

You are the salt of the Earth



St. Brigid's Blanchardstown.

*Parish Newsletter, February 5th,
2017. 5th Sunday in Ord Time.*

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And the light of the world

"You are the light of the world." Speaking to his followers, Jesus tells them of the influence they are meant to have. Like the seasoning that gives food its flavour, they are to be "the salt of the earth" and like a lamp on a lampstand that "gives light to all in the house." Clearly, their influence on the people around them is meant to be positive and substantial. But what is the source of this irreplaceable influence?

Elsewhere in the Gospels, Jesus declares that HE is "the light of the world" (cf. Jn 8:12). So when he tells his disciples that "your light must shine before others," he is speaking about the light that comes from following him, from believing in him, from living their lives for him and with him. The light of Christ brightens the world, showing us the truth and meaning of our existence. And to the extent that we have that light in our hearts, it naturally spreads out to impact those around us. So, today we must ask ourselves whether or not we are shining the way we are meant to as Christians? Do we brighten up our families, our workplaces, our neighbourhoods, and our parishes? Are people encouraged, inspired, edified, and supported by our presence? Do we bring the kind of flavour that enriches life with a taste of the authentic truth, beauty, and goodness that comes from God alone? Or have we become a bit bland, like salt that "loses its taste" or light that is hidden "under a bushel basket"? It's important to be on guard against any tendency to let our faith be reduced to a mere routine or ritual. Rather, when we nurture our faith to be a living force that defines us and our actions, it will be a source of joy and renewal not only for us, but for the whole world.



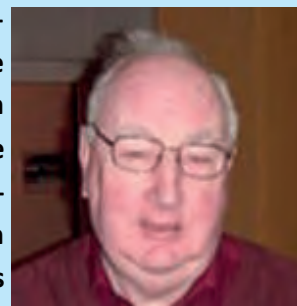
A reminder that the next collection for our local St. Vincent de Paul conference will take place on the weekend of February 11th and 12th. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated.

Monday morning meditation returns this Monday, February 6th. As always it begins after the 10am Mass and Rosary and takes place in the Pastoral Centre.

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



Our own Fr. John Casey is celebrating a milestone birthday on Friday, Feb 10th. On that day you are welcome to join with Fr. John and the Parish team after the 10am mass for tea and cake in the Pastoral Centre. You are also welcome to a celebration liturgy the following Sunday, the 12th, at 10.30am Mass where we, as the Faith Community, will bless Fr. John in thanksgiving for his



Ministry and continued good wishes for the future. Following the Mass the Hospitality group will have a birthday celebration selection of goodies and tea / coffee in the Pastoral Centre to which we are all invited. Love to see you there.



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 to know more, please contact Ann on 087-9031265 Monday-Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm

"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.

A very special word of welcome to Arthur Webb and his family. Arthur is participating in the "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults" and will receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil with us in April. As part of his preparation he will leave the Congregation after the prayers of the faithful and reflect on the Gospel with a member of our Parish Team. We wish him every blessing as he journeys to full Communion in the Catholic Church.



Door to door fundraising for Parish-planned canvass of houses / members of the group will speak at the Masses this weekend.

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.



Family Carers Ireland

HOME CARE WORKER VACANCY

Family Carers Ireland is a national voluntary organisation representing Ireland's Family Carers in the home. We are currently seeking Home Care Workers for the delivery of quality in home care services in Dublin North with the following criteria

- Must hold QQI Level 5 Care Skills, Care of the Older Person
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- Reliable, trustworthy individuals committed to providing quality person centred care in a home environment
- Garda Clearance will be sought
- Full, clean drivers licence with own transport

If you meet the criteria we are interested in hearing from you to fill upcoming vacancies for day, evening and weekend work.

Please forward CV to Mary Fitzsimons, mfitzsimons@familycarers.ie or post to Family Carers Ireland, Smithfield Business Centre, The Distillers Building, New Church Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7 (01) 8943174

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Monastic Vocations Weekend: "If you still have not found what you are looking for" let the Red Nuns journey with you so you can find a deeper purpose in your life. You are under no pressure what so ever. Take your time and God will show you the way. **Starts:** Friday, February 17th at 2:30pm / **Ends:** Sunday, February 19th 2017 at 1:00pm. Email Sr. Lucy at lu-cy.conway@redemptorists.ie

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

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

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

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

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

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



Diocesan Prayer Book: The Dublin Diocesan World Day of the Sick Committee has published for the 25th Silver Jubilee Celebrations of World Day of the Sick a renewed version of their very popular prayer book - 'I Am With You' (Psalm 90). For those experiencing suffering and illness, and for those caring for those who are facing sickness. Of use for personal prayer on many occasions - in parish - at home - in hospital - healthcare facilities, - for pastoral visitation of the sick and carers and First Friday calls. Additional copies of the prayer book are available from Ms. Sheila Pyne, Archbishop's House - Tel: 01 8379253, (Ext. 116) and from VERITAS.ie. More information on World Day of the Sick 2017 - www.catholicbishops.ie

Mass Intentions

Feb 5th

Feb 12th

Sat. 7pm	Michael McDonald	Nicolas Clonan
Sun 9am	Kitty Mc Carthy	Christine Clarke
10.30am	Patrick Keating	Paddy Fox
12 noon	Sheila & Patrick Fitzpatrick	Margaret Kelly
7pm	Ciaran Halpin	Frank McGlynn

We welcome, through the Sacrament of Baptism, to the Faith Community, Luke, Ryan and Ollie Gerard. Baptised on Feb. 4th.

READERS FOR FEB 12th

7pm Carla Salvaleon / 9am Michael O Connor / 10.30am Gwen Cruise / 12 noon: John Kingsley / 7pm: Mary Brady

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