



St. Brigid's Blanchardstown.

Parish Newsletter, February 26th, 2017. 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

"Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?" No, indeed we can't. But evidence does suggest that worrying can subtract time from our life span! Clearly, we are not meant to worry. It's not healthy and it's not useful. But for many of us, it's quite difficult not to be anxious and concerned about matters that are important to us. So what is the secret to letting go of this unnecessary anxiety? Jesus gives us an answer in today's Gospel. "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides." In other words, our focus should be on being faithful followers of God. When we put our trust in the providence of the One who "clothes the grass of the field," and stop trying to rely on our own powers, then things will be taken care of: "Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all."

Part of the secret here, of course, is coming to accept God's will for us, even when it doesn't perfectly match what we may have been envisioning. There is a kind of surrender involved that puts God's plan first. Instead of getting worked up that things aren't going our way, this kind of reliance upon God enables us to relax and accept the way things are going. The great spiritual writer, Jean-Pierre de Caussade, put it well in his work, *Abandonment to Divine Providence*, when he said, "To escape the distress caused by regret for the past or fear about the future, this is the rule to follow: leave the past to the infinite mercy of God, the future to His good Providence, give the present wholly to His love by being faithful to His grace." God takes care of the birds, the flowers, even the grass! He will also take care of us.

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



Many Hands Make **LIGHT** Work

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU

Door to door fundraising for Parish-planned canvass of houses

Parishioners will now be aware that canvass of our parish in relation to the FAMILY OFFERING (BANK STANDING ORDER/ENVELOPE BOX) will recommence in March.

The canvass will continue for some months and as mentioned at all the masses last week the Committee would welcome new canvassers and collectors to join the team.

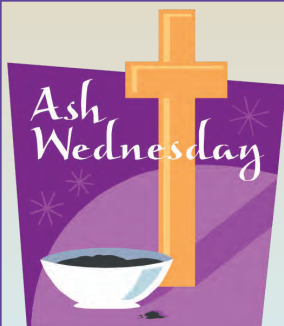
If you would like to get involved and help out with the canvass, please get in touch with the Parish Secretary, Christine, in the Parish Office (018115412) and give her your contact details. A member of the Fundraising Committee will then get in touch with you in order to familiarise you with procedures which are fairly straight forward.

Prospective canvassers may wish to know that they will be accompanied at all times by one of our experienced canvassers.

Remember this is the principal source of parochial funding for our parish and all funds generated by it go exclusively to the maintenance, development and pastoral work of OUR parish, St Brigid's.

The canvass teams look forward to a continued warm and friendly welcome at the doors.

Thanks



Wednesday, March 1st, is Ash Wednesday, a day of Fast and Abstinence, and the beginning of the Lenten Liturgical Season.

Ashes will be distributed at 10 Mass and will be available

throughout the day at the Sanctuary.

Today is a Day of Prayer for Temperance and we offer our prayers for those who suffer from alcoholism and its effects on family and society. May the Spirit give them strength and courage to give up alcohol.



Movie Nights

Lenten Movie Nights

Why not commit some time this Lent to this new initiative: This Lent we are having a number of Movie Nights. The movies will have Scriptural, Spiritual and Pastoral overtones that we will examine through conversation and debate. The first of the Movie Nights will take place this Tuesday, February 28th, at 7pm in the Pastoral centre and it will be "Babette's Feast" facilitated by Liam Dunne. Put it in your diary and see you there.

Monday morning meditation continues over Lent in the Pastoral centre. Why not consider using that time as part of your Lenten prayer life. As always, it begins after the 10am Mass and Rosary and you are all most welcome.



Our Annual Novena of Grace begins again this year on Saturday March 4th. We are delighted to have with us Fr. Vincent Travers, Dominican, who will preach at the 10am morning Mass.

St. Brigid's Child Safeguarding policy

The Archdiocese of Dublin recognises and upholds the dignity and rights of all children, is committed to ensuring their safety and well being and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this. The Archdiocese recognises each child as a gift from God, and values and encourages the participation of children in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development. All diocesan personnel (including clergy, religious, staff and volunteers) have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse. Your Parish Safeguarding Representatives are contactable through the parish office. If you have a concern about child abuse, please contact either Diocesan Child Safeguarding & Protection Service (CSPS) / Designated Liaison Person Mr. Andrew Fagan, Director, Child Safeguarding and Protection Service, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe College, Dublin 3. Tel. 01-8360314. (Mon-Fri: 09:00-17:00) Deputy Designated Liaison Person Ms. Julie McCullough, Child Protection Officer, Child Safeguarding and Protection Service, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe College, Dublin 3. Tel. 01-8360314. (Mon-Fri: 09:00-17:00) OR Tusla Office: OR YOUR Local Garda Station:..

