

Church of the Holy Spirit Ballyroan

14th Of December 2025

Third Sunday Of Advent

This is the third week of Advent- Gaudete Sunday: Our Gospel is from Matthew 11: 2-11

Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." Our third candle which we lite today, is rose (pink) because pink symbolizes joy, the joy that Jesus is almost here.

Our Gospel tells the story about John the Baptist, who is in prison, and he wonders who Jesus is. As a prophet he has a sense that the Messiah, the Saviour would come, and he wants to know if it Jesus. Jesus' answer as recorded in the Gospel, is to quote from the prophet Isaiah 35:5-6. *'The blind receives their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear and the dead are raised...'*

Historically, Jesus who was initially a follower of John, started his ministry after his baptism by John and John's subsequent arrest.

Can you imagine Jesus as a young man reading Isaiah 61: 1-2. *The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives...*

Christmas is a time to celebrate this great news, the divine has become human, so that we can all share in this loving divinity forever.



Have a blast while you last!!

Over the years, many people have encouraged me – sometimes gently, sometimes insistently – to collect my homilies and make them available to others. This collection, I have no doubt, is the fruit of that encouragement. These homilies were born in real moments of parish life – in joy and in sorrow; in ordinary days, and during times of celebration and challenge.

I am delighted to share that this collection of homilies is now available at a cost of €10b (From the office and back of the Church), and all profits will go towards our Church / Pastoral Centre. You might like to give it as a present to a family member or friend over Christmas. My prayer is that this book might do more than simply fill a shelf. I hope it becomes a companion on busy days –a spark of encouragement when life feels heavy, and a reminder that the Gospel is always fresh, alive, and ever relevant. Thank you to all who supported this project: Marcos Zubrzycki, Frank Browne, William Carroll and Mary McDade for your gentle feedback, your encouragement, and your belief that it was worth sharing. Thank you also to our own community –because without your faith and your lives, there would be no homilies to write.

May it bless you as you have blessed me.
Fr. Michael

This Sunday, after the 10am Mass, a food collection will take place in the Ruah Centre in support of the Capuchin Day Centre. Your generosity will help provide essential supplies for those most in need. We kindly ask that all donations be non-perishable and that no glass containers be included for safety reasons. Thank you for your continued support and for living out the Gospel call to care for our brothers and sisters. Your contribution, no matter how small, makes a real difference. Thank you—
Emer Keogh



NEW SOCK APPEAL FOR THE HOMELESS

A parishioner from Knocklyon Parish has a project to donate socks to the homeless for Christmas. These socks are donated to Focus Ireland and the A and E in Tallaght on Christmas morning for distribution. So that the homeless can have a new pair of socks on Christmas morning. If there any leftover socks they are distributed during the year. We are asking for anyone who can to donate a pair of new socks wrapped and labelled as to whether is it for man, woman, or child and left in the Sacristy before the 14th of December and they will be delivered to Knocklyon

Confessions will be held in the Church on Saturday mornings from 10.30 until 11.15 for the next 3 Saturdays during Advent. The Sacrament of Reconciliation service will be held on Monday the 22nd December at 7pm. A number of priests will be attending. Many thanks



**Active retirement singers meet
in the Ruah Centre Sunday
21st of Dec @ 7.30**

**All are welcome to what is sure to be
a fun night of music, laughter, tea
and coffee!!!**



Mass Intentions : 13th Dec– 19th Dec

Saturday 7 pm : Sean O’Neill (A) Danny Brady (R.I.P) Tim Scanlon (A) Kathleen O ‘ Riordan (R.I.P)

Sunday 10am: Noel Lakes (Birthday Remembrance) Denis O’ Riordan (A) Sean Lovett (A) Paul Norris (A)

Sunday 12noon : Jo &Pat Moriarty (A) Betty & Denis Maher (A) Ursula Gannon (M.M.) Ana McGovern (A) Mick & Patrick Shaughnessy(A) Phyllis Meehan (A)

Monday : No Intentions

Tuesday : No Intentions

Wednesday : Peggy Durkan (R.I.P)

Thursday: Alice Cairns (R.I.P)

Friday : Carmel Egan (A) Angela Byrne (A) Michael Maguire (A)

Parish Information

Parish Priest: Father Michael Murtagh

Deacon: Frank Browne

Parish Secretary: Mary McDade

Child Safeguarding & Protection Service: Nuala Mcleod

Email: ballyroanparish@gmail.com

Parish Office: 01 4947303

Website: www.ballyroanparish.ie

Follow us on Ballyroan parish **Facebook, X, & Instagram.**

Parish Office Opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Mass Times

Monday - Friday: 10am

Saturday: 7pm

Sunday: 10am & 12 noon