



*St. Brigid's Blanchardstown.*

*Parish Newsletter, January 29th,  
2017.*

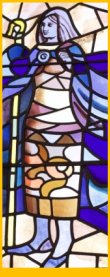
*Celebrating our Patron Saint.*

*4th Sunday in Ord Time.*

St. Brigid is a Patron Saint of Ireland, whose feast day is her birthday, the first day of Spring, 1<sup>st</sup> February. Brigid is also known as Muire na nGael. St. Brigid was born in Faughart, Dundalk, Co. Louth in AD450. Brigid lived at the time of St. Patrick, who inspired her to convert to Christianity and she wanted to serve her life looking after the poor and the sick in the name of God. At 18 years of age Brigid entered religious life at the convent of St. Macaille and she inspired many other young girls to join her. Brigid founded many convents, the most famous of which in Kildare and she became known as Brigid of Kildare.

In c470 she founded a double monastery for nuns and monks in Kildare and became Abbess. The Abbey of Kildare became famous throughout Europe as Irish missionaries spread the story of the kind and generous St. Brigid. It is said that St. Brigid went to the King of Leinster requesting land for the Abbey; she had found the perfect place. The King refused and Brigid prayed that he might change his mind. She asked the king 'will you give me as much land as my cloak will cover?' The King, amused, agreed. Brigid began to spread her cloak on the ground. The cloak grew and grew and covered acres of land. When the King saw this he realised Brigid was indeed a holy woman and he offered her food and supplies. The King converted to Christianity and began to help the poor. On another occasion, Brigid was requested to sit with a pagan chieftain in Kildare, who was delirious and raging on his death-bed. The Chieftain was so delirious it was impossible for Brigid to talk to him, so she just sat with and comforted him. Brigid began to weave rushes from the floor into the shape of a cross. The Chieftain quietened as he began to notice Brigid and he asked what she was doing. With the help of the cross Brigid explained the story of Christ and the cross. From then on this cross became known as the **St. Brigid's Cross** and St. Brigid used it to explain Christ to other pagans.

St. Brigid died aged 75 in AD525 on the same day she was born, 1<sup>st</sup> February. She was placed in a jewelled casket and buried in a tomb at the High Altar of her Abbey church. As protection from Norse invaders her remains were exhumed in 835 and placed to rest at Downpatick with St. Patrick and St. Columcille. Although her skull was extracted and taken by three knights to the Holy land, however, they perished near Lisbon, Portugal, and St. Brigid's skull is enshrined in a special chapel in the church at Lumier. It is reported that a tunic belonging to St. Brigid is kept at St Donatian's, Bruges, Belgium, and a jewelled shoe made of silver and brass is displayed at the National Museum in Dublin.



In procession and around our Sanctuary you will see symbols associated with the life and miracles of St. Brigid: The lantern of St. Brigid- symbolising the fire in her heart for love of Christ and love of neighbour, the Cloak of St. Brigid and the Cross of St. Brigid- to constantly remind us how God worked through her to make His Kingdom a reality and the Icon of St. Brigid- taken from our own stained glass window, so that we can offer our prayers and seek intercession to and with our beloved Patron Saint.



**Make a St. Brigid's Cross**

You are most welcome to call into the Pastoral Centre, after the 10.30am and 12 noon Mass, to a workshop about making a St. Brigid's Cross. We will also have tea and coffee from our Hospitality Group who are always delighted to see you there.



Welcome all our First Holy Communion candidates this weekend for the "Do this in memory" masses.



The St. Vincent De Paul clothes appeal is taking place this weekend-January 29th. The bags will be collected over the coming days and so many thanks for your generosity from all the local conference here.

Blanchardstown Prayer group will have a special Mass for the repose of Mrs. Kitty Mc Carthy and Mr. Noel Collins recently deceased. Mass to be celebrated by Rev. Cyril Mangan P.P. on this Tuesday January 31st at 8pm.



Interested in becoming an Altar server to serve at the Saturday evening and Sunday Masses, then don't hesitate to contact Kevin or leave your name and details with Dan in the Sacristy. Kevin: 0866023450

"New Pilgrim Path" is a website aimed at introducing parishioners to the great wealth of Christian resources on the Internet. It was inspired by Pope Francis' enthusiasm for the Internet as offering immense possibilities for encounter and solidarity, and his exhortation to "boldly become citizens of the digital world". We provide links to and a brief description of a variety of websites including those offering online retreats, daily prayer resources, spiritual reflections, sacred music, Christian poetry, etc.

Each week we feature a "Website of the Week" which we publicise through inserts in Parish newsletters.

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week, 29th January 2017: Christian Meditation Ireland**

Christian Meditation Ireland (CMI) is part of the ecumenical World Community for Christian Meditation, which continues the work initiated 40 years ago by the Benedictine monk, John Main, in renewing and sharing the ancient path of contemplative prayer. The CMI website offers rich resources for individual and group meditation, and will also help you find an Irish meditation group near you. Access this, and many other rich online spiritual resources, via [www.NewPilgrimPath.ie](http://www.NewPilgrimPath.ie).



