

St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time—16th January 2022



This Sunday's Readings

1st: Isaiah 62: 1-5
Psalm: 95 R/ Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.
2nd: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening; you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!
Gospel: John 2: 1-11

CURRENT MASS SCHEDULE

Monday—Friday Mass: 10am preceded by the Rosary church opens at 9.30am and closes at 4pm
Saturday: church opens for private prayer at 10am
Vigil Mass at 7pm
Sunday Mass at 10.30am* & 12 noon
 *available on Phoenix Radio—92.5FM
 All Parish services available on www.blanchardstownparish.ie/webcam

The Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation

Available on the 1st Saturday of each month 10.30-11a and on request

Eucharistic Adoration—Tuesdays & Fridays after the 10am Mass until 4pm

Evening Mass for the Greater Blanchardstown Area

Mondays—Mulhuddart at 7.30pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays—Castleknock at 7.30
Wednesdays—Blanchardstown at 7.30pm
Friday—Corduff at 7.30pm

Please remember: mask, sanitise, safe distance.

Ordinary Time – cont'd As I said last week Ordinary Time is about walking with Jesus to Jerusalem and salvation. It is by embracing the dying and rising mystery of Jesus that we receive the life of God within us and renew it each time we celebrate the liturgy. Although much of ordinary Time unfolds during the summer months when many are on holidays, when the heat brings us to slow down our pace of life (*we hope!*), when there is a change in our pace of lives if for no other reason that 'school is out for summer', we must be careful that Ordinary Time doesn't become a temptation to 'holiday' from the demands of faithfully following Jesus.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

We Saw His Star in the East...

The story of the Magi visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem is one very familiar to us. Indeed, we have recently celebrated Christmas; the Feast of Incarnation and Epiphany. The Magi have sometimes been seen as a symbol of the world's diversity – different religions and cultures – that comes to pay homage to the Christ-child. The story might therefore represent the unity of all created that God desires. The Magi travel from far-off countries, and represent diverse cultures, yet they are driven by the same hunger to see and know the new-born king and are gathered into the little house in Bethlehem in the simple act of giving homage. In this we can find a metaphor for Christian unity: that is, of different Christian peoples drawn together in their common search to recognise Christ, to know him and to worship him and witnessing to wider need for unity and to overcome injustice.

This text has been chosen by the churches of the Middle East, the history of which was, and still is, characterized by conflict and strife, tainted with blood and darkened by injustice and oppression.

The story of the Magi also contains many dark elements, most particularly Herod's despotism orders to massacre all the children around Bethlehem who were two years old or under (Matt 2:16-18). The cruelty of these narratives resonates with the long history and difficult present of the Middle East.

It was in the Middle East that the Word of God took root and bore fruit: thirty and sixty and one hundredfold. And it was from this East that the apostles set out to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). The Middle East has given thousands of Christian witnesses and thousands of Christian martyrs. And yet now, the very existence of the small Christian community is threatened as many are driven to seek a more secure and prosperous life elsewhere. Like the light which is the child Jesus, the light of Middle Eastern Christianity is increasingly threatened in these difficult times.

In this context Christians are called to seek the new-born king, the king of gentleness, peace and love. But where is the star that leads the way to him? It is the mission of the Church to be the star that lights the way to Christ who is the light of the world. By word and through action the Christian people are called to light the way so that Christ might be revealed, once again, to the nations. Yet divisions dim the light of Christian witness and obscure the way, preventing others from finding their way to Christ. Conversely, Christians united in their worship of Christ, opening their treasures in an exchange of gifts, become a sign of the unity that God desires for all of creation.

