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**PARISHES OF  
HUNTSTOWN & LITTLEPACE  
MOUNTVIEW & BLAKESTOWN, DUBLIN 15**

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11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Greetings from your local parish.

We hope and pray that you are all keeping well despite these challenging times and constraints. We, the priests of the parish, together with all who minister here in our churches, want to assure you of our prayerful support as you prepare to celebrate Christmas. If there is anything we can help you with, please let us know and we will be glad to be of service to you.

I want to bring a number of things to your attention with regard to the **Christmas celebrations** in our churches and **building works** in St. Philip's church.

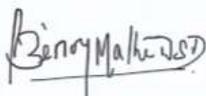
- Please take note of the **Mass times on the Christmas eve** as well as on the **Christmas day**.
  - **24<sup>th</sup> Dec: Mountview - 5pm, 7pm & 9pm**
  - **24<sup>th</sup> Dec: Huntstown - 5pm, 7pm & 9pm**
  - **24<sup>th</sup> Dec: Littlepace - 5pm & 7pm**
  - **25<sup>th</sup> Dec: Mountview - 8.30am, 10am & 12pm**
  - **25<sup>th</sup> Dec: Huntstown - 10.30am & 12.15pm**
  - **25<sup>th</sup> Dec: Littlepace -10am & 12pm**
- The number of people who can attend the Masses are limited according to the regulations.
- We **don't have a ticketing system** in any of the churches (Mountview, Huntstown & Littlepace). Our policy is **first come, first in**.
- All **Masses from Huntstown** on both Christmas eve and Christmas day **can be followed via** [www.mountviewblakestownparish.ie](http://www.mountviewblakestownparish.ie))
- Please also **find a short prayer service below that you may use at home on the Christmas day** as a family to celebrate the day meaningfully. We encourage you to create a prayer space and nativity crib to remind ourselves of the birth of Christ and to the delight of the children.
- We encourage you **to attend a Mass during the 12 days of Christmas** (25<sup>th</sup> Dec to 6<sup>th</sup> Jan) to make up for the Christmas **Eve/Day** Mass.
- **Holy communion will be distributed** both in Huntstown and Mountview churches on the Christmas day from 1pm to 2pm to those who make a private visit to the church for prayer.

- Priests will be available in Huntstown church from 2pm to 4pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December to hear **confession**.
- We request you to support your priests by donating to the **Christmas Dues, First and Second collection** (envelopes available in the church or **via 'Donation' button** on parish website [www.mountviewblakestownparish.ie](http://www.mountviewblakestownparish.ie)). Again, please consider donating to the local parish for its upkeep during these days of dwindling income. Thank you for your support!
- **St. Philip the Apostle church is open for daily Mass** (Mon – Fri at 9.15am, Mon, Wed & Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 10am) **and weekend Masses** (Sat 6pm, Sun 10am, 12pm & 6pm) and for private prayer. **Baptisms and funerals will not be taking place in Mountview until further notice but will be facilitated in Huntstown.**
- If you are in a position to donate to the building works in St. Philips, we encourage you to do so. Thank you for your continued support.
- **Parish notices** and updates are sent **via parish private WhatsApp broadcast group**. If you would like to be included, please text your name and number to **0892174317**.

There are a number of people who give their time, talents and resources for the daily running of our churches. We want to acknowledge your contribution and generosity. It is people like yourself who make your churches active and faith alive.

We request you to think of those living alone, those who have undergone bereavement, those who need to cocoon themselves, those who can't get home for this Christmas and people who are sick or in need of financial or emotional support these hard times.

Once again, on behalf of the parish team, I wish you all a safe and meaningful season of Christmas as Pope Francis said recently 'no pandemic can turn off the light of Christmas.



Fr. Binoy Mathew svd

## Christmas Day Prayer service for Home

**Leader:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Our help is in the Name of the Lord

**All:** who made heaven and earth.

**Leader:** As we gather for prayer as a family today, Father, there is excitement in the air, a song on our lips and joy in hearts. Help us to remember why we celebrate Christmas. May the Word which was made flesh be heard in our worship.

May Christ be born again in this home and in the life of each person here. May the love of Christmas fill our family and the peace of Christmas fill our hearts.

**Leader:** The eternal Word, born of the Father before time began, today emptied himself for our sake and became man.

### **Hymn (said)**

The Child of glory, the Child of Mary, born in the stable the king of all,  
Who came to the wilderness and in our stead suffered;  
Happy they are counted who to him are near.

**Leader:** The eternal Word, born of the Father before time began, today emptied himself for our sake and became man.

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Intersessions**

May our lives express what we celebrate at Christmas: May its mystery enrich our lives. **Lord hear us.**

We pray for everyone in our family that we may proclaim your birth to all. **Lord hear us.**

For the grace of hospitality, that we may see Jesus in the least of His brothers and sisters. **Lord hear us**

For all frontline workers, and all those whose work prevents them from sharing this day with those they love. **Lord hear us.**

For our dear ones who have died, that they may be celebrating this Christmas in the exultation of the heavenly kingdom. **Lord hear us**

**Crib Blessing:** Bless, we beseech you, Almighty God, this crib (*sprinkles it with holy water*) which we have prepared in honour of the new birth in the flesh of your only begotten Son, that we who devoutly contemplate in this image the mystery of His Incarnation, may be filled with the light of His glory. Who lives and reigns with you forever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

**Our father who art in heaven ...**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, come and dwell in our hearts this Christmastide, so that our home may have you in it and be full of joy and peace. 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 especially from this deadly virus by the blessing and protection which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Leader:** Let us bless the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### **PRAYER BEFORE THE MEAL:**

Come, Lord our God, and surround our feast day table as we delight in this joyous season of Christmas. Gift us in this meal with the taste of happiness as we savour this coming together of family and friends. May you, our God, bless our dinner-celebration and us in your holy name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.