



St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown -Newsletter 19th November

We remember our own dead and our own sadness this November. Tears speak out our grief, but they also witness to our love and we are glad to have loved so much that we can cry. May those we have loved rest in your embrace, O Lord.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Family Mass – next Sunday

Next Sunday, 26th November, is the last Sunday of November. To that end the Family Mass will be at the new time of 10.30am.

Prayer for Vocations

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - In our Gospel Jesus uses a parable to highlight our use of the gifts that he has given to each of us. "You have been faithful in small things; come and join in your master's happiness." We pray that those who are discerning a vocation may have the courage to respond to the call of the Lord and to use their gifts in serving God.

Fr Michael

Parish Meetings this week In the Pastoral Centre

Monday 20th November – Finance Committee – 2.30pm

Wednesday 22nd November - 7.30pm
Parents and Baptismal Team - Parents of children for Baptism in December are invited to meet the Team and have a presentation on the symbols of Baptism along with a short period of prayer.

Thursday 23rd November – The Family Mass Team will meet at 6.15pm.

EXPLORING THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS



What is Christian Morality?

St Brigid's Pastoral Centre

There is no meeting this Wednesday. Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 29th November 7pm.



Medjugorje 2024

Pilgrimage departing 15th May 2024— 7 nights
€750pps incl Insurance.

€50 disc if booked and €200 deposit paid by 1st February 2024. Please contact Pat 087 223 8911 for further information or Marian Pilgrimages 01-8788159

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE

As one candle is lit from the flame of another, so is faith kindled by faith.. Romano Guardini, Priest (1885-1968)



Children's Corner:

IN THE GOSPEL

A man trusts his servants to look after his money. Two of them work hard and increase what they have been given, but one is too scared to use his gift at all. Jesus wants us all to use our gifts well.

Use your Talents well!

Matching

A "talent" in Jesus' time was a sort of money. We use this word today to describe our skills and abilities.

Unscramble these talents and match them to the right people.



USE YOUR GIFTS!

A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you, Lord, for giving me so many gifts. Help me to use them well and generously. Amen.

Saints this Coming Week; The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Tuesday

21st November, on this day was the dedication in the year 543 of the Church of Our Lady near to the Temple in Jerusalem. This feast celebrates Mary in her grace filled life, wholly given over to the Holy Spirit. This feast prepares for Advent and Christmas, when we celebrate the coming of her Divine Son into the world.

St. Columban (Columbanus), abbot and missionary – Thursday 23rd November was born around 543. He became a monk of Bangor and later principal teacher there. In 591, desiring to 'go on pilgrimage for Christ', he set out with twelve companions and came to Burgundy. He established monasteries at Annegray, Luxeuil and Fontaine according to the severe Irish rule. Later he founded Breznitz in Austria and his greatest foundation at Bobbio, near Genoa, where he died in 615. He is remembered as one of the greatest of the Irish missionary monks.

ALTAR LIST OF THE DEAD

Thank you to all who have returned their altar list of the dead. There are still envelopes around the church if you would like to complete one. The Mass is 'offered' for all names on these lists on the First Friday of every month and the lists will be in the Sanctuary area in front of the altar for the month of November.



ADVENT WREATHS

The Liturgy team have put together a pack for you to make your own Advent Wreath at home. The cost of each pack is €10 which is subsidised by the parish. If you need some expert help, Dolores and Mary will do a demonstration in the **centre after 10.30am and midday**

Mass on Sunday 26th November. The packs will be available for sale on the day, and during the following week in the sacristy or in the parish office. **Happy Creating!**

Dunboyne Flower and Garden Club.

