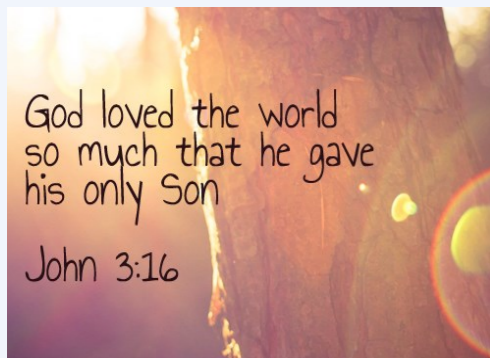




St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Season of Creation—September 1st—October 4th 2023



God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son

John 3:16

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

Sunday Mass at 10.30am *Last Sunday*

of each month will also have a

Midday Family Mass

1st Saturday of the month— 10am Mass

followed by confessions

Last Tuesday of the month—Prayer Group

Mass 8pm, all welcome

Bank Holidays: Mass 11am only

All services available on

www.blanchardstownparish.ie/webcam

Also on Phoenix Radio— 92.5FM

Eucharistic Adoration

Tue & Fri 10.30am-5pm

***(No Exposition from 31Aug for 3-4weeks)**

Blanchardstown Area evening Mass

Mon: Blanchardstown 7.30pm

Tues & Thurs: Castleknock

Wednesday: Mulhuddart

Friday: Corduff

SEASON OF CREATION – SEPTEMBER 1ST TO OCTOBER 4TH



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

In this week's readings, we hear about kindness and greed as Jesus tells the parable of the servant whose debt is forgiven. We sometimes think that this gospel is about how many times we are asked to forgive others. Yet on reflection, we can see the challenge is actually much deeper than numbers. We are being challenged to realise how blessed we are and invited to use our privilege and power to support, not oppress, all around us. Let us be, like the Lord, "kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion".

In Matthew's account of the Gospel, we hear Jesus' parable about a king forgiving a debt – that is, the King uses his power to set someone free from what was oppressing them. Then we hear how the now-free-from-debt servant fails to offer the same freedom to another. This enrages the King, who condemns the man. His condemnation is not about the money though. Instead, the King expects that the privilege granted to his servant would have transformed his heart, and



he is shocked that it hasn't. The servant had had the experience but missed the meaning – the opportunity to grow and live in kindness. Instead, he chose to remain greedy.

Those of us who rarely know hunger, who have never lost our homes to floods or fires, who live in a democratic state are privileged. It might not always feel that way, in fact we might worry a lot about what is owed to us, but we actually have a blessed life. When we remain consumed by what others 'owe us' or whether others deserve what they have, we lose sight of God's generous grace.

This week's gospel, and this season of creation, is an opportunity to notice where our heart is – trapped in fear and greed, or open and grateful. The first reading today asks: "Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord?" We ask our leaders, our churches, our neighbours and ourselves – Could anyone know the love of God and not recognise and respect God present in every living thing?"

Our Common Home seen from Space:

Astronaut Russell Sweickart 1969

'The astronaut looks back and sees the Earth not as something big but small. And now the contrast between Earth--that bright blue-and-white Christmas tree ornament--and that black sky, that infinite universe, really comes through. Earth becomes so small and so fragile, and such a precious little spot in the universe, and you realize that on that small spot, that little blue-and-white thing, is everything that means anything to you; all of history, music, poetry, art, games, war and death, birth and love, tears and joy, all of it is on that little spot out there, that you can cover with your thumb.

'You're going 25,000 mph, ripping through a vacuum, and there's not a sound. There's a silence, the depth of which you've never experienced before, and you think about what you're experiencing and why. Have you been separated out by God to have some special experience that other people cannot have? No. 'It's not for yourself. You have to bring it back, somehow--a rather special responsibility. It tells you something about your relationship with this life. When you come back, there's a difference--so precious -- in the relationship between you and that planet and all its forms of life, because you've had that kind of experience.'

Saints in the Church's Calendar

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist –

Thursday 21st. The tax collector may also be identified with Levi, son of Alphaeus, in Mark 2:13. He is said to have been a missionary in Persia and Ethiopia. Patron of accountants, bookkeepers, tax-collectors, customs officers and security guards.

