

## PARISH INFORMATION

Fr. Pat Fitzgerald, Parochial House 372257

Sr. de Lourdes Breen 058 41359

**Parish Office: Parish Centre**

Parish Secretary Maura Cooney 357730

Open: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,  
Friday 9.15 am to 12.45 pm. and Tuesday 2 to 3pm

**E-mail:** [stpaulschurchwt@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulschurchwt@gmail.com)

**Web:** [www.stpaulsandbutlerstown.ie](http://www.stpaulsandbutlerstown.ie)

**Facebook:** St Pauls Church Lisduggan.

Butlerstown Parish Facebook

**LIVE STREAMING** Mass and other services (including weddings and funeral masses) are live streamed from our churches on <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-paul-s> and <https://mcnmedia.tv/camera/butlerstown> and [www.stpaulschurch.ie](http://www.stpaulschurch.ie). so that the parish can extend its reach to those who cannot visit the church. This may mean that your image will be broadcast on those websites, in particular, if you are on or near the sanctuary or sit in the first three rows of the middle aisle. If you do not wish your image to be captured in this way, please sit in another area of the church. If you have concerns, please contact us.

## ANNIVERSARIES

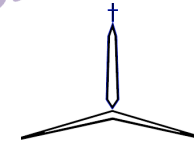
### ST. PAUL'S

KEVIN & ALICE O'SHEA (MM)  
THOMAS QUINN  
PADDY DOWER  
PADDY & RITA WHELAN  
JOHN POWER  
MICHAEL ENNIS  
VERONICA POWER (Birthday Rem)  
TOM GOUGH  
MAUREEN HURLEY  
BARBARA HURLEY  
JOHN SWEENEY  
ALICE CAREW GRIFFIN  
& her son TONY  
& her parents THOMAS &  
ELLEN CAREW  
BRIDIE SHERIDAN  
HUGH & MAY O'HARA  
CATHERINE SULLIVAN  
MARGARET (EDIA) O'SHEA  
Her husband, sons & daughters

May they Rest in Peace



# Parishes of St. Paul's & Butlerstown



3rd of December 2023 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## The Invitation

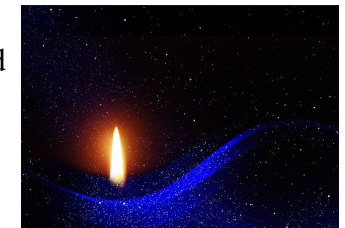
*Mark 13:33-37*

I like these words of the late Cardinal Hume: "There are times when I can visualize Our Lord at the break of day standing by my bed and saying: "Get up, follow me." Whether I am conscious of it or not, in effect that invitation, that loving but insistent command, is given to me every day. Each new morning is the opportunity to start again. Yesterday there may have been inadequacies and failures but today Christ renews his call: "Follow me. I have chosen you. I need you." Who can fail to respond to the thought that God needs our willing collaboration."

We are carers of creation and of his people. Take this seriously, it is our world. An area or parish improves if enough people do something. We look at areas in a locality which are now clean of drugs, more prosperous and just. This has been the work of people co-creating the world with God. Making it a better place. Doing the world a world of good.

**The Gospel** today says – Don't give up. God is always near! Live in hope and preparation. Stay awake to the season – the ways we can deepen and grow in our faith --- maybe do a retreat, do something good for others with your time or finance, notice God in the events of the next few weeks, pray a bit every day, make time to be awakened to the centre of our world who is God, and to his central action in creating the world each day, sending Jesus Christ his Son.

*Donal Neary SJ*



*Loving God, at this Advent time,  
we turn to you in prayer.*

*As we wait for the coming of your Son,  
we ask you to bless our family.*

*Free us from any worry or distress that  
we may have and help us to welcome  
your light into our lives, a light that  
gives us your gift of hope.*



*A question for the first  
week of Advent:*

*How can I help someone  
today?*

*Lord, send me, use me,  
create me for your work  
in the world.*



## THE ADVENT WREATH

The growing light of the Advent wreath is a symbol of Christ who shatters the darkness of sin and death. Each



week as the light grows stronger, we grow stronger too in our reverence for and commitment to Christ. The growing light helps us recognise Christ not only in the historical event we celebrate at Christmas, but in our lives today and in the hope we carry as we prepare for the coming fullness of God's reign.

