



THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD.

St. Brigid's
Blanchard-
stown.

Parish News-
letter.

January 8th
2017.

"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God." John the Baptist had an important message to impart. He was called by God to prepare the people of Israel to recognize Jesus' true identity. In a sense, he helped establish credibility for Christ by confirming that he was in fact the Messiah. Jesus didn't just have to claim it on his own; John also "testified" to the fact. We, of course, also benefit from the witness of John the Baptist recorded for us in the Gospels. And we have additional witnesses from the rest of the people throughout the Gospels who knew and recognized Jesus as the Son of God. But we also have the benefit of two thousand years of Church history! We have countless testimonies of saints and believers throughout the centuries who have known Jesus in their own lives and acted accordingly. This raises two questions. First, are we willing to believe these testimonies from those who have gone before us? Consider how much credence we give to the experiences and the stories of our forefathers and foremothers in the faith-- whether they are blood relatives or members of the larger communion of saints. Sometimes these personal accounts of coming to know the Lord are much more powerful than any "proof" or intellectual proposal about Christianity. They do require a degree of faith and trust, but they nonetheless provide us with real evidence about the impact of being close to Christ.

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



FOLLOW OUR OWN STAR!

The story of the Wise Men bringing gifts to Jesus, the new-born King, is a great one. They had a great big star in the sky to lead the way. I am no Boy Scout, so I am not sure how well I would do following a star like that. But the important point here is that God led them to the manger. The manger was a place that unless God specifically showed you this was where the Christ Child was born you wouldn't have believed it. You would have passed on by.

In our lives, there are no big stars in the sky leading us where we need to go. It isn't so easy sometimes discerning where God is leading us. We may seek to use our gifts wisely, but in what manner and to what end is not always clear.

This is where prayer can make a huge difference. If we seek to cultivate a prayer life where we are mindful of the presence of God throughout our day, then the call is easier to discern. We can help the process by intentionally offering to God in the morning the entirety of the day to come: all our actions, all our time, and all our decisions. In the evening, we can examine the past hours of the day and reflect on when we responded well to Christ's call and when we fell short. Then we resolve to begin again tomorrow, inviting Christ to be with us every step of the way. God may not offer a star in the sky to lead us, but if we invite us on our journey each day, the path will be much clearer. Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



New Year Meditation.

Come along to Monday Meditations with Sr. Teresa in the Pastoral Centre. Every Monday morning of 2017 after the 10 am Mass and the Rosary. Starting again on January 9th 2017. All welcome and see you there.



The St. Vincent De Paul clothes appeal is taking place on the weekend of January 29th. The bags

that are used to collect the clothes will be available on the weekend of the 22nd in the church for you to take home and to return on the 29th. Many thanks for your generosity.

We are currently expanding our rota for Eucharistic Ministry in Elmgreen Nursing Home. Mass is celebrated every Sunday afternoon and currently Ministers take one Sunday a month to distribute Holy Communion during the Mass. If you would like to go on the rota contact Kevin or Martin Lynch. Thank you.

Training for carers Looking for a career in the care sector? Family Carers Ireland are providing the QQI Level 5 Healthcare Award in 2017 in or around your area based on demand. One day topic specific workshops also available. For more info contact the training unit on 0579322920.



The 2017 calendar is still available from the Sacristy or the Pastoral centre and some outlets across the Parish, be sure to get yours before they are all gone, selling fast!



**It is only 7 euro.
Proceeds will go towards a new partition divide for the extension.**



Interested in becoming an Altar server to serve at the Saturday evening and Sunday Masses, then don't hesitate to contact Kevin or leave your name and details with Dan in the Sacristy. Kevin: 0866023450



Hey Kids! wanna sing? Christmas is coming!

Then Blanchardstown Music Ministry is the place for you! Our New Junior Choir has begun rehearsing in the Pastoral Centre. New members welcome. For

information please email blanchjuniorchoir@gmail.com



The World Meeting of Families comes to Ireland!

Dublin, Ireland, has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families in August 2018. Families and others from all over the world will gather in Dublin from 22-26 August 2018 to celebrate their lives together, to share their experiences from different parts of the world, to reflect on the different challenges they face and to grow together in faith. The

theme chosen by Pope Francis for WMOF2018 is *The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World*.

The WMOF2018 Logo, launched in December 2016, reflects on this theme and our journey towards August 2018. This weekend we have placed the WMOF 2018 prayer cards around the church for you to take home as well as a special edition of the prayer placed in the Sanctuary at the Ambo. Our preparations are starting!

Thank You from GOAL

Many thanks to the many families and individuals who came out to support GOAL's annual Christmas Day Mile in the Phoenix Park. Your generous donations raised 6,629.91 euro for GOAL's humanitarian work.

CPR & DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

We have some places available in our training session on January 14th. Training will take place in the Pastoral Centre from 9am to 1pm.

If you would like to take part in the training, please leave your name and phone number in the Sacristy. For more information please contact Dermot Gannon on mobile 087 242 4448.

Mass Intentions

Jan 8th

Jan 15th

Sat. 7pm	Breda Roche	Luke & Mary Anne
Sun 9am	Michael Sheridan	Margaret, James & Olive English
10.30am	Joe Dowling	Liam Mc Carthy
12 noon	Vera O'Hanlon	Frank Power
7pm	Rose & Richard Harrison	Jeremiah O'Brien

We welcome, through the Sacrament of Baptism, to the Faith Community, Poppy Alannah who was Baptised on January 7th.

READERS FOR JAN 15TH 2017

7pm Kathleen Brennan / 9am Gwen Cruise / 10.30am Alice O'Connell / 12 noon: Marie Mc Caughley / 7pm: Margaret Keane



Bereavement Information Evening

Venue: The Carnegie Court Hotel, North Street, Swords, Co. Dublin
Date: Wednesday, January 18th 2017
Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm (Registration from 7:15pm)

Fr. Mangan: (01)821 3660 /

Fr Casey: (01)821 3716 Fr. Guckian: (01)8262799

Kevin (Pastoral Worker) 086/6023450

Office: (01)811 5412 / Sacristy: (01) 823 8354

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