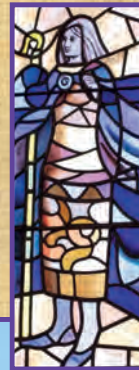


St. Brigid's Blanchardstown.

Parish Newsletter, January 15th 2017



Behold, the Lamb of God...

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God." John the Baptist had an important message to impart. He was called by God to prepare the people of Israel to recognize Jesus' true identity. In a sense, he helped establish credibility for Christ by confirming that he was in fact the Messiah. Jesus didn't just have to claim it on his own; John also "testified" to the fact. We, of course, also benefit from the witness of John the Baptist recorded for us in the Gospels. And we have additional witnesses from the rest of the people throughout the Gospels who knew and recognized Jesus as the Son of God. But we also have the benefit of two thousand years of Church history! We have countless testimonies of saints and believers throughout the centuries who have known Jesus in their own lives and acted accordingly.

This raises two questions. First, are we willing to believe these testimonies from those who have gone before us? Consider how much credence we give to the experiences and the stories of our forefathers and foremothers in the faith--whether they are blood relatives or members of the larger communion of saints. Sometimes these personal accounts of coming to know the Lord are much more powerful than any "proof" or intellectual proposal about Christianity. They do require a degree of faith and trust, but they nonetheless provide us with real evidence about the impact of being close to Christ.

Secondly, let us consider whether or not we are willing to give testimony to who Christ is to us? It's one thing to believe in Jesus; it's another thing to share that faith with others. But like John the Baptist, we are called to share the truth so that others may come to believe.

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



The St. Vincent De Paul clothes appeal is taking place on the weekend of January 29th. The bags

that are used to collect the clothes will be available next weekend, the 22nd, in the church for you to take home and to return on the 29th. Many thanks for your generosity.



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



Hey Kids! wanna sing? Then Blanchardstown Music Ministry is the place for you! Our New Junior Choir has begun rehearsing in the Pastoral Centre. New members welcome. For information please email blanchjuniorchoir@gmail.com



The remaining 2017 calendars are still available from the Sacristy or the Pastoral centre and some outlets across the Parish, be sure to get yours before they are all gone, selling fast!

Training for carers Looking for a career in the care sector? Family Carers Ireland are providing the QQI Level 5 Healthcare Award in 2017 in or around your area based on demand. One day topic specific workshops also available. For more info contact the training unit on 0579322920.



It is only 7 euro. Proceeds will go towards a new partition divide for the extension.

New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week: Monasteries of the Heart

"Monasteries of the Heart" is a website created to address a growing demand for a spiritual program that enables lay people to implement Benedictine values into their daily lives. The movement is open to anyone—regardless, or even in the absence of a faith tradition—who desires to seek God through a Benedictine way of life. Access this and many other rich online Christian websites via www.NewPilgrimPath.ie.

B.E. - BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

B.E. is a support group for those coping with the pain of loss of their life partner, through Death, Separation or Divorce. Few people are able to cope alone with the pain of loss. Do you find that you need more support than family and friends can provide? Seeking help is a sign of strength and self-knowledge – not weakness. This is a healing ministry, which helps to resolve the grief that goes with the end of a marriage or relationship. Coping effectively with bereavement is a skill we can all learn. A team, who are themselves widowed, separated or divorced share their experiences with you.

Next Coping Programme will commence on **Wednesday 8th February 2017** for 7 Wednesday evenings, at 7.15pm in White Friars Community Centre, Aungier St., Dublin 2 For further information phone 086 0877379 or email bedublin@gmail.com. www.beginningexperience.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.



The World Meeting of Families comes to Ireland! Dublin, Ireland, has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families in August 2018. Families and others from all over the world will gather in Dublin from 22-26 August 2018 to celebrate their lives together, to share their experiences from different parts of the world, to reflect on the different challenges they face and to grow together in faith. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for WMOF2018 is *The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World*. The WMOF2018 Logo, launched in December 2016, reflects on this theme and our journey towards August 2018. We have placed the WMOF 2018 prayer cards around the church for you to take home as well as a special edition of the prayer placed in the Sanctuary at the Ambo.

Always wanted to volunteer overseas? Looking for a course about global social injustice? Learn more at the Viatores Christi (VC) - Information & Recruitment Session in Dublin on Saturday 14th January 2017 at 12.00 at VC HQ, 8 New Cabra Rd., Phibsboro, Dublin 7

OR Tel. 01 8689986 apply@viatoreschristi.com www.viatoreschristi.com ALL WELCOME!

Migraine Association of Ireland

Migraine Self-Help Groups

Dublin North
January 17th, 24th & 31st 2017

Venue: The North Star Hotel,
Amiens Street, Dublin 1
Time: 7pm - 9pm

Topics covered include:

- Symptoms
- Trigger Factors
- Medical Treatment
- Lifestyle Issues
- Complementary Treatments
- Migraine at Work/Migraine in Children

Registration required as places are limited to 15

For more information or to book a place contact the
Migraine Helpline at
1850-200-378 or
info@migraine.ie

Admission: FREE
www.migraine.ie

Faite Isteach

Conversational English Local people working with those who have come to Ireland with improving their English.

Venues are: Dillon House, Coolmine. Tyrrelstown Community Centre. Blakestown Community Centre. Ongar Community Centre. Times and more details in Parish Notice board / ph: 018209550

Interested in Toast-Masters? Well come along to a visitor night on Monday Jan. 23rd. Further details at www.phoenix-taratoastmasters.com. All welcome!



Bereavement Information Evening

Venue: The Carnegie Court Hotel, North Street, Swords, Co. Dublin
Date: Wednesday, January 18th 2017
Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm (Registration from 7:15pm)

Mass Intentions

Jan 15th

Jan 22nd

Sat. 7pm	Luke & Mary Anne Clarke	Gerard Cahill
Sun 9am	Margaret, James & Olive English	John & Ellen Hyland
10.30am	Liam Mc Carthy	Christine Clarke
12 noon	Frank Power	John & Paddy Duffy
7pm	Jeremiah O'Brien	William Franey

We welcome, through the Sacrament of Baptism, to the Faith Community, Kayla Grace and Oliver Whiston Baptised on January 21st.

READERS FOR JAN 22nd 2017

7pm Kevin Cullen / 9am Maeve O'Donoghue / 10.30am Maire Martin / 12 noon: Ignatius Byrne / 7pm: John Reid

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Email: catherinefanagan@leader.weightwatchers.ie

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