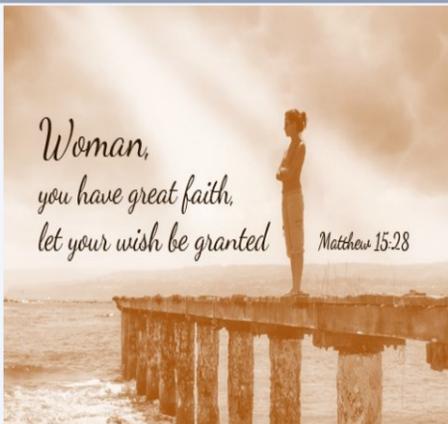




St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday 20th August



FEASTS OF MARY

Believe it or not, there are a number or Church feasts in the Month of August to Our Lady (*The Assumption; Our Lady of Knock and the Queenship of Mary*). I came across a nice reflection by the late Cardinal Hume which I will write for this week's newsletter.

**STRONG IN FAITH, GENEROUS IN LOVE,
CHEERFUL IN HOPE.**

Our Lady played a key role in the life of Our Lord which earned her the great title of Mother of God. She plays an important role now in the life of the Church and is increasingly called Mother of the Church, the church that was born on Calvary and received its mission at Pentecost.

She was there on Calvary suffering birth pangs, as it were, as the church was born from the pierced side of Our Blessed Lord. She was present in the Upper Room when the Holy Spirit came down on the apostles.



She is Mother, always there, always interested, always available – a bit in the background, but constantly there. We are reminded of her presence whenever a feast of hers takes place.

Has it occurred to you to consider that Mary (though it seems odd to put it this way), the most distinguished of all the followers of Christ, was a lay person? Has it occurred to you that she whose heart was pierced by a sword, she who suffered most closely with her Son, was not in fact a martyr? But of all those who followed, none was stronger in faith, more generous in charity and, I would suggest, more cheerful in hope.

Our Lord went out of his way to praise her faith and her love. How could there be a greater vocation than to bring the Son of God, himself truly God, into the world to be at the same time truly man, and to care for him and help him prepare for his work?

But the true value of a person lies in the way that person listens to God and is prepared to respond by wanting the things God wants. And what is this listening and this mutual wanting but the basis of true love? The future was hidden from Mary. There was much she did not understand. She would suffer, see her husband die and her child leave home. She had to cope with the ordinary worries and anxieties of everyday living and then the real trial: those last days and hours when she stood at the foot of the Cross. But she believed and she loved, so she trusted.



She stood at the foot of the cross and shared the agony of her son. As he was dying, he gave his mother to be St. John's mother. It was just a simple gesture. At that moment we were all being represented by St. John, he was each one of us, so to speak. This explains the unique role played by Mary in the lives of Christians, the family of those reconciled to God through the passion and death of Christ: Mary his mother is our Mother also.

Art and other forms of devotion down through the ages have tried to express this truth of Mary as mother. A notable example is the sculpture in St. Peter's in Rome, fashioned by Michelangelo, which represents Mary cradling her dead Son in her arms. (Source *the Mystery of the Cross - Cardinal Basil Hume*).

Liturgy of the Word All attendees invited to come for a cup of tea/coffee next Wednesday after the service. This will include a chat about the Liturgy and any changes that might be suggested.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time –

The Canaanite Woman

We have many ways to keep other people "in their place". We use put-down words, we ignore them as if they were not there, we turn our backs on them, we are sarcastic, we criticise them to their face, etc. The gospel portrays Jesus as a typical Jewish male of his time who puts the Canaanite woman in her place.

The Canaanite woman in turn puts Jesus in his place. For the Canaanite woman,



Jesus is the one who can heal, that is, the One who brings salvation. Nothing deters her from

reminding him of his role as the "Son of David". Amazed by her great faith, he grants her request to heal her daughter and in this demonstrates who he really is – the Saviour. He thus acknowledges her rightful place among the saved.

(Source: *Living Liturgy*)

Fr Michael Carey

An Irish Wish



God be good to you in all your days,
God be kind to you in all your ways.

God give strength to you when crosses lean,
God send light to you, the clouds between.
God give peace to you in times of strife,
God bless everything that fills your life.
God send joy to you when grief is o'er,
God make way for you at Heaven's door.
(Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB-Brian O' Higgins)

SAINTS IN THE CHURCH'S CALENDAR

The Queenship of Mary – Tues 22nd

During the Middle Ages, Mary was venerated as queen of the angels and saints. Pope Pius XII prescribed the memorial for the universal Church at the close of the Marian Year 1955. It is placed on this date to stress the connection of Mary's queenship and with the Assumption.

St. Bartholomew, Apostle – Thur 24th

Was originally from Cana in Galilee and is usually identified with Nathanael, who was introduced to the Lord by St. Philip. According to Tradition, after Pentecost he preached the Gospel in Arabia, India and Armenia. He is the patron of tanners, plasterers and leatherworkers.

Children's Corner:

IN THE GOSPEL

A foreign woman from Canaan asks Jesus to heal her sick daughter. She asks and she asks - and she keeps on asking. Jesus sees the woman's great faith and makes her daughter well.

An important word

The Canaanite woman believed Jesus could help her daughter.

She had f _ _ _ _ (t a i h)



Word search

How many times can you find **ASK?** Why do you think "ask" is in the word search more than once?

FAITH ASK
JESUS HEALS GIRL

Thank you Jesus, for coming to help us all no matter who we are or where we are from. Help me to trust you and keep on praying, even if I don't seem to get an answer straight away. Amen.

F	A	I	T	H
A	S	K	X	E
S	K	K	S	A
K	G	I	R	L
J	E	S	U	S

Sunday Mass Collections

Many thanks for your continued support of these collections which are vital for the support of the priests of the diocese. You can contribute to the Mass collections by:

Putting your offerings in the 'white boxes' around the Church or leaving your Envelope into Parish Office during the week. *Envelopes are provided on seats or you can have an Envelope supply in your home for convenience.*

Using the 'Tap and Go' machines. Using the online 'Donate' facility on the Parish Website. See www.blanchardstownparish.ie where you can select both one-off and recurring payments.

The Mass collections are divided – 60% to the 1st – Common Fund for Priests; 40% - to the 2nd – Share.

Thank you so much for your generosity

ESKER CEMETERY MASS, LUCAN

Will be on SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER at 3pm - Weather Permitting.



Church Heating System

Work on the installation of a new church heating system will begin on Thursday 31st August.

The project is expected to be completed within 3-4 weeks. Mass times will not be affected, however, there will be **No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** during this time.

Mass intentions for the week

Saturday vigil	Sarah Dunne (1st Anniv) Tony Dunne
Sunday	Kathleen Somers Kathleen Lawlor

Are you looking for food for the mind and oxygen for the soul in the company of fellow travellers? Join the Adult Education Certificate in Spirituality and Human Development Programme. It is open for applications now! For more information please see www.mie.ie/spirituality or mary.gao@mie.ie // 087 450 8549.

We pray for our recently deceased:

John Kelly

Always loved, never forgotten



A Reflective Sentence

Take comfort; you would not be seeking me if you had not already found me..... Blaise Pascal (1588-1651).



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