



Chapelizod Parish

Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Presbytery No 2, Chapelizod Road, Dublin 20, D20 T448 Mobile 087 2525196



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24th, 2023

'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.'

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ, may I take this opportunity to wish you and yours the joy and peace of this Blessed Season.

Christmas offers each of us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the year that has been. We thank God for good times; perhaps mourn the passing of someone we love; and look forward in hope to what is to come. We do all this as a people of faith, secure in the knowledge that our God truly is *Emmanuel*—God-with-us.

For myself, I thank you most sincerely for the warmth of your welcome since I arrived in Chapelizod. Changing parish has been made a joy by the kindness of you all. I pray that as we continue to get to know one another, we can build on what is a wonderful Christian community. I wish to thank you also for your commitment to the parish while Fr. Sean was unwell. It is a tribute to yourselves that you worked together to ensure that the work of the parish continued.

I look forward to seeing you over the next few days as we celebrate the coming of the Christ-child.

Fr. Eugene

Christmas Tree

There are still labels available at the back of the Church. You can write the names of those you would like us to remember over the Christmas Season—living or dead—and place your label on the tree. We will pray for all these people during our Christmas Masses.

Christmas Dues

Christmas Dues are at the back of the Church and can be returned over the next few weeks. Dues go to supporting the priests of the parish, and the sick and retired priests of the Diocese.

Planning Ahead

Christmas holidays are often a time when families plan for the year ahead. A quick reminder that for Baptism—**one month's notice** is required for the Parish and for Weddings—**three month's notice** is required for **both** Church and State. For Weddings in particular, it is recommended that you get in touch as soon as you have a date in mind to make sure that paperwork is completed without stress.

School Holidays

We hope that students and staff have a fantastic Christmas break, full of fun and relaxation after what has been a very busy term. Stay safe.

Travelling over Christmas?

Please do take care when out and about over the holidays. With all the traffic on the roads, some extra care can go along way to making sure everyone gets safely home.



Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

HYMNS FOR MASS

Entrance:

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

Recessional:

When creation was begun,
God had chosen you to be
Mother of his blessed Son,
Holy Mary, full of grace.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

When creation was restored,
You were there beside the Lord
Whom you cherished and adored,
Holy Mary, full of grace.

