

St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Sunday 18th December 2022



This Sunday's Readings

1st: Isaiah 7: 10-14
Psalm: 23 R/ Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.
2nd: St Paul to the Romans 1: 1-7
Gospel Acclamation! Alleluia, alleluia!
The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means "God is with us". Alleluia!

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)

1st 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

*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

Sunday 18th: 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Thursday 22nd: After 10.00am Mass

Friday 23rd: After 10.00am Mass

Saturday 24th: 11.00am – 12noon

Prayer for the 4th Sunday of Advent

This Advent-time we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage and obedience, stepping out into the unknown in the strength of your Spirit, playing their part in the fulfillment of your plan to bring your prodigal people home again. We pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives, that when your gentle whisper breaks through the clamour of this world and into our small corner, we might be ready to listen, and having listened, to act.

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.



4th CANDLE – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angels announced the good news of a Saviour. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-17)

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).



Family Mass, Christmas Eve 6.00pm

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

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.

The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas Holidays on Friday 23rd Dec and will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January. For urgent business please contact Fr Michael.



Family Prayer for putting the Infant Jesus into your Crib

God our Father, you sent Jesus your son, born of Mary in the stable in Bethlehem.

As we celebrate this great event and place this figure of the Infant Jesus in our crib, we ask you to bless our family, friends and community.

We pray for peace and goodwill among all peoples. We pray for compassion and care for all who are in need. We pray that we may be open to your Son being born in our hearts and strengthening the bonds of family and friendship between us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesse Tree Symbols with Scripture - Advent Week FOUR

Sunday 18th – Elizabeth –Dove -Luke 1:39-45
 19th-John the Baptist -River- Matthew 3:1-6
 20th– Mary – Angel - Luke 1:26-35
 21st –Jesus- Manger - Luke 2:1-7

Confessions for Christmas

Mercy and forgiveness are available to us. As we read in the prophet Isaiah, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming to save you' (Is 35:4). And the first thing Jesus said to the man who was lying on the stretcher was, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven' (Lk 5:23). Jesus passed on the power to forgive sin to his Church. This power is exercised mainly through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament is an encounter with Jesus. When we confess our sins in this sacrament, in effect the Lord says to us: 'Your sins are forgiven. Now go and walk in the freedom of the children of God.'



Lectio Divina' -a reflection on the Scripture will take place on Wednesday 21st of December at 11.00am

in either the Fr.Dungan room or Jubilee room. We will reflect on one of the readings for next Sunday. 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.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

O Night Divine!

Was it a week ago already? It was a beautiful evening and a tremendous time was had by all. I thank all who were involved in the background: hospitality for the performers, setting up the Church and returning it back to its original condition; the sound engineer, the lighting engineer and the décor arrangers especially Maureen O'Hély. The concert itself as I said was beautiful. I thank our beautiful Parish Choir and the Junior Choir. They sang like angels. The exuberance of the youth was very evident during the singing of 'Feliz Navidad'. I thank the Organist – Eoin Tierney and the Blanchardstown Brass Band under the baton of Zdenek Ondrousek and of course the overall director of the entire evening our own superlative Parish and Junior Choir director John White. All take a bow for a very successful and entertaining evening! What an audience!! A great turn out on a cold winter's evening. A big thank you to all who attended.

Teen Hope

This event happened on Friday 16th December. It went very well. The teenagers amongst other things painted a Nativity scene. Please keep this wonderful initiative in your prayers. I'd like to thank the Teen Hope Team led by Mairin Keegan (PPW) Mairin Murphy, Tom Hannigan, Aine Jordan and Anna Turcanova.

Building Hope

The Archbishop has declared Parish Partnerships as the way forward. In Dublin 15 the Parish Partnerships are:
 1: Blakestown, Mountview, Huntstown / Littlepace, Hartstown
 2: Blanchardstown, Mulhuddart, Corduff
 3: Castleknock, Laurel Lodge, Porterstown. There will be more on this anon.

Vocation Themed Intercessions for Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent -- In our Gospel we hear how Joseph discerned the guidance of the Angel of the Lord through a dream and found the courage to be counter cultural and take Mary into his home. To make the decision today to be a priest, deacon or religious is counter-cultural and takes courage. We pray for all who are discerning, that they may have the trust to answer the Lord's call

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

A Reflective Sentence

The glory of God is man fully alive; moreover, man's life is the vision of God....Saint Irenaeus of Lyons (135-202)



Children's Corner

In The Gospel

An angel tells Joseph in a dream not to be afraid. Mary's baby is the saviour! Joseph has a special job now. He is going to look after Mary and the baby – and they will call him "Jesus". Jesus will be "God-with-us"!

DON'T BE AFRAID!

Jesus, help me not to be afraid. Help me to trust you and know that you are always with me, just like Joseph did. Amen.

3 10 9 14 2 4

 1 5 12 1 7 3

 8 10 13 4 11 6!

Break the angel code

Find out what the angel said to Joseph.



CODE:

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| A | B | D | E | F | H | I |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| J | N | O | P | R | S | T |

Thank You's

The Christmas Tree

Yet again Tim Ryan and Donal Glennon have decorated a beautiful Christmas Tree for our Parish – Thank you.



Church Décor

The Liturgy Team have outdone themselves in making St Brigid's resplendent in her Christmas Array. Thank you.

Justins

A sincere thank you to Justin who each year supplies the Parish free of charge with a magnificent Christmas Tree and also this year a series of beautiful wreaths

Christmas Cards

Thank you to the Thursday morning parishioners who during their morning coffee put the Christmas cards and dues envelopes into packs. Thank you to George & Anne Maybury who arranged the cards into roads, areas and labeled them. Finally thank you to the volunteer post men and women who delivered the cards to the parishioner's homes.

Christmas Warmth Concert

St. Mochta's Church Choir with Mary Flynn & Friends

on Sunday, 18th December at 7pm in the Church

Tickets €10 per adult / €20 per family

Refreshments in the Parish Centre afterwards

All proceeds will go towards heating the church over the Christmas season

Our Christmas Raffle will take place after the Concert

Thank you to all who supported our recent 'O Night Divine' concert in support of the Ukraine Winter Appeal. We raised a very generous €1,400.

Are you interested in going to Lourdes?

17th-21st July 2023. Full Board in Hotel Solitude. Spiritual Director– Fr John Kelly. For further information please contact: Joan Cahill—087 6262008.



Christmas GOAL Charity Mile Join fellow-parishioners and friends for a run/walk/jog in aid of GOAL'S humanitarian and development work in developing countries on **Christmas Day at the Pope's Cross, Phoenix Park, any time from 10.30 to 12 noon**

Mass Intentions 17th / 18th December

| | | |
|------------|---|--|
| Sat 6pm | Maurice Hennessy MM Stephen McGrath | Patsy Boyle & Aimee Devaney John Ennis Christopher & Frances Howard |
| Sun 1030am | Joan & baby Maurice O'Connell and grandsons Mark & James Marie McCabe Thomas, Maura & Declan Maundsley Seán, Maud & Thomas Reidy | Tony Conway Siobhan Moran Nora & Donal Doolan Mary Daly Ann Hanley |

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