



WHITEFRIAR STREET CHURCH
*The Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
& Shrine of Saint Valentine*

December 22, 2019
The Fourth Sunday
of Advent

SACRAMENTS

Masses

Sundays:

Vigil 6.00pm

AM: 8.00, 10.30, 11.30

PM: 12.30, 4.00, 7.00

Weekdays:

AM: 8.00, 10.00, 11.30

PM: 1.10, 3.00

Bank Holidays:

AM: 10.00, 11.30

Holy days:

according to the day of the
week

Confessions

Monday to Friday:

10.30-11.30; 3.00-4.00

Saturdays:

10.30-12.30, 2.00-4.00

Devotions at 2.30pm

Monday: Miraculous

Medal – Rosary &
Benediction

Friday: Exposition of the

Blessed Sacrament –
silent prayer

Saturday: Our Lady of

Mount Carmel – Rosary
& Benediction

St Jude Novena

Tuesdays at 8.00pm

including blessing with the
Relics of St Jude and of St
Thérèse of Lisieux

Living abroad?

Join us for liturgy through
our webcam.



The Annunciation of Joseph, a man of faith

In the gospel from St Matthew, we read of the Annunciation to Joseph. Joseph had discovered that Mary was pregnant with someone else's child and had decided not to go through with the marriage. Under Jewish law, once the betrothal had been announced they were technically married and so Joseph had to divorce Mary. However, he decided to divorce her quietly so as to save her too much public embarrassment. The angel appeared to him and told him to go through with the marriage for the child was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit and his name would be Emmanuel – *God is with us*.

No doubt Joseph must have had misgivings and the truth of Mary's pregnancy would have come out once the people began to work backwards from the birth to the possible time of conception. However, Joseph followed the angel's instructions and took Mary as his wife, thereby demonstrating his own faith in God and in God's word.

The faith of Joseph is the faith that we are each called to have in our life and to place our trust in the God who knows all and who knows what is best for us, even if we disagree. There are times when it might appear easier to avoid God's word and to do our own thing, but we never know when the Lord might ask something important of us, when he might entrust us with a significant task. He probably won't send an angel to ask us, but he asks us every day in ways we don't realise: he asks us to reach out to those less fortunate than us; he asks to practice justice, mercy and almsgiving; he asks us to be people of faith and to practice that faith. Today is a reminder that there is now very little time to make our real preparations to worthily celebrate the season of Christmas. Today is a reminder for us to say 'yes' to Jesus Christ in our lives.

THIS WEEK'S LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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|---------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday 22: | Fourth Sunday of Advent |
| Monday 23: | Fourth Week in Advent |
| Tuesday 24: | Fourth Week in Advent |
| Wednesday 25: | The Nativity of our Lord |
| Thursday 26: | St Stephen, the First Martyr |
| Friday 27: | St John the Evangelist |
| Saturday 28: | The Holy Innocents |

A SAINT OR TWO THIS WEEK...

St Stephen, the First Martyr

Stephen was one of the Seven Hellenists appointed as assistants (sometimes referred to as deacons though not identical to today's deacons) to assist the disciples in their work and was the first martyr for Jesus Christ. He was stoned to death by the Sanhedrin at Jerusalem while Saul (the future St Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles) looked on approvingly. It may seem strange to be remembering the death of someone just one day after celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, but it reminds us that truly following the Christ-child will demand a particular way of life which may cost us our own life. This is the true celebration of Christmas and the birth of Jesus: our full and complete commitment to his way of life and his plan for each of us.

The Holy Innocents

This feast recalls the slaying of the children under the age of two years by King Herod who wished to secure his throne. They are venerated as martyrs because they died in place of the Christ-child.

CHURCH SHOP, MASS OFFICE & GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Sunday: 10.00am - 2.00pm
Monday to Friday: 8.30am - 5.00pm.
Tuesday extra: 7.30pm - 8.15pm
Saturday: 9.30am - 6.00pm
☎ 01 475 8821
Email: shop@whitefriarstreetchurch.ie

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Members meet each Monday evening to consider requests. For those living within our parish, requests can be made by text to 085 789 8699. For those outside the parish, please ring 01 855 0022.

Christmas Day Masses

The First Mass of Christmas will be celebrated at 8.00pm on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day the four Masses will be at 8.00, 10.00, 11.15 and 12.30. The church will close at 1.30pm.

St Jude Weekly Novena

Our St Jude Novena has been celebrated on Tuesday evenings at 8.00 for many years. This year the evening Mass on Tuesday, December 24, will be the Vigil Mass of Christmas and on Tuesday, December 31, we will close the church at 6.00pm. On those two Tuesdays we will continue the St Jude Novena Mass, but it will be celebrated instead at the 3.00pm Mass on both days – the Novena Prayers and Blessing with the Relics will take place at that Mass for those who are able to join us.

Bank Holiday

Thursday, December 26 – St Stephen's Day – is a bank holiday. Therefore, there will only be two Masses in our church that morning: 10.00 and 11.30. The church will close at noon. There will be no confessions that day.

Thank You

The annual collection for the Sick & Indigent Roomkeepers' Society, which was taken up last weekend, amounted to €740.67. Again, we thank you for your generosity to so many good causes throughout the year.

The Carmelite Community wishes all those who visit our church during these days, and throughout the year, every peace, happiness and joy in the birth of our Saviour.

PARISH OFFICE

For certificates of Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage, or to book a baptism or a wedding.
Monday to Friday: 9.00am - 1.00pm
☎ 01 475 8821
Email: parish@whitefriarstreetchurch.ie

CARMELITE COMMUNITY CENTRE

☎ 01 475 4673
Email: info@carmelitecommunitycentre.com