St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), priest –

Saturday 23rd. 1887-1968, was born in Italy. He joined the Capuchian community and was ordained in 1910. He moved six years later to San Giovanni Rotondo. Bearing the wounds of Christ's passion on his body (known as stigmata), he became famous for his ministry in the confessional, his spiritual direction and his miracles. In 1956 he opened the 'Home to Relieve Suffering' near his friary. Despite his popularity, he faced much opposition, even from Church authorities. He was canonised in 2002.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK



Icons in the Extension

Our four icons were commissioned from the Bulgarian Iconographer, Boris Pavlov, to place on the newly painted wall of the Church Extension. The life of prayer in the Church orients us to the Lord Jesus. He is our High Priest and He is the one who acts in all our liturgy We pray "through him, and with him, and in him," to God, the almighty Father, "in the unity of the Holy Spirit." The prayers of the Church's Liturgy also make it clear to us that we pray in communion with the whole Church, here on earth, but also in heaven. We pray: "In communion with those whose memory we venerate, especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ", with the Lord's "blessed Apostles and Martyrs", the Evangelists and "with the Angels and all the Saints". We considered it apt then to commission icons for the Extension which would reflect this reality to us.

I thank Michael Tighe and Tom Ronayne who created the beautiful backdrops and hung these new icons.

Season of Creation – Altar Display

This year's theme: **Let Justice and Peace Flow** The Prophet Amos cries out: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24) and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.

I thank Dolores O'Leary and Mary Ronayne of the Liturgy Team for the creative and thought-provoking altar display which is added to each week.

The Sacraments—1st Holy Communion

The schools are back and before long there will be a meeting with the parents of the pupils in 2nd class. I am looking for one or two parishioners who are willing to help me at these meetings, to be a support – it would be much appreciated.

Fr Michael Carey PP

Afternoon of Prayer—Castleknock College

September 23rd—We remember all our young people, especially those recently deceased and their families.
2pm Rosary. 3pm Holy Hour.
4pm Holy Mass. Cup of tea afterwards.

Children's Corner:

IN THE GOSPEL Jesus tells us that we must keep on forgiving. We must forgive not just seven times, or seventy-seven times – but forever! God has forgiven us, so we can do the same.

Puzzle it out!

Sam's little sister pulled his hair. He's not sure what he should do but he knows the right answer is on one of these kites. Which one is it?



When we forgive someone, our heart grows bigger with God's love.

Grow in love
KEEP FORGIVING!

Thank you, Lord, for forgiving me, no matter what. Please help me to forgive anyone who hurts me, no matter what. Amen.



Join our wonderful gathering of community at Anne Maybury's annual Coffee Morning with friends & neighbours on

Tuesday 19th September after 10am mass in the **Community Centre** next to the Church. Raising much needed funds ensuring that hospice care is available to all.



THIS WEEKEND
The annual collection for **CROSSCARE** –

Social Support Agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin will take place at all Masses THIS weekend. This collection is for Community and homeless services. The collection will replace the usual Share collection. Inspired by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, Crosscare has: A vision of a society where all people can fulfill their potential. A mission to provide innovative and relevant services to those most in need. [Www.crosscare.ie](http://www.crosscare.ie)

Family Mass – next Sunday

The Family Mass returns after the summer holidays next Sunday 24th at 12 noon.

We pray for our recently deceased:

Alice Hurley and Seamus Conroy
Always loved, never forgotten



Parish Meetings – This week

Tuesday 19th September – The **Teen Hope Team** will meet in the Pastoral Centre at 11.00am.

Wednesday 20th September - 7.30pm, **Parents and Baptismal Team** - The parents of children for Baptism during the month of October, are invited to meet the Team and have a presentation on the symbols of Baptism along with a short period of prayer. Meet in the Pastoral Centre.

Thursday 21st September – The **Family Mass Team** will meet at 7.00pm in the Pastoral Centre.



Friday 22nd September - **Teen Hope** -

The teenagers are invited to gather at 7.00pm in the Pastoral centre – Pizza, chat, games, reflection, prayer and FUN!

We have returned to our Thursday coffee mornings after 10am mass. To make it a success we require some volunteers to help set up. Please give your name to a sacristan or to Jean in the office. Thank you!



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday Vigil	Bryan Mongey (1st Anniv)	Gerry Dromey	Stephanie Leslie
Sunday	Eithne Conroy Thomas Reidy	Eileen & Jim Fitzpatrick Elizabeth Mulholland (née Phelan)	Samuel French

PARISH CONTACTS: V REV Fr. Michael Carey: 8213660 Rev Jim Adams(Deacon) 0862232411

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