Evergreen branches also symbolise Christ, as evergreens stand firm against the barren winter, Christ stands firm against the barrenness of sin and death, beckoning us to eternal life. The circular shape of the wreath reminds us that all is complete in Christ and that all is brought to perfect union in him.

## THE CANDLES

**The Four Candles** on the outside of the Advent Wreath represent the four Sundays of Advent. During the first week of Advent, we light the first candle. The second week, we light the second candle etc.

**The Three Purple Candles:** Purple is the advent colour for repentance and change of heart in preparation for the coming of Christ into our hearts and our lives.

**The Pink or Rose Candle:** On the third Sunday of Advent (Rejoicing Sunday), the joy of the forthcoming Christmas event is celebrated.

**The White Candle** in the centre is the

**MASS TIMES FRIDAY 8TH OF DECEMBER  
HOLY DAY  
FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
Butlerstown Church 10.00am  
St. Paul's Church 11.30am & 7.30pm

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Gospel urges us to "Stay Awake", to prepare for the second coming of Christ - the establishment of God's kingdom.

Our preparation for this event has to begin right now.

The way to prepare for the coming of the kingdom is to live as if it were already present, living the kingdom values of love, peace, justice and compassion in our everyday lives.

We need to keep our lamps lit so that we can see our way and be guided by the lantern of God's love within our hearts.

As we allow the divine light to permeate our whole being, we will live as a loving reflection of Christ's light.



**DONATIONS** If you wish to make a donation to Parishes of St. Paul's & Butlerstown please click the **Donate Button** on our website.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
<https://stpaulsandbutlerstown.ie/>

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION** will be held this weekend the 2nd and 3rd of December. Thank you for all your generous support through the year.

## BRING & BUY SALE

St. Paul's Scout Group are holding a bring & buy sale, old fashioned spinner and our raffle this Sunday 3rd December after 11:30am Mass in the St Paul's Parish Centre. All welcome.

**OUR BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT MEETING IN ST. PAUL'S** will take place on Tuesday next, 5th of December at 10.30am in St Paul's Parish Centre. All very welcome to join us.

## CARING FOR CREATION

Parishes of St. Paul's & Butlerstown present Caring for Creation, a film presented by Patrick & Cathy on Laudate Si and how they are implementing it in their own parish in Dublin. Venue: St Paul's Parish Centre  
On Wednesday 6th of December at 10.30am. All are welcome. Teas & Coffees will be served. *"Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be celebrated with gladness and praise."* Pope Francis

## SLIEVEKEALE ACTIVE RETIREMENT

Will hold their next meeting on Thursday next 7th of December at 2.30pm in Manor Saint John.

## CHRISTMAS VIDEO MUSIC SHOW

Wednesday 13th of December at 10.45am  
In St. Paul's Parish Centre.  
Come along and have a cup of tea and watch on the big screen: Christmas Concert Andre Rieu, Bing Crosby, Dean Martin, Celine Dion, Cliff Richard, Frank Sinatra. For more details ring Frankie at 087 3734398 A donation will be asked to support the R.N.L.I Lifeboat, Dunmore East.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS WITH ST. PAUL'S GOSPEL CHOIR

The Gospel Choir will sing Christmas Carols after the 11.30 am Mass on Sunday 17th of December in St. Paul's Parish Centre. All are welcome.

## OUR MASSES CONTINUE TO BE LIVE STREAMED AND BROADCAST ON THE RADIO.

**LIVE STREAMING FROM ST. PAUL'S**  
<https://www.mcn.live/Camera/st-paul's>

**LIVE STREAMING FROM BUTLERSTOWN**  
<https://www.mcn.live/Camera/butlerstown>

**RADIO:** Morning Mass from St. Paul's Church on the Radio at **107.9FM**

## CHURCH OPENING FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

**St Paul's Church** weekdays 11am -1pm  
**Butlerstown Church** daily 12 to 4.00pm

## PRAYERS FOR ADVENT

Lord, you have blessed me with this Advent time and given me the opportunity to make straight the paths in my life that need some weeding, tending and straightening. I ask for this help in Jesus' name. Amen.

O God, open our hearts to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. Guide us in your ways of compassion So that we may extend your love and mercy to all people. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Eternal Word Who lives with you and the Holy Spirit forever. Amen.