The Covid-19 global pandemic; the economic crisis that has followed and the failure of political, economic and social structures to protect the weakest and most vulnerable; and the racism that blights our communities have underlined the global need for a light to shine in the darkness. The star that shone in the East, (the Middle East), two thousand years ago still leads us to the manger, to where Christ was born. It draws us to where the Spirit of God is alive and active. After encountering the Saviour and worshipping him together, the Magi return to their countries by a different way, having been warned in a dream. The communion we share in our prayer together must inspire us to return to ourselves, our churches and our world by new ways. But what does this mean in practice? Serving the Gospel today requires a commitment to humankind, especially the poorest, the weakest and those marginalized. It requires from churches transparency and accountability in dealing with the world, and with each other. This means churches need to cooperate to provide relief to the afflicted, to welcome the displaced, to relieve the burdened, and to build a just and honest society. This is a call for churches to work together so that we can all build a good future according to God's heart, a future in which all human beings can experience life, peace, justice, and love. (Introduction to Christian Unity week by the Middle East Council of Churches)

Father Michael PP

Week of Christian Unity-2022

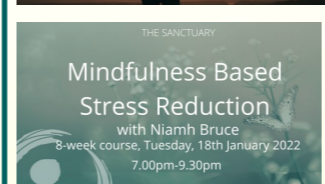
Every year from the 18th to the 25th January (Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul), the Christian Churches celebrate the week of Christian Unity. This year the theme, 'We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him (Mt 2:2), taken from the account of the visit of the magi to pay homage to the infant king (Mt 2:1-12). It is a call to unity, of those from the North and the South, from the East and from the West, old and young, men and women.

The pontifical Council for promoting Christian Unity and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches invited the Middle East Council of Churches to offer prayer services and reflections on the theme. Based in Beirut, Lebanon, they have responded from their experience of civil conflict and share many of the travails and difficulties of recent years, including the massive explosion of 4 August 2020 and the pandemic. They reach out to the world, yearning for a light that leads to the Saviour who can overcome darkness.

Fr Michael Carey PP

Christmas Dues Envelopes Thank you to all who have returned their Christmas Dues, your generosity is much appreciated. If you did not receive a Christmas Dues envelope and would like to contribute to the Priests of the Parish, please take one from the tables in the Church.

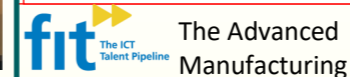
Check out new mindfulness courses at The Sanctuary



Alone—COVID-19

SUPPORT LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE - 0818 222 024

The line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm
AWARE - SUPPORT & SELF CARE GROUPS. Find more information about all groups and services on www.aware.ie



Course run by FIT will be starting early January. We still have places available. For further information please contact Rachael at FIT on rachelwall@fit.ie

We remember our recently deceased



**Christian Hampel
 Diarmuid Stanley
 Kay Healy
 Catherine Hayden
 David Lowry**

To live in hearts left behind is not to die

Children's Corner



Water into wine Change the water inside these jars into wine by colouring them red.



Signs Link the sign with the right meaning.



Jesus' sign Today's story about Jesus is a sign. What does the sign show? Circle the best explanation.

- To show God is great
- To say "stop"
- To show roadworks

In the Gospel Jesus, his mum and his friends are invited to a wedding. Oh no! They have run out of wine. Mary knows Jesus can help. Jesus changes the water in six huge jars into the best wine. The party can carry on!

A prayer to say Dear Jesus, you turned water into wine and helped everyone have a great time at the wedding. You can turn ordinary things into something special. Be with me this week as I try to bring happiness to the people around me. Amen.

Intentions	15/16th January
Sat 7pm	Nancy Egan Patrick & Bridget O'Doherty, Sheila Hill and their great grand-daughter Aine Hill
10.30	Kevin Smith John & Ellen Hyland Anthony Poynton
12 noon	Joan & Jerry O'Brien Bernard and Margaret Jordan Kathleen McCarthy

PARISH CONTACTS: Fr. Carey: 8213660 Fr. Drescher: 5384969 Jim Adams (Deacon) 0862232411 Michael O'Connor (Deacon) 0872941729 Máirín Keegan (Pastoral Worker) 8115414 Sacristy: 8238354 Parish Office: 8115412 email: office@blanchardstownparish.ie website: www.blanchardstownparish.ie <https://www.facebook.com/St-Brigids-Parish-Blanchardstown-944438662375848/>