

St. Brigid's Blanchardstown, Parish Newsletter.

3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) – 17th Dec, 2017



SEEING YOUR LIFE
THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS
John 1:6-8, 19-28

THE DEEP END: Light and Darkness

Last week we were introduced to John the Baptist as part of our Advent journey. We hear his story again today, and in this account, from the fourth gospel, we hear John's voice and his testimony about Jesus. Light and darkness is a key theme of the fourth gospel and its opening verses proclaims that this light has always shone in the dark; the darkness cannot overpower it. The evangelist goes on to tell us that John the Baptist's mission is that he has been sent by God to 'speak for the light'. John is a light-bearer, he is not the light, but he points to the light. He is a witness to the light of God in our world, a light that cannot be put out.

We celebrate this light today on Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means 'rejoice'; we light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy. It might be a good opportunity to ask today: 'who have been the light-bearers on your own faith journey'? Who testified to the Light of God and passed the torch on to you? We thank God for them.

Lord there is much darkness in society and in our church ... We become cynical and settle for mediocrity. We thank you that someone always comes on the scene, sent by you as a witness to speak for the light ... teachers, community leaders, grandparents, children, a friend they bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light shines that darkness cannot overcome. Michel de Verteuil

1. 'There is one among you whom you do not know'.

We can know about Jesus but do we know him? What helps you to know Jesus in a way that enables you to follow in his footsteps, trusting God as he did, and seeing other people as he did?

2. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news that God loves you – a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have you borne that witness?

3. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?

4. John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?

John Byrne osa

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Christmas Arrangements 2017

CHRISTMAS WEEK CONFESSIONS

Fri 22nd Dec 10.30a.m. – 12 noon
Sat. 23rd Dec: 10.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.
Sun 24th Dec: 12.45p.m. – 2.00 p.m.
(Christmas Eve)

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Sun. 24th Dec: Morning Mass – 9.00, 10.30, and 12 noon
(Christmas Eve): **7.00 p.m. VIGIL MASS**
led by the Family Mass Team.
9.20 p.m. Carol Service*
10.00 p.m. NIGHT MASS*

Monday 25th: Masses at 9, 10.30* & 12 noon
(Christmas Day): **NO EVENING MASS**

Tue. 26th (St. Stephen's Day) - Fri. 29th Mass @ 11.00 a.m.
Sat. 30th Morning Mass 11am, vigil Mass for Sunday 7pm
Sun. 31st Mass at 9, 10.30, 12 noon and 7pm
Mon. 1st Jan 2018: Mass at 11 am
Tue. 2nd Jan 2018: normal 10am Mass resumes
Fri. 6th The Epiphany: Mass at 10 am with
Vigil Mass at 7pm on Fri. 5th Jan



Saturday 6th/7th January 2018

Father Gary Holmes, Missionary of the Most Holy Eucharist, will preach at all Masses. He will give a talk on Eucharistic Adoration with Q /A after Sunday evening Mass.

Last Monday morning Meditation before Christmas

with Máirín, our Parish Pastoral Worker.
A good opportunity to get some quiet time amid all the hustle and bustle.



Movement Therapy for People with Parkinson's Disease.

Movement Therapy Classes with Mr. Pat O'Dea, through exercise, dance and enjoyment Wednesdays at 4.30 pm St. Brigid's Community Centre, Blanchardstown
All welcome— bring a friend or relative.



World Meeting of Families 2018

December 5, 2017 at 8:07am

#WMOF2018 #VolunteersActFirst



Apply to volunteer at
www.worldmeeting2018.ie/Volunteer

Phone: +353 1 567 6812
Email: volunteer@worldmeeting2018.ie

Remember your neighbour this Christmas.

ALONE encourages us all to check on our elderly neighbours this festive season. If you are concerned about an older person in your community, phone a member of **ALONE** on 01 679 1032.



Social Support Agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin

Thanks to all who contributed so generously to the recent Crosscare Food Appeal

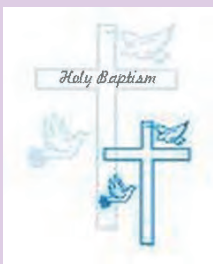


Annual Christmas Collection for the St. Vincent de Paul
Many thanks for your generosity last week-end

OUR RED BOXES



Many thanks for your generosity with our Red Boxes. The total count so far this year comes to just over €2,755. This money goes towards projects associated with the upkeep and maintenance of our Church and Pastoral Centre.



Welcome to
Andrei Denis
Charlie, Sadie
Rebeka and Natas

Who were recently baptised

READERS FOR Dec 24th Dec

7pm: Anne Andrews 9am: Michael O'Connor
 10.30am: John McNulty 12 noon: Ignatius Byrne

READERS FOR 25TH DEC

10pm: Christine Carleton 9am: Kathleen Brennan
 10.30: Tony Devlin 12 noon: Eamonn Burke



OÍCHE NOLLAG 2017 - AIFREANN NA GINE

Dé Domhnaigh, 24 Nollaig

Masses in Irish, Christmas Eve Sunday, 24th Decenber 2017

Ard Aidhin Aireagal an Aiséir 7.30pm

Bothar na Cille Móire, Baile Atha Cliath 5

(Artane Oratory of the Resurrection, Kilmore Road, Dublin 5

Belfield—An Séipéal Ollscoile 9.00pm

An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath 4

Belfield University Chapel, University College, Dublin 4

**Eucharistic Adoration continues all day
 next Tuesday and after confessions on Friday**

**Mass Inten-
 tions**

Dec 17th

Dec 24th

Sat. 7pm Stephen McGrath

Sun 9am -

10.30am Padraic Naughton

12 noon John Curtin

7pm Chrissy Flynn

ACCORD, Blanchardstown.

We're seeking a volunteer receptionist to help facilitate our work in Accord. As clients arrive, our volunteer will answer the door, welcome them to Accord and direct them to the counselling rooms. Volunteers will also answer the phone. Volunteers are needed once a month on a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday evening at the Accord Centre in Blanchardstown from 7pm to 10pm.

What's required for this position

Good communication skills, respectful, reliability

Garda Vetting will be required

Hours required: 7pm to 10pm

Contact details : Please contact Orla on **8201044** or email us at **Blanchardstown@dublin.accord.ie**

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Please spread the word to family, friends (both at home and abroad), those housebound and also young families with smart devices All church services over the Festive Season are available on the internet via www.blanchardstown.parish.ie

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

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BACK TO SCHOOL ESSENTIALS



OPENING HOURS

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Monday	9a.m. - 9p.m.
Tuesday	9a.m. - 9p.m.
Wednesday	9a.m. - 9p.m.
Thursday	9a.m. - 9p.m.
Friday	9a.m. - 9p.m.
Saturday	9a.m. - 6p.m.

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