**Door to door fundraising for Parish-planned canvass of houses**

Parishioners will be aware of the ongoing canvass of the parish in 2016 in relation to the FAMILY OFFERING (BANK STANDING ORDER/ENVELOPE BOX).

As mentioned before we were very pleased with the very positive response to the canvass and particularly the warm welcome the canvassers received at the doors.

The Finance Committee plan to recommence the canvass in March 2017 and in that regard we will be on the lookout for new canvassers and collectors over the coming weeks.

If you would like to volunteer and help out in your parish, please get in touch with the Parish Secretary, Christine, in the Parish Office (018115412) and give her your contact details. A member of the Fundraising Committee will then get in touch with you and invite you along to a short meeting in order to familiarise you with procedures which are very straight forward.

Prospective canvassers may wish to know that all our canvass teams' work in pairs and that they will canvass with an existing experienced canvasser.

**REMEMBER TO TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOU AS YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH AND KEEP AN EYE ON THE SPONSORS ON THE BACK.**

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven." Here, in a nutshell, is the Christian belief about the afterlife. We trust that heaven is open to believers who accept the gift of salvation and follow the way of the Lord, even (or especially) when that way is difficult!

The beatitudes in today's Gospel give us a program for following the path to heaven. These famous words offer a kind of twofold image. There are, on the one hand, the beatitudes about what we should do and be: poor in spirit, meek, merciful, clean of heart, and peacemakers. Such qualities are reflections of the nature of God in whose image we are meant to live. When we embrace and reflect this image to the world, there is no doubt we are walking on the path of God's will.

Then, there are also the beatitudes about what we are called to endure: mourning, hunger for righteousness, persecutions and insults due to our belief in Jesus. These are the trials that often beset the life of a faithful Christian—admittedly more so in some ages and areas than in others. But Jesus makes it clear that even these trials and struggles are a sign that a Christian is on the right path, not that God has abandoned him or her, but that the reward of heaven lies around the corner.

One of the greatest consolations of our faith is that even when life does not unfold according to our own perfect designs, even when there is suffering to deal with, even when we do not have great success in the eyes of the world, we can maintain hope and peace as we await the "reward" of the just. The eternal happiness of heaven will be worth every ounce of temporary trial here on earth.

**Laudate Festival 2017** An evening of music and reflection in Our Lady of Victories Church, Ballymun Road - Tuesday 31 January at 7.00 p.m. or in the Church of St. Laurence O'Toole, Kilmacud - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7.00 p.m. This is a pilot project of the Education Secretariat and the Liturgy Resource Centre, which brings together children from 21 Primary Schools of the Archdiocese to sing a shared repertoire of liturgical music and to mark Catholic Schools Week 2017.

Westmanstown Golf Club is open for new members and ladies and gents vacancies are available in: Intermediate-age 24 to 26, students age 18 to 23, juveniles; girls and boys 11 to 17. Contact: 01-8205817

**Mass Intentions**

**Jan 29th**

**Feb 5th**

Sat. 7pm	Patrick Briody	Michael McDonald
Sun 9am	Martin & Clare Corry	Kitty Mc Carthy
10.30am	Liam Bergin	Patrick Keating
12 noon	Bernie Fleming	Sheila & Patrick Fitzpatrick
7pm	Tom & Kathleen O'Toole	Ciaran Halpin



Percy French Troubadours

at

St Mochta's Pastoral Centre

On

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 - at 8pm Present

Percy French at Kilkee

By Michael Boland

*An Insight into the Life and Music of Percy French*

**We have a number of St. Paul's Sunday Missals for the readers. They are only 8 euro and are available in the Sactisty.**

Places are still available for the 'Supporting Bereaved People' workshop. **SUPPORTING BEREAVED PEOPLE**

Date	Time	Presenter
Thursday, 9th February 2017 McGinley	9.15am – 4.15pm	Estelle

This workshop will explore ways to combine competence and compassion in supporting bereaved people. Contemporary theories and models of grief will be introduced as well as creative ways of working with loss. The workshop will be experiential in part with a focus on practical tips for enhanced bereavement support.

**Venue:** The Irish Hospice Foundation, Bereavement Education & Resource Centre, Morrison Chambers, 4th Floor, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2, D02 YE06.

**Fee €100** (1-day workshop) includes light lunch/tea and coffee.

Contact the Hospice Foundation at 01 6793188

The Parish Website is up and running and has all parish details as well as up to date information about forthcoming initiatives and activities. It also has a newsletter archive and a gallery of past events and celebrations. [www.blanchardstownparish.ie](http://www.blanchardstownparish.ie)

We welcome, through the Sacrament of Baptism, to the Faith Community, Kayla Grace, Oliver Richard, Conall Michael, Erin Bridget, and Matthew Patrick. Baptised on January 21st.

**READERS FOR FEB 5TH**

7pm Anne Andrews / 9am Kieran Kirrane / 10.30am Tony Devlin / 12 noon: Sheila Gouldson/ 7pm: Derek Whelan

