

# St. Brigid's Blanchardstown, Parish Newsletter.

## Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord—Sunday 7th Jan 2018



### THE DEEP END: A searching God

He came in search of John.  
He came in search of baptism.  
He came in search of blessing.  
He came in search of the Spirit.  
He came in search of God's favour.  
He came in search of God's love.

The first active step that Jesus takes as he begins his ministry is to search. He journeys from Nazareth to the River Jordan to find John, in order to be baptised. While John feels he is 'not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals', Jesus still seeks him out. He needs this moment of baptism and blessing to begin his ministry. This is his moment of divine calling and endorsement from the Father: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

We know what it is like to search. We yearn for meaning, for love, and our hearts are always searching for God. Today's first reading from Isaiah speaks of this great thirst: 'Oh come to the water all you who are thirsty'; 'Seek the Lord while he is still to be found'. We must seek constantly to bring ourselves into the presence of God, who will give us his blessing and strength for the road ahead.

'You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you.' St Augustine

### SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Mark 1:7-11

1. John gives an example of humility as a person confident in his own role but not seeking to claim to be more than he is. He is able to acknowledge that Jesus is greater. There is a freedom in being able to acknowledge the gifts of others without losing a sense of one's own giftedness. Recall times when you were able to do this.
2. The baptism of Jesus was an extraordinary religious experience for him. Something happened that was a major step forward for Jesus in coming to know that he was the beloved Son of God. We all have events in our lives that are milestones along the road of discovering who we are. What have been these milestones for you?
3. 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' Bring to mind memories of experiences in which you knew you were the beloved (of God or of another person) and that the one who loved you was well pleased. Bring these experiences to mind with gratitude, knowing that the only proper response to love received is thankfulness. Perhaps you have also given that experience to another.
4. It is easy to lament the growing secularisation in the world today, but the Spirit of God who spoke loudly to the world in the Christ-event is active today. How can we be open to the new things the Spirit is saying to the Church today?

John Byrne os

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**Saturday 6th January 2018—the Feast of the Epiphany.**

"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." What a wonderful example the Magi give us in their visit to the infant Jesus.

First of all, they demonstrate profound **faith** in God's word, spoken through the prophet Micah: Embarking on a long and difficult journey, they trust that they will find this newborn king of the Jews in Bethlehem.

On their arrival at the home of the Holy Family, the Magi also give us an example of profound **humility**. These important men, to whom kings look for guidance and advice, do not hesitate to bow down, to "prostrate themselves" and give homage to a tiny babe. Putting their own position out of their minds, they reverently worship the infant Lord as he sits on the lap of his mother. The **generosity** of these three "kings" is also evident as they open their treasure boxes and give to the poor child the richest of gifts: gold to symbolize the earthly kingship of Christ, frankincense to represent his divinity, and myrrh to stand as a symbol of the anointing he will receive upon his death.

Finally, the **wisdom** of these men is evident in their decision to return to their country "by another way." Understanding the threat that King Herod posed to Jesus, they followed a plan that would help keep the divine child safe even though it meant inconvenience to themselves.

Faith, humility, generosity, and wisdom. These gifts are the real legacy of the Three Kings. Today, let us ask God for the blessing of having these gifts in our lives.

***Movement Therapy for People with Parkinsons' 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.

**Christmas GOAL Charity Mile**

Many thanks to the many families and individuals who braved the wind and rain to support GOAL's annual Christmas Day Mile in the Phoenix Park. Your generous donations raised 5,158.32 euro for GOAL's humanitarian work.



**Monday morning Meditation**

resumes with Máirín,  
our Parish Pastoral Worker  
after the 10 am Mass and Rosary on  
Monday 8th January 2018

A good opportunity to get some quiet time  
and kick start your new year

**Eucharistic Adoration will continue on Tuesdays and  
Fridays after the 10am Mass**

*Divine Mercy Prayer Group*

7pm Monday nights in the Fr. Dungan Room, Pastoral  
Centre

All are welcome



**Foster Care Ireland** is an independent foster care service and is currently recruiting foster carers in and around the Dublin area. Would you like to make a positive contribution to a child's life? Foster families offer their home and support to a child or young person who is in need of care. If you are interested in considering what you may be able to offer, please contact Foster Care Ireland on PH: 01 444 3444; Email: [info@fostercareireland.ie](mailto:info@fostercareireland.ie); Website: [www.fostercareireland.ie](http://www.fostercareireland.ie)

**MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES 2018:** 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from €279 per person. Book any flight - any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further info and book the dates that suit you. Tel. 01 4434510 or email [reservations@med-irishcentre.com](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com).



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Welcome to  
**Adam Patrick, Conor,  
 Alona Evelyn, Jamie,  
 Cora Rose, Anna Kate,  
 Jayce and Oghenenyorhe**  
 Who were recently baptised

**Mass for All Nations**      *Unity of All Families*  
*St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown.*



**Sunday, 21st of January, 2018**  
**12.00 noon.**



*The whole family are welcome*  
*Refreshments served after Mass*

**Spread the word!**



Apply to volunteer at  
[www.worldmeeting2018.ie/Volunteer](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/Volunteer)  
 Phone: +353 1 567 6812  
 mail: [volunteer@worldmeeting2018.ie](mailto:volunteer@worldmeeting2018.ie)

**Anam Cara Parent Evening** Anam Cara, an organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its next monthly Parent Evening on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of January from 7.30pm-9:00pm in the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, Dublin 24. Anam Cara South Dublin offers a safe and comfortable setting where you can 'drop the mask' and be yourself among people who understand. This event is open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether this was recent or not. For more information see [www.anamcara.ie](http://www.anamcara.ie) or call our information line on 085 2888 888.

**MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED SO GENEROUSLY TO THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CHURCH APPEAL. THE SUM OF €15,830 WAS COLLECTED**



**ACCOMMODATION FOR FAMILIES**

**Could you host a family?**

The World Meeting of Families 2018 organisers are actively seeking offers for accommodation for overseas pilgrims in family homes in the Dublin area, particularly areas with good bus or rail links. If you are interested in hosting Pilgrims or a family in your home please email [volunteer@worldmeeting2018.ie](mailto:volunteer@worldmeeting2018.ie) with 'Host a family' in the subject line

**READERS FOR Jan 14th**

7pm: Brian Santry    9am: Anne Andrews  
 10.30am: Michael O'Connor  
 12 noon: Alice O'Connell    7pm: Mary Brady

**LIVING LINKS SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. Dublin Central Mission, 9 c Abbey St. Lower, Dublin 1. Adults over the age of 18 are very welcome to attend. Facilitated by trained volunteers from Living Links Ireland. Opportunity to share and discuss all aspects of complicated grief associated with the aftermath of a suicide death **Help is available. For more information or if you wish to attend our group, ph: 086 9371030 /087 2433738.**

<u>Mass Intentions</u>	<u>Jan 7th</u>	<u>Jan 14th</u>
Sat. 7pm	Rose & Richard Harrison	Thomas Gaffney
Sun 9am	John Madden	John & Ellen Hyland
10.30am	James, Mary, Eddie & Mildred Fay	Kitty McCarthy & Liam McCarthy
12 noon	Patrick & Sheila Fitzpatrick	Joan O'Keeffe
7pm	James & Agnes Griffin	Christy & May Somers



Please spread the word to family, friends (both at home and abroad), those housebound and also young families with smart devices - all church services are available on the internet via [www.blanchardstownparish.ie](http://www.blanchardstownparish.ie)

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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.
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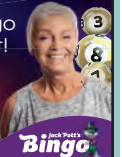
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