

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Our Lady Immaculate Church – Darndale Belcamp Parish

www.darndalebelcampparish.org

Email: parish@darndalebelcamp.ie

Sat. 6th Dec.: **3 pm Multicultural Community Carol Service** Church
Advent and Christmas readings, poems, songs, and music from around the world and from Ireland, with traditions shared from Africa, Asia, Europe, and beyond. All are welcome!

Mon. 8th Dec.: **10 am Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass** Church
A celebration of our parish patronal feast day – Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. We will be joined by both the Junior and the Senior schools. All are welcome!

Sun. 14th Dec.: **9.30 am & 11 am Masses, Advent Reconciliation** Church
*At the beginning of the **Third Sunday of Advent** Masses, we will have the opportunity to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth through a communal celebration of reconciliation, reflecting on the Gospel of the day. All are welcome!*

Wed. 17th Dec.: **12 noon Carol Concert led by the Sacramental Groups** Church
Children preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, joined by the teachers and catechists, lead a Carol Concert. Special visitors are the children from OLI Junior School. All are welcome!

Wed. 17th Dec.: **7.30 pm Community Advent Reconciliation Service** Church
A communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation through prayer, song, readings and reflections. Individual Confession will be available for those who wish to avail of the opportunity. Welcome to our cluster parishes of Bonnybrook and Priorswood. All welcome!

Fri. 19th Dec.: **11 am Carol Service led by the Senior School** Church
Children and teachers from the OLI Senior School guide us through the story of Christmas with songs and readings. All are welcome!



Wed. 24th Dec.: **7 pm Night Mass of Christmas** Church
Christmas Eve *"Unto us a Child is born" - We begin with **CAROLS** at 6.30 pm followed by the Celebration of the **NIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS**. All are welcome!*

Thu. 25th Dec.: **9.30am & 11am Christmas Masses** Church
Christmas Day *"God-is-with-us" - Come celebrate the reason for Christmas. All are welcome!*

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

The modern Christmas tree originated in Germany, where families set up a “paradise tree” in their homes on December 24, the religious feast day of Adam and Eve.

**Let us ask God
to send his blessing upon us
and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.**

Lord, give light to our hearts.

**Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we illumine this tree.
May the light and cheer it gives
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.
May all who delight in this tree
come to the knowledge
and joy of salvation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath has evergreen leaves, reminding us that God is always with us. It is shaped like a circle, with no beginning or end, just like God’s love for us is always there for us, surrounding us every day.

**Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us,
He is the saviour of every nation.**

**Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ’s promise to bring us
salvation.**

**May He come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Amen.**

Blessing of the Christmas Crib

The first nativity scene was created, in Greccio, Italy, by Saint Francis of Assisi in 1223.

**Loving God,
You are the God
of every nation and every people.
From the beginning of time,
you have shown us your love.
When we were in need of a Saviour,
you sent your Son, born of Mary,
to be our light and our hope.
He brings us joy and peace,
justice, kindness and love.
Lord, bless all who look upon this crib.
May it remind us of Jesus’ simple birth
and lift our hearts to him —
God-with-us,
our Saviour and our friend,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Year Ahead

**May God make this year a happy one!
Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making our path easy,
But by making us sturdy
and able to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from us,
But by taking fear from our heart;
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping our faces bright,
even in the shadows;
Not by making our life always pleasant,
But by showing us people and causes
that need us most,
and by making us anxious to be there to help.
God’s love, peace, hope and joy
to us all for the year ahead.
Amen.**

*As we journey through Advent and draw near to the manger, may the Lord kindle in us
a fresh hope, a steady peace, and a joy that no darkness can overshadow.*

May Christ bless our homes, our communities, and all who gather with us this season.

**Wishing you a grace-filled Advent and a joyful Christmas.
Emmanuel, God-with-us, be your strength and your peace.**