



# St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

## Second Sunday of Advent—Sunday 10th December 2023



### CURRENT SCHEDULE

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:**

Mass at 10am preceded by the Rosary at 9.30am, Church closes at 5pm

**Monday:** Area Mass at 7.30pm

**Wednesday:** Liturgy of the Word at 10am

**Saturday:** Church opens at 10am

**Vigil Mass at 6pm**

**Sunday Mass at 10.30am**

**1st Saturday of the month—** 10am Mass

followed by confessions until 11am

**Last Tuesday of the month—**Prayer Group

Mass 8pm, all welcome

**Bank Holidays:** Mass 11am only

All services available on

[www.blanchardstownparish.ie/webcam](http://www.blanchardstownparish.ie/webcam)

Also on Phoenix Radio—92.5FM

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Tue & Fri 10.30am-5pm

**Blanchardstown Area evening Mass**

**Mon:** Blanchardstown 7.30pm

**Tues & Thurs:** Castleknock

**Wednesday:** Mulhuddart **Friday:** Corduff



Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD'S hand double for



all her sins. A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Isaiah 40:1-5

In early adulthood I began to find Christmas a great let-down. People talk about the magic of Christmas. At that time in my life, the magic seemed to have disappeared. Christmas began to seem like just any other day, only one with a lot of additional obligations and emotional demands. Ironically, my sense of holiday malaise began to ease when I accepted that Christmas is, in one respect, just like any other day. That is, I can recognize the coming of Christ into my life and into my heart at any moment, on any and every day. Christ's coming wasn't limited to that one single day when "the magic" had to happen. In fact I came to realize that this wasn't about magic at all, but about reality. The true meaning of Christmas is grounded in the profound revelation that God so loves us that he chose to dwell among us both in Bethlehem and today right in our families. I came to see how, in Isaiah's words, "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed" whenever I am willing to prepare the way of the Lord into my life. For me, making a straight path in the wasteland usually has to do with quieting my mind and opening my heart. The gift for the second week of Advent is that God speaks a reassuring word of comfort in the midst of our discontent and longing. In this quiet season—a season we tend to fill up with a lot of noise and frantic activity—make time daily to listen for the comforting words of God in your life. Probably the quickest way to begin hearing those words is to create a daily gratitude list. Set aside five minutes each morning or evening and take a few deep breaths. When you are settled, start jotting down whatever comes to your mind that you are grateful for. With a heart full of gratitude, everything else in our lives will change. We will begin to see, even in the demands of our Christmas preparations, the real purpose of those efforts - celebrating the Lord's arrival in our life and the lives of those we love.

**Theme: God Speaks Words of Comfort**

The prophet Isaiah spoke God's words to the Jewish people in the midst of their exile in Babylon between 597 and 537 B.C. Their lives were shattered, the Temple had been destroyed and the memory of it was fading among their children. In the midst of a discouraging time came words of comfort. God speaks words of comfort to us today. We can only hear them if we are open to listening. They are not the words of false comfort that everything will somehow turn out for the best. They are words that come to us in the midst of our pain and confusion. They will lead us to an even greater sense of God's presence in our lives and in our families. Be aware of the God who holds and comforts you daily.

*These gifts are given freely to be OPENED - ENJOYED & SHARED*

*Adapted from Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts—Parent newsletter*



### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK—THE SEASON OF ADVENT

#### Carol Service

Our Parish Carol service is on next **Thurs 17th December at 7.30pm**. It is always a lovely evening. Please do come along and support our wonderful Parish Choir.

#### Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is significant in that unlike holly or floral wreaths, it has candles standing upright, representing the four Sundays of Advent and the thousands of years that God's people awaited the Messiah. The round ring of the Advent Wreath represents eternity-time without end. As the circle is never ending, so time with God goes on and on. The evergreens are for eternal life, life without end. Evergreens do not die in the winter and like them God is always fresh and new. The candles remind us of Christ 'Light of the World'.

#### JESSE TREE

This tree is named after Jesse the father of David, the great king of Israel. 'A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from his roots a bud shall blossom' (Is 11.7). The symbols represent the promises God made throughout the Old Testament concerning the birth of His Only Son. Some of the most important promises of all were made to Jesse and his son David. They were promised that God's only Son would be born in their family.

