnight Mass** 9pm & 11pm

**Sat 11.30am**  
Vigil Mass 6:30pm (George Lindley)

**SUNDAY: 9:00 am,**  
**11:00 am** (Kevin Devaney)  
Evening Mass **6:30 p.m.**



#### CONFESSIONS

Sat. 12—12.30p.m. and  
5.30—6.25p.m.



#### BAPTISM PREPARATION

Baptisms by prior appointment only.

Baptism Preparation

\*No preparation for Baptism this Sunday  
Baptisms 12 pm each Sunday



#### Credit Union

Friday Evening—Marian Room



**Legion of Mary** meet on Mon. at 7.30pm in the Presbytery

**NO EVENING MASSES ON CHRISTMAS DAY.**

#### FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

**Tue:** St John of Kenty  
**Thu:** The Nativity of the Lord  
**Fri:** St Stephen  
**Sat:** St John the Apostle and Evangelist

**REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:**

**Pope's intentions for this month:**

**Christian, hope for humanity.** That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.

**Parents.** That parents may be true evangelizers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

**SICK:** Brendan Byrne, Kirsty Rafferty, Pat Aldcroft, Denis McLoughlin, Tom & Brenda Lynch, Michael Cahill, Maura McBrien, Philip Keegan, Mary Mimmagh, Seamus McKenna, Mary Molloy, Philomena McNally, Josie Ryan, Mary Farrelly-Stiles, Marie Whitley, Agnes Halligan, Sam Murray, Peggy & Pat Banaghan, Thomas Moran, Julie Brady, Michael Connolly, Peter Collins, Mary Rose Smith, Eamonn Sager, , Elizabeth Leyden, Eamon Sager, Sheila Scannell, Pat Snype, Fr Early of St Ambroses, Tom Royton, Eileen Farran.

**LATELY DEAD:** Joe Longwood, Doris Perruzza, Josie McConnell

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Maureen Burke, Robert Burke, Fr Charly Malholland, Michael Gallagher, Kevin Devaney (11am), James Crawford (22nd Dec 9:30), George Lindley (20th Dec-Vigil), Dino Miniaci (9am), Joseph Edge (16th Dec, 9:30am), Mr M. Serridge, Mrs A. Mulvehill, Mr B. Mulvehill, Bilocha Family, Iwan Bilyr, Nellie Collins (22nd),deceased members of Collins family, Groake and O'tara families.

**24th Vigil:** Arthur & Brenda Strafford, Harry King, Freddie King, Joyce Cook, Bill Cook

**Sunday Collection £684**

**Director– Kevin Fitzpatrick:  
2242033 / 07912287289**

*St Kent's the Place to be*

**TUE:** Irish language classes  
**WED:** Bingo  
**THU:** Ceili/Set Dancing  
**SUN:** Salsa

**What's on at St Kent's**  
**Wed 31st** New Years Eve– Joe Casserley & The Last Drop  
**Sat 3rd Jan**—The Galway Association Supper Dance

**LIVE STREAM MASSES and EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**— tune in and share the link with your families and friends. People confined to their homes and those who now live away from our parishes would be able join us daily by connecting to <http://stkentigern.co.uk/livestream.html>

**ST BEDE'S COLLEGE:** Open Events for all ages: 11+assessment: Sat 17th Jan 2015

**DON, THE CARD GAME** is played every Tuesday night in our Club and at this time of the year for Christmas Turkeys and Joints of Meat. Why not come along and enjoy the chance and the prizes.

**THE OFFERTORY GIFT ENVELOPES**— Please remember to pick up your Planned Giving Envelopes this week at the back of the Church. Thank you for your help. Fr Connolly

**CARITAS**— this season of Advent is a great opportunity to help our brothers in need thought the Christmas Appeal from Caritas. This year the appeal is in the form of a "living gift" - a beautiful 2D bauble to hang on your Christmas tree or send to friends and family as a donation in place of a present. The bauble serves as both a decoration and a simple reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. Your donation of £3, £5, £10 or £35 will go directly towards providing a hot meal, warm clothing and the support that homeless, vulnerable people need. If interested contact Kevin Bradly 0161 817 2252



**NEW YEAR EVE TICKETS**  
Please remember to return the New Years Eva Draw counterfoils & monies in good time.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD**— do take a card from the porch with my message for Christmas and all the times of Masses and Confessions and Novena to the Infant Jesus for Christmas period. Take one for lapsed Catholics to be put through letter box. Spread the message!!! Fr Connolly

**CHRISTMAS TOYS**—for needy children have gone off to Homeless Families unit and few other places. Thank you to all who have brought these wrapped gifts and placed them under the tree. Care Whitley every year has a fundraiser in her work place colleagues and then buys a loads of gifts for children for us to give out. I thank her for this and her friends for the wrapping!!! Fr Connolly

**CHRISMTAS DINNER**— and party and entertainment for the over 60s of both Parishes went very well last Saturday at 4:30. The meal was great and the Indian Dancer was delightful as were the Irish Dancers doing River Dance routine—A wonder to behold. A great time was had by all so Thank you for all who organised it.

**MISSIO BOX**— Collectors will be on their way round over Christmas. Money and boxes should be in for 7th January 2015. Christine Booth (Hon Sec)

**NO ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**- Exposition is not going to be until New Years for too many folk are going away or getting ready for Christmas . I cannot risk the Blessed Sacrament being left alone I am sure you will agree. The Church will be open just the same.

**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**- The St Kentigern's children gave a wonderful Advent and Carol service on Wednesday in Church. Well done staff and pupils. Mrs Thornton, the Head since Mr Jackson retired has Resigned so the Governing Body will be looking for a new appointment. Pray that it will be a sound one.

**CHORISTER OPEN MORNING**— at Westminster Cathedral Choir School. Is your son Roman Catholic? Is he aged six or seven? Could he join the world's leading Catholic Choir? And one of London's top academic preparatory schools? Come and visit on Sunday 8th February 2015 10:30am—2:20pm. If interested contact Miss Lucy Auger, 020 7798 9081 or [lauger@choirschool.com](mailto:lauger@choirschool.com)

**DIOCESAN PRIMARY TEACHING POOL 2015**— the primary pool will identify excellent candidates who would be recommended for interview to Catholic schools who have a vacancy for 1st September 2015. Applications are invited from candidates who are able to take up a teaching post with effect 1st September 2015 and newly qualified teachers are very welcome. Applications can be download at <http://www.salforddiocese.net/>. Completed application forms are to be returned to Miss Daniella Stephens, Office of Education: Cathedral Center 3 Ford Street, Salfrod, M3 6DP or [daniella.stephens@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:daniella.stephens@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) by 12.00pm on Wednesday 28th January 2015. Further enquiries should be made to Daniella Stephens on 0161 817 2204.

**MIRACLE PRAYER**—Dear heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours, this time I ask for a special one, take it dear heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart, where your Father see's it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine,