



I washed and I can see

St. Brigid's Blanchardstown.

Parish Newsletter, March 26th, 2017, 4th. Sunday of Lent.



The Sacred Space at the front of the Altar symbolises our Lenten journey. It is stark and bare with a cross, a desert plant, rocks and stones. It also contains a backpack and shoes, these are symbolic of our journey through Lent; the backpack might represent the issues we bring with us—our hopes and fears, our burdens and delights. The shoes might symbolise the paths we

are taking, the choices we have made that bring us to this point in our lives. As we reflect on this tableau we put ourselves beside Jesus in the wilderness and wonder: what tempts me in my life? What causes me to turn away from God? what am I being offered that might lead me to stray from Gospel values?

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.

The World Meeting of Families takes place in 2018 and preparations are underway to get ready for such an immense gathering from across the world. A special collection will take place, next weekend, on the 1st and 2nd of April 2017, this collection will replace the Share Collection.



During this Lenten Season we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross every Friday morning at 9.30am before the morning Mass at 10am. You are all most welcome to come to them and join other parishioners as we walk the Via Dolorosa with Christ.

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



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 third of the Movie Nights will take place on Tuesday, March 28th, at 7pm in the Pastoral centre and it will be great to see you there.

Remember; the Padre Pio Mass, which takes place in the Oratory on the second Tuesday of the month, has changed from 7.30pm to 1pm.



MEĐJUGORJE

Easter Pilgrimage, Depart Dublin 16th April 2017. For 7 Days. Group Leader: Eleanor Healy Accompanied by a Spiritual Director

€699 per person inclusive. Half board accommodation in superb private house.



OASIS DAYS

Oasis days are one day retreats open to everyone to come to and assist with your personal spiritual journey. There is an Oasis day on April 1st, 2017 in Manresa, the Jesuit centre of Spirituality, Dollymount and the cost is €50, this includes lunch and refreshments. If interested please contact Sr. Teresa or Manresa at 01 8331352



Door to door fundraising for Parish-planned canvass of houses

The canvass of our Parish has recommenced. The areas being canvassed include: Roselawn, Hazel Lawn, Ramor Park, Clonsilla Road, Rushbrook and Broadway. The canvass teams look forward to meeting parishioners at the doors and are confident that the generous and welcoming spirit will continue in this phase of the canvass.

As always, many thanks for time and patience.

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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. Facilitated by Fr. Timothy Lehane, SVD. Cup of tea after every session. All welcome.

He has spoken through the prophets...

Viatores Christi talk series on renewal and the future of the Irish Church
A series of hard-hitting thought-provoking seminars from different perspectives

Bishop Willie Walsh - 4th April 2017
Mark Patrick Hederman OSB - 3rd May 2017
Patricia Coyle - 7th June 2017

7.00pm - 9.30pm
 Lecture Hall, Belvedere College, Dublin 1
 Suggested donation €10

To book your place call 01- 8689986 or email info@viatoreschristi.com

Annual Retreat/Conference: The First Annual Retreat and Conference for the Catholic Grandparents Association will take place on Wednesday 26th – 27th April in the Dominican Retreat Centre, Tallaght Village, Dublin 24. *Theme:* "Helping our Children and Grandchildren to know, love and share God in these highly secularised times "through lively discussions, workshops and resources with speakers: Fr. Enda Barry, Fr. Benny McHale, Mrs Kate Liffey and Catherine Wiley. Price is €160 per person (single room) with full board and €120 non-residential attendance for two days - meals included. Further info contact Connie on 098 24877 or email: catholicgrandparents@gmail.com All welcome.



"Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him." The prevailing theology of Jesus' time led people to believe that any kind of disability was a punishment from God. So Jesus' disciples assumed that the man born blind suffered that affliction because of someone's sin: either his parents' or his own. But Jesus sets the record straight. Not only did he reject the idea that the blindness was a punishment for sin; he also went so far as to suggest that this very trial was an opportunity for God's glory to be revealed. And sure enough, it was. Jesus worked a miracle of healing for the man who followed his directions and "came back able to see." So it was that the "works of God" became "visible" through a man who was blind! But, ironically, not everyone had the eyes to see the miracle. The Gospel tells us that "there was a division among them" as they debated whether this remarkable healing was really an act of God. Jesus stated that he came "so that those who do not see might see." And so, who are we? Are we blinded by our own expectations of how God is supposed to work? Are we so caught up in our own vision of what we wish would happen that we fail to appreciate what is actually unfolding before our very eyes? It is so easy to perceive trials, disabilities, sickness, and misfortune as a curse or the result of being abandoned by God. But today's Gospel suggests another reality. In the midst of these very difficulties, God wants to reveal himself, to show his love and mercy. It may not always be in the exact way we expect, but without a doubt, even in these challenging realms, God is always at work.

<u>Mass Intentions</u>	March 26th	April 2nd
Sat. 7pm	Conor Mc Grane	Angela Goodwin, George & Louise Keeley
Sun 9am	Patrick Hogan	Thomas Clarke
10.30am	Maria Mc Carthy	Diarmuid Clarke
12 noon	Agnes & Sean Keogh & deceased family members	Matt Farrell
7pm	Kathleen O'Rourke	Oliver Sheridan & Simon & Molly Kennedy

We welcome, through the Sacrament of Baptism, to the Faith Community, Josh William, Penny Alana, Alex James. Recently Baptised.

READERS FOR April 2nd

7pm Marian Mc Caughley / 9am Margaret Keane / 10.30am Anne Andrews/ 12 noon Kieran Kirrane / 7pm John Mc Nulty

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