

PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, 1st Sunday of Advent (B), 3rd December 2023



STAY AWAKE

(...) Like the great spiritual teachers of all times, Jesus kept saying, "Wake up!" (Matthew 25:13; Mark 13:33; 14:38; Luke 21:36). He did not mean (as some have meant) that this life was a nightmare from which we would do well to awaken; Jesus had no hatred of this life, and would never have called it "a bad dream between two awakenings." Rather he meant that by being asleep we were missing the wonder of what God was doing. He meant something like that great line in Genesis, "Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it!'" (28:16).

Advent is the season when we hear that wake-up call repeatedly, as in today's gospel reading. The master of the house, Jesus said, could come at any moment. Later, the first Christians expected the Second Coming of Jesus in their own lifetime, but as the years passed they had to get used to a longer perspective. This was difficult for them, and they had to struggle to make sense of it. Peter did so by quoting Psalm 89, "To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night." (2 Peter 3:8). Paul had to tell the Thessalonians to get back to work: "We hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do

their work quietly and to earn their own living" (2 Thessalonians 3:11-12).

"Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!" cried Isaiah (today's first reading). Julian of Norwich (14th century) prayed to God for a deeper longing for God. She longed to long more for God. She called it a wound, "the wound of longing." Our world no longer struggles with this. On the contrary we look for complete fulfilment through our own work; and we expect nothing to happen (unless it be something of a scientific nature). Many now expect nothing really from their religion, and some even see it as an obstacle to life. In *The White Peacock* D.H. Lawrence described a new friend of his. "He was very good stuff. He had hardly a single dogma, save that of pleasing himself. Religion was nothing to him. So he heard all I had to say with an open mind." The mistake is to think that pleasing only oneself doesn't close the mind. Nothing closes it more effectively. By God's grace we may feel some opening of the "wound of longing" (Julian of Norwich) in this Advent season. We are never finished with our work, and so we are never ready for the completely new. We need to be reminded again to look up from our frenzied labour, to wake up from our dream, to awaken our spirit to the master who can come at any moment.

Donagh O'Shea OP, www.goodnews.ie

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR SALE IN AID OF OUR PARISH FOLK GROUP - TODAY

We will have Christmas gifts for sale after the vigil mass on Saturday (2nd December) and after all masses on Sunday 3rd December to raise funds for our Folk Group's participation in August 2024 Knockadoon Music and Liturgy course.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This annual special collection will be taken up next Sunday (10th Dec) at all

Masses (replacing the Share Collection).

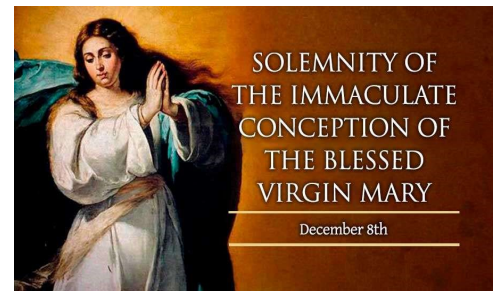
FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Thursday, 7th December:

Vigil Mass at 8.00 pm.

Friday, 8th December:

Masses: 8.00am; 10.00am; 1.00pm and 8.00pm.



ANNUAL PRIORY CAROL SERVICE

Sun next 10th Dec 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.**

CROSSCARE CHRISTMAS FOOD POVERTY APPEAL

Anyone wishing to contribute can follow the QR link on the posters or donate online at 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.

READ OUR WEBPAGE

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