

# St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

## Third Sunday of Advent – Sunday 11th December 2022



### Prayer for the 3rd Sunday of Advent

This is Advent, the season of preparation. The shops are full of gifts that we might give or receive. Streets are decorated and choirs are singing carols. As we prepare, we remember another, John the Baptist, who came to prepare the Jewish people for the arrival of Jesus. John, who would prepare a way through a call to repentance, so that hearts and souls would be ready to receive the One who was to come. God our Father, prepare our hearts not only for the celebration to come, but also for sharing that Good News with friends, family and work colleagues should opportunity arise. Grant us courage and a real willingness to talk about the love that came down to earth and walked among us. Amen

### 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.

### 3rd Week

**3rd CANDLE** – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! "...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'" (Luke 2:7-15)

### 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).

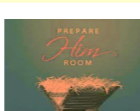
### JESSE TREE SYMBOLS WITH SCRIPTURE - ADVENT WEEK THREE

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Ruth– *Wheat* - Ruth 2:1-9  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup>– Jesse– *Branch* - Isaiah 11:1  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> – David– *Harp* - 1 Samuel 16:17-18  
Wed 14<sup>th</sup> –Solomon – *Columns* - 1 Kings 5:2-5  
15<sup>th</sup>–Hezekiah–*Tablets of the Law*- 2 Kings18:1-6  
16<sup>th</sup>– Josiah – *Book* - 2 Kings 23:1-3  
17<sup>th</sup> - Isaiah – *Throne* - Isaiah 6:1

### Saints in the Church's Calendar

**Our Lady of Guadalupe 12<sup>th</sup> December** is patron of the Americas. This feast recalls the apparitions in December 1531 to St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin (1474-1548), on Tepeyac hill, near Mexico city.

**St John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the Church 14<sup>th</sup> December**, a Carmelite who, despite opposition and imprisonment, worked for spreading the reform of the Carmelites. He befriended St. Teresa of Avila who persuaded him to lead the reform of the order. He was a man of prayer, an outstanding poet, who wrote much on the mystery of the Cross and the 'dark night of the soul'.  
**December 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>**, the Liturgy is focused in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity.



**Lectio Divina' – a reflection on the Scripture will take place on Wednesdays—7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of December at 11.00am in either the Fr.Dungan room or the Jubilee room. We will reflect on one of the readings for the following Sunday each week. If you've never been involved in something like this there is no pressure you can speak or just listen and it gives you an opportunity to think about the scripture and to uncover God's love for each of us.**



### Christmas Food Poverty Appeal

Please support if you can  
www.crosscare.ie or 01-8360011

### A Reflective Sentence

Those who feed on Christ in the Eucharist need not wait until the hereafter to receive eternal life: they already possess it on earth, as the first fruits of a future fullness which will embrace man in his totality....Saint Pope John Paul II



### FROM THE PASTORS DESK



### Teen Hope

The teenagers are invited to gather on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in the Pastoral centre – Pizza, chat, games, reflection and prayer.. and FUN!

### Extension – Posture during consecration

We have been getting used to our new chairs in the extension and learning to celebrate our Eucharist together without kneelers in half of the Church. The reason we kneel (or continue standing in some places) after the 'Holy Holy' is to emphasise the sacredness of the moment we are entering into, our posture reminds us that the bread and wine will now be transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. So if we remain seated, (as there are no kneelers and it may be difficult to kneel in the extension), it is how we sit and our awareness of the sacredness of this moment that's important. Whether we stand, sit or kneel it is in our hearts we experience the amazing and profound gift of God's love for us in his Son Jesus Christ present to us in the Eucharist.

### Vocation Themed Intercessions for Advent

**Third Sunday of Advent** -- In our second reading, St James writing to the early converts to Christianity to give them encouragement says: "You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon". We pray for all who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, that they will not lose heart and that they will be blessed with grace by the Lord's coming.

### Mass Booking Diary

The 2023 Diary is now available in the Sacristy if anyone wishes to 'book' Masses for next Year.

*Fr Michael Carey PP*

### Family Mass, Christmas Eve, 6.00pm St Brigid's Church, Blanchardstown

The whole family, young and old are invited to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus at this Mass.



**All the children are asked to dress up as shepherds or angels and to make a crib or draw a picture of a crib. https://www.bestcoloringpagesforkids.com/free-printable-nativity-coloring-pages-kids.html These will be blessed on Christmas eve and can be brought home. We'd love to see you there.**

Huge thanks to all who supported Áine's sale of Christmas crafts on Thursday. €706 was raised to support Merchants Quay Ireland who will provide care-packs for the homeless.



