

St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Mary, The Holy Mother of God—Sunday 1st January 2023



The sight of the star
filled them with delight

Mt 2:1-12

This Sunday's Readings

1st: Numbers 6: 22-27

Psalm: 66

R/ O God, be gracious and bless us.

2nd St Paul to the Galatians 4: 4-7.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! *At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his son. Alleluia!*

Gospel: Luke 2: 16-21

CURRENT SCHEDULE

Saturday 31st Dec 6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 1st January 10.30am

Monday 2nd January 11am

Tuesday 3rd 10am

Wednesday 4th Liturgy of the Word
10am

Thursday 5th 10am & 730pm
Vigil of Epiphany

Friday 6th 10am
Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday 7th 10am followed by
confessions & 6pm Sat Vigil

Sunday 8th 10.30am

A Reflective Sentence

God whispers in our joys; he speaks in our conscience. But in our sorrows he shouts. They are the megaphone with which he awakens a deaf world.Clive Staples CS Lewis (1898-1963 author of the Chronicles of Narnia)



Feast of the Epiphany

The story of the Magi, the wise men, represent all of our stories insofar as their journey through desert and mountain following a star reflects our search for purpose and meaning in life – a search which is not complete unless we are guided by faith which enables us to see beneath the surface of appearances - a faith which gives us the strength in tough times but hopefully that deep down joy as we journey through life.

At the centre of this journey is the innocence of a new born child, surrounded by adoration, wonder and mystery, who is able to stir the emotions, imaginations and wills of all those drawn into his presence. There are many routes to God, but only one light. The Magi and the shepherds found their way to the stable by quite different paths but by following the same star. The Epiphany is always relevant because God sees to it that people who really search WILL find him. He will shed light into our darkness and make us new. As the Lord said, "ask and you will be given, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened to you". As the Christmas season draws to a close the Epiphany remind us of our journeying into another year following our individual paths, but reminding us that we need not travel alone, fumbling in the darkness in search of our destination. The Epiphany story calls on us to look around and search for the Lord who is in our midst, in situations where previously we were unaware of his presence. He comes in people and places we least expect and at times when we are most unprepared for his company. God stands in our midst revealing himself and inviting us to enter his company. Nothing is ever the same again for those who have discovered his light.

The Magi came bearing gifts-strange gifts. I came across a thoughtful reflection on these gifts in a book called 'Hallowing the Time' by Fr. Geoffrey Preston. He suggests that "the gifts represent all the questions posed by a non-believing world: gold, the currency of politics, economics and commerce, frankincense, the material of worship, signifies man's questions about the divine; and myrrh, the ointment of death, 'the supreme question mark set against all the activities of man'. Thus man's searching is laid at the manger, wherein lies the answer, the 'way, the truth and the life'". (*Reflections for Christmas by Delia Smith*)



We can be sure that the wise men were utterly changed after meeting the child Jesus and they brought that change with them as they went home. In seeing Jesus they saw the divine light which no doubt guided the rest of their lives and today we ask and pray for that divine light to guide and influence our own lives as we begin this year of Our Lord 2023.

A New Years Blessing

Lord, at the beginning of this New Year, we thank you for your gift of time. **Let** us embrace time as Mary did, as the experience of the unfolding of your plan of salvation. **We** measure time with calendars and watches.

You experience it as an ever present 'now'.

Bless our ordered lists of weeks and months, of holydays and holidays, of feasts and fasts, and all our special days of remembering.

Please bless these instruments with which we measure time. Let them remind us that you are the master of time as we dedicate this New Year to you. **Lord** bless this New Year, each of its days and nights. Bless us with happy seasons and healthy lives.

Lord, we thank you for the gift of 2023. Grant that it will be a year of love and peace. **Amen.**

BUILDING HOPE in Parish Partnership

We will be taking the first step in this process when the parish teams from Corduff, Mulhuddart and Blanchardstown meet up on Jan 9th. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide us as we move forward in hope.