Caring for the Future of our Planet:

We invite you to participate in four nights of reflection on one of the most critical issues of our time exploring the environmental impact of our lifestyles in view of creating a sustainable world for our children. Each night we will explore our topics with short talks, videos and group discussions. Pope Francis' Letter Laudato Si will inform our reflections as we make this Lenten journey together. Join us at 8.00pm each evening from Monday 6th -27th March in Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh, Glendalough, Co Wicklow Tel: 0404 45600. We will discuss *The Environmental Story Today, The Social Consequences of our Choices, An Integral and Sustainable Ecology and Committing to a Better Future.*

A modern message in a much loved tradition...

In the March issue of *The Sacred Heart Messenger*, Seamus Claffey writes on the similarities between St Francis and Pope Francis, as we celebrate the fourth anniversary of the Pope's election. Bondi Beach in Australia is the unlikely setting for Alan Hilliard's piece on St Patrick's Day. Moya Fahy considers Ignatian spirituality in the parish, while Brendan McPartlin tells us about migrant communities in Portadown.

At the request of the Choir Committee for St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral Girls' Choir and The Palestrina Choir, in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council and parishioners it has been agreed for pastoral and liturgical reasons to change the 10.00a.m. Sunday Mass to 9.30a.m. with effect from Sunday 5th March (First Sunday of Lent).

Free training course in using the internet – are you interested?

You may be interested in learning how to access and use the internet but have nobody to teach you. Now, the voluntary organisation, Third Age, has been funded by the Government to offer free classes to people like you. The Digital Skills scheme is part of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment 'Getting Citizens Online' programme.

The free training course is a 10-hour programme over five weeks, two hours per week. It covers introduction to the Internet, Internet security and safety, email, search engines and websites, online government services, conducting everyday transactions, online voice and video calls and use of apps. The course is designed to inspire confidence in its intended audience of non-liners, and to create opportunities for successful self-learning.

Classes will be starting during the week beginning Monday, March 6 in Senior Help Line's Amiens Street offices – Senior Help Line is a programme of Third Age. If you are interested, or would like know more, please contact Ann on 087-9031265 Monday-Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm



Make-A-Wish Ireland Annual Wish Day – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Make-A-Wish® Ireland has one simple aim – we grant the wishes of children aged between 3 and 17 years living with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy and create extraordinary memories for them and their families.

Volunteer are needed for WISH DAY, our annual fundraising day, on Friday 31st March 2017.

There are a number of ways you could get involved and support us:

- * select a location nearby and volunteer to sell our badges there for the day
- * hold a coffee morning or bake sale in aid of Make-A-Wish
- * hold a Jersey Day or a similar themed day in aid of Make-A-Wish

Money raised on the day goes to continuing to grant wishes to our brave wish children.

If you can commit to the full day or even a few hours selling our badges, please visit www.makeawish.ie to register online at one of our collection points. Alternatively contact Emma Horgan emma@makeawish.ie or call 01 2052012 for more details

On behalf of everyone at Make-A-Wish, our wish children and their families, thank you for your support, we really do appreciate it.

Lenten Talk 2017: Join Blakestown Parish walking through Lent with various Biblical Characters around the Passion Narrative for six Wednesdays in Church of St. Mary of the Servants beginning 8th March – 12th April from 7.00-7.45pm each evening. Facilitated by Fr. Timothy Lehane, SVD. Cup of tea after every session. All welcome.

Spiritual Direction Training: Manresa has offered training in the theory and practice of spiritual direction since the 1970's. Applications are currently being processed for the 2017 enrolment in the Diploma in Spirituality (Spiritual Direction) course, currently validated by Maynooth. Find out more about this opportunity for personal and ministerial enhancement - More information and application forms are available on: <http://www.manresa.ie/content/spiritual-direction-training>, or email reception@manresa.ie

Mass Intentions Feb 26th March 5th

Mass Intentions	Feb 26th	March 5th
Sat. 7pm	Deceased members of the Hanratty family	Noel Collins
Sun 9am	Patrick & Ann Mullins	Patrick Bruen
10.30am	Kevin Nugent	Kitty Mc Carthy
12 noon	Colette Eglington	Joseph Brennan
7pm	Patrick Doolan	Jadwiqa Frank Ezarkowski

We welcome, through the Sacrament of Baptism, to the Faith Community,
Jaimee Belle, Millie Olivia, Freya,
Hayden, Phoenix Jaskson, Michelle
Baptised on Feb. 18th.

READERS FOR MARCH 5TH

7pm Margaret Keane / 9am Richard Carroll / 10.30am Kieran Korrane / 12 noon John Mc Nulty / 7pm Eamon Burke

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