### Recently Deceased

Kevin Kilmurray

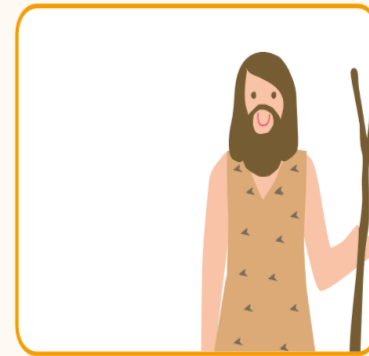
## Children's Corner

### In The Gospel

John the Baptist is God's messenger. He has been telling everyone about Jesus. Jesus is very special. He shows Jesus is special by what he does. Jesus brings life and goodness to everyone he meets.

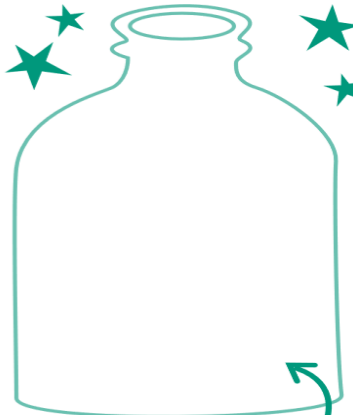
### Happy

John the Baptist believes in Jesus. He is very happy. Jesus says everyone who believes in him is happy. Draw yourself next to John with a great big smile on your face too!



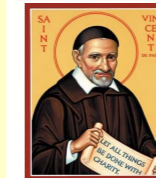
### Message in a bottle

We can be God's messengers. We can show everyone what God's love is like. We can help people, just like Jesus did.



Help me, Jesus, to make the world a better place just like you did. Help me to bring the message of God's love to the people I meet, through what I do as well as by what I say. Amen.

Draw a picture in this bottle of you helping someone this week.



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

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** Our love should extend in a very practical way to the poor. Our Lord was not born in a palace or even a semi-detached. He was born in a stable. Jesus once drew attention to his own poverty. "The birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Lk. 9:58)



**Coolmine Therapeutic Centre Gala Concert—featuring Blanchardstown Brass band and parish choirs. Draíocht—15 December at 8pm**

### Sunday Mass Collections

Many thanks for your continued support of these collections which are vital for the support of the priests of the diocese. You can contribute to the Mass collections by:

1. Putting your offerings in the 'white boxes' around the Church or by leaving your envelope into the Parish Office. *Envelopes are provided on seats or you can have an Envelope supply in your home for convenience.*
2. Using the 'Tap and Go' machines.
3. Using the online 'Donate' facility on the Parish Website. see [www.blanchardstownparish.ie](http://www.blanchardstownparish.ie) where you can select both one-off and recurring payments. The Mass collections are divided – 60% to the 1<sup>st</sup> – Common Fund for Priests; 40% - to the 2<sup>nd</sup> – Share.

*Thank you so much for your generosity*

### Mass Intentions 10th / 11th December

Sat	Larry O'Sullivan	Aileen Madden	Michael & Kathleen Kelly
6pm	Aileen Smith (MM)		Pat & Mary Kate O'Reilly
Sun	Michael McGee	Evelyn Balfe	Eamonn Gough
1030am	Kevin Nugent	Phil Webster	Desmond Connolly

### This Sunday's Readings

**1st:** Isaiah 35: 1-6. 10  
**Psalm:** 145 R/ Come, Lord, and save us.  
**2nd:** St James 5:7-10  
**Gospel Acclamation!** Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!  
**Gospel:** Matthew 11: 2-11

### CURRENT SCHEDULE

#### Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:

Mass at 10am preceded by the Rosary at 9.30 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 (note change)

**Sunday Mass** at 10.30am\*

(last Sunday of each month will have a midday Family mass)

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month—** Mass at 10am followed by confessions

**Last Tuesday of the month—**Prayer Group Mass at 8.00pm, all welcome

**Bank Holidays:** Mass at 11 am only

All services available on

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

\*also on Phoenix Radio—92.5FM

### Eucharistic Adoration

Tues. & Fri. 10.30—5pm

### Blanchardstown Area evening Mass

**Mon:** Blanchardstown at 7.30

Tues & Thurs: Castleknock

Wed: Mulhuddart

Fri: Corduff

### Confessions for Christmas

Sun18<sup>th</sup>December: 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>: After 10.00am Mass

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>: After 10.00am Mass

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>: 11.00am – 12noon

**PARISH CONTACTS:** Fr. Carey: 8213660 Jim Adams (Deacon) 0862232411 Michael O'Connor (Deacon) 0872941729 Máirín Keegan (Pastoral Worker)8115414 Sacristy: 8238354 Parish Office: Jean: 8115412 email: [office@blanchardstownparish.ie](mailto:office@blanchardstownparish.ie) website: [www.blanchardstownparish.ie](http://www.blanchardstownparish.ie)