

A note of joy is struck in the liturgy today for this has traditionally been called “*Gaudete* Sunday” (*Gaudete* being Latin for “rejoice”). This Sunday gets its name from the Entrance Antiphon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice”. This is also taken in today’s second reading: “Rejoice always” (1 Thessalonians 5:16). There is also the option of rose-coloured vestments for this Sunday, replacing the more sombre purple. In our liturgy today we light the rose candle as a sign of anticipation of Christmas joy.

Our consumerist and hedonistic society peddles a counterfeit joy: ‘buy this, look good, impress others, and you’ll be happy’. But we know this is deceptive and doesn’t last. Joy comes in making others happy. Joy comes in knowing that we are making a contribution to our world. Our words, too, at times, can have a force even at times greater than action. I am reminded to the words of scripture: “Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones” (Proverbs 16.24). Let our joy, then, radiate to others.



I have been overwhelmed in witnessing the generosity of this parish in its response to the various and numerous appeals over the year. The St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal that is presently taking place reminds us of our call to assist those most in need. The presents, food hampers and donations that you have contributed will go far to add cheer to someone at Christmas. I might add that it is impressive and encouraging to see so many lend a helping hand in the wrapping of presents and in the distribution of the hampers. This exemplary kindness of this parish has touched me most deeply.



On behalf of the parish community, I wish to extend a heartfelt gratitude to the family who donated the sacred vessels. May they be richly blessed for their goodness and generosity.

***Peace and blessings,  
Gerard***