Christmas Gala

"Countdown to Christmas"
Flower Demonstration
by Margaret Murphy AOIFA

Dunboyne Castle Hotel
Wednesday 22nd November
8pm

Admission € 15.00 includes light supper supporting "AsIAM" Autism Charity

All Welcome



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday Vigil	Maurice Hennessy (1st Anniv) Noreen Hennessy Patrick Carr Gerard Madden
Sunday 10.30	Bernard Purcell (MM) Rosaleen Boylan (1st Anniv) John & Catherine Finn Terry Reddington June Cooke Julie O'Connor
Monday	Chris Brady

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

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

Synod Retreat

Continuing Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP reflections on the retreat he gave to the participants of the Synod before it began its deliberations.

'At home in God and God at home in us'

We come to this Synod with conflicting hopes. But this need not be an insuperable obstacle. We are united in the hope of the Eucharist, a hope which embraces and transcends all that we long for. But there is another source of tension. Our understandings of the Church as our home sometimes clash. Every living creature needs a home if it is to flourish. Fish need water and birds need nests. Without a home, we cannot live. At home we are affirmed as we are and invited to be more. Home is where we are known, loved and safe but challenged to embark on the adventure of faith. We need to renew the Church as our common home if we are to speak to a world which is suffering from a crisis of homelessness.

We are consuming our little planetary home. There are more than 350 million migrants on the move, fleeing war and violence. Thousands die crossing seas to try to find a home. None of us can be entirely at home unless they are. Even in wealthy countries, millions sleep on the street. Young people are often unable to afford a home. Everywhere there is terrible spiritual homelessness. Acute individualism, the breakdown of the family, ever deeper inequalities mean that we are afflicted with a tsunami of loneliness. Suicides are rising because without a home, physical and spiritual, one cannot live.

Jesus invites his innermost circle of friends to come apart with him and enjoy this intimate moment. They too will be with him in the Garden of Gethsemane. This is the inner circle of those with whom Jesus is most at home. On the mountain he grants them a vision of his glory. Peter wants to cling to this moment. "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He has arrived and wants this intimate moment to endure. But they hear the voice of the Father. 'Listen to him!' They must come down the mountain and walk to Jerusalem, not knowing what awaits them. They will be dispersed and sent to the ends of the earth to be witnesses to our ultimate home, the Kingdom. So here we see two understandings of home: the inner circle at home with Jesus on the mountain and the summons to our ultimate home, the Kingdom in which all will belong. Similar different understandings of the Church as home tear us apart today. For some it is defined by its ancient traditions and devotions, its inherited structures and language, the Church we have grown up with and love. It gives us a clear Christian identity. For others, the present Church does not seem to be a safe home. It is experienced as exclusive, marginalizing many people... For some it is too Western, too Eurocentric.



To love is to come home to someone. So what does this scene of the Transfiguration teach us about our home, both in the Church and in our dispossessed world?

For some the idea of a universal welcome, in which everyone is accepted regardless of who they are, is felt as destructive of the Church's identity. As in a nineteenth-century English song, 'If everybody is somebody then nobody is anybody.' They believe that identity demands boundaries. But for others, it is the very heart of the Church's identity to be open. Pope Francis said, 'The Church is called on to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open ... where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems and to move towards those who feel the need to take up again their path of faith.' This tension has always been at the heart of our faith, since Abraham left Ur. The Old Testament holds two things in perpetual tension: the idea of election, God's chosen people, the people with whom God dwells. This is an identity which is cherished. But also universalism, openness to all the nations, an identity which is yet to be discovered. Christian identity is both known and unknown, given and to be sought. St. John says, 'Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.' (1 John 3. 1 – 2).



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We know who we are and yet we do not know who we shall be. For some of us, the Christian identity is above all given, the Church we know and love. For others Christian identity is always provisional, lying ahead as we journey towards the Kingdom in which all walls will fall. Both are necessary! If we stress only our identity is given – This is what it means to be Catholic – we risk becoming a sect. If we just stress the adventure towards an identity yet to be discovered, we risk becoming a vague Jesus movement. But the Church is a sign and sacrament of the unity of all humanity in Christ in being both. We dwell on the mountain and taste the glory now. But we walk to Jerusalem.

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