

# ST MATTHEW'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

December 2020



## MESSAGE FROM REV JOHN MARCHANT

Here's a paradox: we're coming to the shortest day of the year. The days are so brief. It's cold outside.

Yet as Christians we have already started our "New Year" at Advent. It's a time of preparation for the birth more than 2,000 years ago of a little baby in a poor, downtrodden Middle-Eastern country.

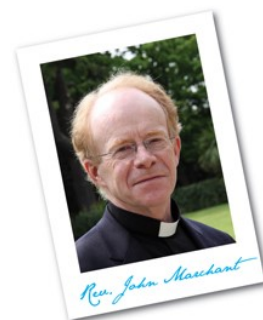
Not an auspicious start for a new religious tradition! Yet it gives us, every year, a surge of hope. If the message of this Jesus can give ordinary people a hope for better things in this world, to me that is a worthwhile set of ethics, a moral compass for life. That might be enough for some. But to experience the nearness, the comfort of the presence of the Christ in our lives elevates

our hope, until it becomes "the way, the truth and the life" of all of us Christians.

I hope that, through this challenging time of COVID-19, at this dark time of the year, we can hold onto the hope of brighter, happy times to come in the New Year. Trust and hope are both positive Christian values. Cherish everyone whom we love. I pray quietly for all of us in this little corner of Dublin, and I wish all of you a relaxed, peaceful and hopeful Christmas time.

Blessings

*John*



## REGISTERING FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions we can only have up to **50 people** attending each service. So as to avoid disappointing Parishioners attending, we would ask you to confirm your attendance by Registering at:

[www.stmatts.live/home/christmas-registration](http://www.stmatts.live/home/christmas-registration)

Please list all people attending from your Family or Group together with contacts details for contact tracing purposes

If you wish to register by phone please call the Parish Office on 087 254 0378



## CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

### 20th December 2020

Service of Lessons & Carols - 10.30am - **Please Book**

### 24th December 2020

Christmas Eve Family Service - 8pm  
**Please Book**

### 25th December 2020

Holy Communion - 8.30am

### 25th December 2020

Christmas Day Family Service - 10.30am - **Please Book**

### 27th December 2020

Morning Prayer 10.30am

## ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH ENVELOPE SCHEME



If you would like to donate through the Church Envelope Scheme, you can put an Envelope on the Collection plate at Sunday Service. As a registered Charity St Matthews can depending on amounts donated reclaim Income Tax on Parishioner donations.

For more details please contact the Parish office on 087 254 0378, or ask one of the Church Wardens.

## ST MATTHEW'S SCHOOL CAROLS

December is normally a time when St. Matthew's Church hosts the Annual School Carol Services. Restrictions prevented these services taking place in their normal format this year. The school had to rethink the production and delivery of Carol Services.

For two weeks St. Matthew's Church became reminiscent of a film studio hosting the recording of Christmas plays and Carols on behalf of the school. Teachers and staff worked hard to rehearse and pre record performances whilst respecting social distancing guidelines. The results were streamed during assembly via Zoom. It was a momentous task. We congratulate all teachers, staff and pupils involved.

## BOOKINGS FOR COLUMBARIUM WALL

As the Columbarium Wall is now completed, the Parish are now taking bookings for individual and family niches. To find out more information please contact the Parish Office on 087 254 0378



## A BIT OF NOSTALGIA



THE OLD RECTORY



ST MATTHEW'S BOYS SCHOOL

## PARISH CONTACTS

### Rector

Rev John Marchant Tel: 087 419 6071

### Parish Administration

Jonathan Bell Tel: 087 254 0378

Nicky Bell Tel: 087 688 7049

### Hon Secretary

Lindy Farmer Tel: 087 2246203

### Hon Treasurer

Jonathan Bell Tel: 087 254 0378

### Church Wardens

Miriam Hollowed (Rector's), Geraldine Wallace (People's),  
Virginia Stewart (People's)

### Glebe Wardens

Robbie Hamilton (Rector's)

### Select Vestry

Lindy Farmer, Jonathan Bell, Gordon Kelley, Miriam Hollowed, Gladys Raethorne, Robbie Hamilton, Claire Wheeler, Steve Griffiths, Virginia Stewart, Karen Woods, John Wallace, Geraldine Wallace

To contact by email:

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[www.stmattschurch.ie](http://www.stmattschurch.ie)

**You Tube Channel**

[www.stmatts.live](http://www.stmatts.live)