Dates for the New Year:

Teen Hope — Friday 20th January 7-830pm
Laudato Si Awards - Tuesday 17th January 430-530pm

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Christmas isn't over yet!



I hope that everyone got what they wanted from Santa and that your Christmas Day was a joyful and peaceful family occasion. Christmas is not over yet! It is such an important Feast day that the Church stretches it out over 8 days – called the Octave. And then of course we have the 12 days of Christmas which takes us to January 6th and the beautiful Feast of the Epiphany



Happy New Year!

On behalf of myself, the Parish Team; the Parish Staff and the Parish Pastoral Council, I'd like to wish the parishioners of St. Brigid's Blanchardstown and Royal Canal a peaceful and happy New Year.

Mass Booking Diary

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

Feast of the Epiphany

This feast day is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times are as follows:

Thursday 5th Jan (Vigil) at 7.30pm.

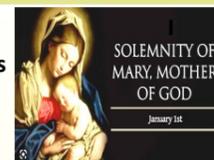
Friday 6th Jan at 10.00am

Fr Michael Carey PP

Vocation Themed

Intercessions for Christians

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



The Shepherds praised And glorified God and Mary treasured and Pondered on the birth of her son and her role in His life. We pray that through Mary's intercession, those who are called to serve as priests, deacons or religious can, like the shepherds, give glory to God.

Please pray for our recently deceased

Teresa Whelan Margaret Kenny John Moran

Mass Intentions 31st Dec/1st January

Sat	Mary MacGabhann
6pm	Brigid & James Heskin
Sun	Margaret French

Children's Corner

In The Gospel

When the shepherds find the baby in the manger, they repeat what the angels said - he is the Messiah! Mary thinks deeply about all they say. Jesus is a very, very special baby.

Maze!

The shepherds ran to Bethlehem to find Jesus. Can you help them find him?

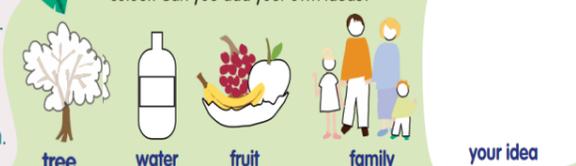


MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD!

Help me, Jesus, to just get on with doing what you ask. Help me to be loving and kind with everyone I meet. I know you will be with me and you will help me. Amen.

Thank you, God!

The shepherds were very excited when they had seen Jesus. They went away praising God. What wonderful things can you praise and thank God for? Here are some ideas for you to colour. Can you add your own ideas?

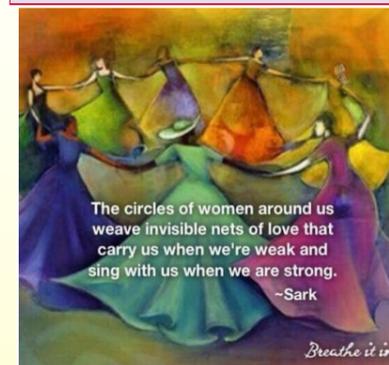


What is Mary's treasure?

Mary treasured all things the shepherds said. When we treasure something we look after it and keep it safe. We know the things that we treasure are special. Mary pondered all these things in her heart. When we "ponder" something we think deeply about it.

Can you find out what Mary treasured in her heart?

Add these missing letters to find out: a i s e h o s e r p



The circles of women around us weave invisible nets of love that carry us when we're weak and sing with us when we are strong. ~Sark

Breathe it in

The Feast of the Epiphany & Nollaig na mBan – Women's Christmas is celebrated this week! January 6 is a special day when we celebrate the women who worked so tirelessly throughout the year.

The Letter tells the story of 5 people of different faiths and from different parts of the world who journey to Rome to meet Pope Francis.

There will be 2 special screenings on Thursday 19th January at 7.30pm in the Pastoral Centre in Royal Canal & Friday 24th February at 7.30pm in the Church extension. Powerful and moving, Don't Miss It!



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