#### Advent – How spelling it helps!

**A is for ALERT** - Be ready to welcome God at any time. **D is for DO** - Do something for someone else every day to show you care. **V is for VIOLET** - The colour that shows we await our King. **E is for EFFORT** - Give it your best to prepare for the Lord. **N is for NICE** - Try to be nice to those around you, remembering that God lives within them too. **T is for TIME** - Jesus said, 'You do not know the day nor the hour your Lord will come.' So let's try to make the most of the time we have.

**Advent Holy Hour**—For the 3 Friday's of Advent, December 8th, 15th and 22nd, there will be a Holy Hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament..... 4pm—5pm.

#### Christmas Cards

The cards are now available for distribution. You can collect your bundle from the Pastoral Office. Thank you to the Thursday morning parishioners and to George Maybury who put the Christmas cards and dues envelopes into packs. Finally thank you to the volunteers who are delivering the cards to parishioner's homes. **Fr Michael Carey PP**

### Children's Corner: In the Gospel Today

John the Baptist is the messenger sent by God. He is helping everyone to get ready to welcome Jesus. John baptises people in the River Jordan. He tells people that the one coming after him is far more important. The promised one will baptise them with the Holy Spirit.

#### Baptism

I was baptised in \_\_\_\_\_ church.  
I can see the baptismal font in this church.  
[ ] yes [ ] no

Dear God, help me to get ready for Jesus: to help at home, to have fun with my family and to be kind to children who are sad. Amen.

These people have changed their ways and become good! Give them happy faces.

John baptises them in the w\_\_\_\_\_



River Jordan

### Society of St. Vincent de Paul CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The annual Diocesan Collection for the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul takes place THIS WEEKEND. It will be the second collection replacing Share. Where is the heart that loves? In the things that it loves. Consequently, where our love is, there our heart is captive. It cannot escape, it cannot reach higher or go to right or left: there it is fixed. Where the miser's treasure, there is his/her heart: where our heart is, there is our treasure. And it is a sad thing that the things that hold us captive are for the most part quite unworthy things. It is self-love that attaches and binds us to the very sorts of things that most disturb and upset us. Our passions enslave us. **St Vincent de Paul**

#### Parish Meetings – This coming week

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Parish Partnership** The Parish Teams and representatives from the PPC's will meet in Corduff Parish at 2.30pm.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – The Liturgy Team and Sacristans** will meet in the Pastoral Centre at 3.30pm to prepare for Christmas.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - Parents and Baptismal Team** - 7.30pm- Pastoral Centre. The parents of children for Baptism in January are invited to meet the Team and have a presentation on the symbols of Baptism along with a short period of prayer.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Teen Hope** - The teenagers are invited to gather at 7pm in the Pastoral centre – Pizza, chat, games, reflection and prayer and FUN.

#### EXPLORING THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

**What is Christian Morality?**  
St Brigid's Pastoral Centre  
**THIS Wednesday 13th December 7pm to 8.10pm.** Our final session is about **Is it ok to keep up with the Jones's?**

#### We welcome those baptised in the month of November ;

*Niamh, Maverick, Molly, Sionainn, Flynn, Remi Rose, Éabha, Eira, Fiadh, Joseph, Emmi Rose, Everleigh, Bradley Zoey ; May they continue to grow strong in body, mind and spirit.*



#### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat	Pat Molloy Gerard & Nuala Farmer
Vigil	Michael & Kathleen Kelly Aileen Madden Larry O'Sullivan
Sun	Andy Eddery (MM) Kevin Nugent John Dredge Myra French-Murphy Michael McGee Max Webster (MM) Philomena Webster
Thurs	Harry O'Connell

*We pray for our recently deceased; Paddy Gernon May Crowley Bridie Farrell Seán McEntee Justin McCarthy Always loved, never forgotten*

**PARISH CONTACTS: V REV Fr. Michael Carey: 8213660 Rev Jim Adams(Deacon) 0862232411 Rev Michael O'Connor(Deacon) 0872941729 Sacristy: 8238354 Parish Finance Christine Carleton / Parish Secretary Jean Rogers: 8115412 email: [office@blanchardstownparish.ie](mailto:office@blanchardstownparish.ie) website: [www.blanchardstownparish.ie](http://www.blanchardstownparish.ie) <https://www.facebook.com/St-Brigids-Parish-Blanchardstown-44438662375848/>**

