

## *Advent Reflection*

### *Church of the Ascension of the Lord*

#### *Balally*

*20<sup>th</sup> December 2019*

### **Rejoice!**

 **Exultantes in Partu Virginis**  
*Le Puy Manuscript 12th-16th centuries)*

Exulting in the Virgin Birth by which the sin of mankind is washed away, in honour of the supreme Deity:  
let us rejoice!

Having become a parent, yet untouched by man, the Virgin gives birth, yet without pain, to Him whom she conceived by the Holy Spirit:  
Let us rejoice!

He who is God eternal, made man in the Son of the Father,  
with His light leads us in joy:  
Let us rejoice!

God-made-man absolves the wretch who had fallen from the height of the citadel.  
Humility overcomes pride:  
Let us rejoice!

Since they come from Him who created all things,  
let our rejoicings be pleasing to Him, that we may be with Him in glory:  
Let us rejoice!

**Reading 1 (LK 1: 39-45)**

🎵 Advent Magnificat (Ronan McDonagh)  
(From the collection Ancient Promise)

**Reading 2 (Is 45: 8)**

🎵 Rorate Caeli (Chant)

*Rorate caeli desuper et nubes pluant justum*

*(Drop down ye heavens from above and let the clouds rain down the Just One.)*

*Be not angry Lord, remember not our iniquity. Behold the city of the Holy One has become a desert, Sion a desert, Jerusalem desolate: a house hallowed by Thee and glorious for Thee where praise was given by our fathers.*

*We have sinned and become like the unclean, fallen like a leaf, our iniquities like wind have carried us away. You have hidden Thy face and crushed us by reason of our iniquities.*

*See Lord the affliction of Thy people and send Him whom Thou will send. Send forth the Lamb, the ruler of the earth from Petra in the desert to the mount of the daughter of Sion, that He may remove the yoke of this iniquity of ours.*

*Be comforted my people, Your salvation comes quickly. Why consumed with grief at sorrows hold? I will save you, do not fear. I indeed am the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel and your redeemer.*

🎵 Ps 18 (Ronan McDonagh)  
(From the collection At the End of the Sky)

**Reading 3 (1 Thessalonians 5 23:24)**

🎵 Come O Long expected Jesus (arr. John O Keeffe)  
(text: Wesley, tune: Divine Mysterium)

A selection of prayers from the book "Our Mass – Our Life"  
Diarmuid O Laoghaire SJ

🎵 Skellig (Lorena McKennitt)

Reading 4 (phil 3: 20b-21)

🎵 Ps 91 (Ronan McDonagh)  
(From the collection At the End of the Sky)

Reading 5 (Is 7:13-14)

🎵 Reul Alainn a Chuain (translated from text of F.W. Faber)  
(Irish/Scots Gaelic)

**A Mhaighdean is gile, a mháthair mhín shéimh/Purest of creatures sweet mother sweet maid**  
**An bhroinn ghlan 'nár luí do mhac, Íosa, ár nDé/Spotless womb wherein Jesus was laid**  
**Tá doircheacht na hoíche ag titim máguaird/Dark night is falling around us**  
**Ó nocht dúinn do shoilseacht, reul alainn a'chuain/reveal your shining, sweet star of the sea**

*Reul Alainn a'Chuain, Reul Alainn a'Chuain*  
**Ó nocht dúinn do shoilseacht, reul alainn a'chuain**

**Tá néalaibh na hoíche ag teacht ar an saol /clouds of night are falling on earth**  
**Tá bratach' an dorch'dais ar foluain sa ghaoth/dark banners are fanned by the wind**  
**Tán ár n-eaglais buartha, chughatsa ár n-amharc/our church is tossed, we turn to you**  
**Ó nocht dúinn do shoilseacht, Reul Alainn a'Chuain**  
*Reul Alainn a'Chuain...*

**Ba léir do Mhac Dé d'anam gleoite, glan, glé/God knew your beautiful soul**  
**Nár tháinig aon pheaca i ngaireacht do'd chroí/that no sin came near your heart**  
**Níorbh le héinn' thú ach Íosa Mac Dé/that no one owned you but He**  
**'s choisric Sé d'shoilseacht, Reul Alainn a'Chuain/and He blessed your shining....**  
*Reul Alainn a'Chuain...*

**An talamh nár thug aon fhoscadh do Dhi'/The earth gave no shelter to God**  
**Ach b'fhoscadh Dó croí na hóigh beannaithe, fial/other than the Virgins heart**  
**Foscadh dom féin agus folach d'ár nDé/my shelter too, and hiding for our God**  
**Ba mhór Leis do shoilseacht, reul alainn a'chuain/won by your shining**  
*Reul Alainn a'Chuain...*

🎵 **A Íosa Mhic Mhuire** (Trad. Arr: Ronan McDonagh)  
(From the collection Ancient Promise)

**Prayer of intercession**

 **Wait for the Lord** (Taizé)

*Wait for the Lord – Whose day is near*

*Wait for the Lord – be strong, take heart*

**Reading 6 (Phil 4: 4-5)**

 **Behold a Virgin Bearing Him** (Ronan McDonagh)

(From the collection Feasts and Seasons:

Music for the Church Year – Liturgical Music from Maynooth)

**Concluding Prayer**

*With thanks to:*

Sarah Lane – Director of Music Church of the Ascension of the Lord Balally

Mary O Donnell – Director of Music St Agnes' Church Crumlin

Naomi Dunleavy – O Shea – Director of Music St Joseph's Church Terenure

Kerrie O'Connor – Cantor for the parishes of Balally-Foxrock-Dún Laoghaire