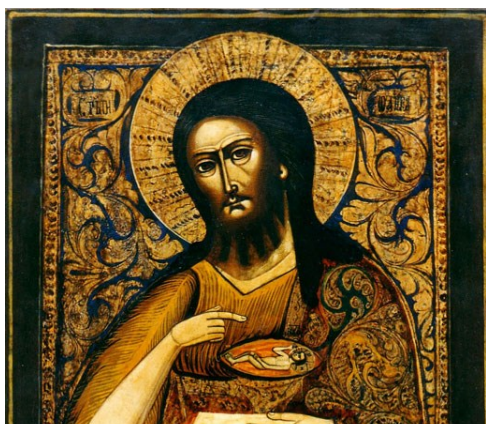


# PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (B), 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023



## Prepare the way of the Lord

These words (today's gospel) are the first words of the earliest gospel. It is also the shortest of the four gospels, and was probably written sometime between 60 and 70 AD. In the first thirty (or so) years of its life the Church had no written gospels. What it had was an oral tradition: memories shared by people who had known Jesus, or who knew people who had known him.

It is "good news," Mark writes, even though there is a strong emphasis throughout on the suffering of Jesus, and the final third of this short gospel is devoted to the last week of his life. How such a tragic story could be good news is the mystery we are plunged into from the opening words. Clearly, it is only with hindsight that anyone could call it good news. That hindsight is provided by the resurrection.

'Provided'? We should not be too quick to provide the solution to this tragic story. The resurrection does not slip into place like the final piece of a jigsaw puzzle. Unlike all the other pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, the last piece is no surprise. But the resurrection is from beyond the frame, so it is right to speak of "the surprise of the resurrection." In Mark's gospel Jesus seems reluctant even to be recognised as the Messiah, the Promised One; he refers to himself only as the "Son of Man," and orders his followers to tell no one about him until after his resurrection (Mark 9:9); this is called the "Messianic Secret".

In this Advent season we are to let the story develop at its own pace, so that we too can experience the surprise of the resurrection. We are not advised to skip to the end. And so, like many a story, Mark's gospel begins at a certain distance from the main subject. It begins with John the Baptist. Next Sunday's gospel reading is also about him. The point seems to be that we have to learn to wait – a difficult thing for us who move so fast, and who tend to concentrate on facts rather than their meaning, and who prefer to see results rather than contemplate their causes. Advent is a season of depth, and waiting....

*Donagh O'Shea OP, [www.goodnews.ie](http://www.goodnews.ie)*

## NOTICES

### COLLECTIONS

Offertory: €1706

Share: €607

Envelope: €85

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This annual special collection will be taken up today (10th Dec) at all Masses (replacing the Share Collection).

**SVP ANNUAL APPEAL**  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Support your local SVP  
**St. Mary's Tallaght Appeal**  
[www.svp.ie/stmarystallaght](http://www.svp.ie/stmarystallaght)

### CROSSCARE CHRISTMAS FOOD POVERTY APPEAL

Anyone wishing to contribute can follow the QR link on the posters or donate online at [www.crosscare.ie](http://www.crosscare.ie) or call Crosscare on 01-8360011 or send a cheque or postal order to Crosscare Christmas

Appeal, 2 Saint Mary's Place North, D07 Y768.

### MASS IN IRISH

today, 10th December, at 9.00 am.

### ANNUAL PRIORY CAROL SERVICE

Today (10th December) at 4.00pm. Refreshments afterwards. All welcome!



### ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

We will have one Reconciliation Service for our whole Tallaght Deanery on **Monday, 11th December at 7.30pm, in the Priory.**

Please join with us together as a Deanery and community as we prepare for advent by taking part in the sacrament of reconciliation.

The service will be led by students and staff from Old Bawn Community School.



### RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Joseph (Joe) Horan**, Bancroft Avenue, whose funeral was from this Church during the week.

### READ OUR WEBPAGE

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