



St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 21st January 2024



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

Saints this Coming Week

The Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle— Thursday 25th, This feast commemorates the conversion of Saul of Tarsus while he was on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians. He was blinded by a light and thrown to the ground, hearing the words, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'

Ss. Timothy and Titus, bishops— Friday 26th, were close to St. Paul as followers and later in their work with him. Timothy died in 97AD beaten to death when he opposed the worship of Dionysus. Titus dies in 96 AD and seems to have served as the first bishop of Crete.

Mary, The Mother of God—cont'd

Pope Francis wrote a beautiful homily for this feast Day, 1st January. Continuing from last week ...

Just as Mary, the woman, played a decisive role in the fullness of time, she is also decisive in the lives of each of us, for no one knows better than a Mother the stages of growth and the urgent needs of her children. Mary shows us this in yet another "beginning": the first sign that Jesus performs, at the wedding feast of Cana. There, she is the one who realizes that the wine has run out, and who appeals to Jesus (cf. Jn 2:3). The needs of her children move her, the Mother, to beg Jesus to intervene. At Cana, Jesus says: "Fill the jars with water". And they filled them up to the brim" (Jn 2:7). Mary knows our needs; she intercedes to make grace overflow in our lives and to guide them to authentic fulfilment.

Brothers and sisters, all of us have our shortcomings, our times of loneliness, our inner emptiness that cries out to be filled. Each of us knows this well. Who can fill our emptiness if not Mary, the Mother of fullness? Whenever we are tempted to retreat into ourselves, let us run to her; whenever we are no longer able to untie the knots in our lives, let us seek refuge in her. Our times, bereft of peace, need a Mother who can reunite the human family. Let us look to Mary, in order to become artisans of unity. Let us do so with her maternal creativity and concern for her children. For she unites them and consoles them; she listens to their troubles and she dries their tears. She cares for us and remains close to us.

Let us entrust this coming year to the Mother of God. Let us consecrate our lives to her. With tender love, she will open our eyes to their fullness. For she will lead us to Jesus, who is himself "the fullness of time", of every time, of our own time, of each one of us. Indeed, as was once written: "It was not the fullness of time that brought about the sending of the Son of God, but the sending of the Son that brought about the fullness of time".

Brothers and sisters, may this year be filled with the consolation of the Lord! May this year be filled with the tender maternal love of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

I now invite all of us together to proclaim three times: *Holy Mother of God! Holy Mother of God! Holy Mother of God!*

Sunday of the Word of God – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

In his Apostolic Letter of 30 September 2019, *Aperuit illis* Pope Francis established that the **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** is to be the Sunday of the Word of God. He already proposed something similar at the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. It is a day to be devoted to the celebration, study, and spreading of the Word of God. Pope Francis is clear from the very first paragraph of this letter that the relationship between the Risen Lord, a community of believers, and sacred Scripture is essential to who we are as Christians.

What is the Word of God?

We often identify the Bible as the Word of God. This is not wrong, but God speaks to our hearts in many different ways. For instance, he speaks to us in prayer and through our conscience, and often through other people. Hence, the Word of God covers much more than a printed book. Nevertheless, the Bible is the privileged collection of communications between God and his people. These stories and poems have nourished the lives of the people of Israel and the Christian Church right through the centuries, and they continue to nourish us today. They tell the story of God's love and our salvation from ancient times onwards. The scriptural texts offer us both challenge and encouragement for our lives and are especially valuable to us through the hope they offer us at dark moments.

Theme for 2024 – "Remain in my Word" (Jn.8:31)

Parish Meetings

This week in the Pastoral Centre
Wednesday 24th January - 7.30pm **Parents and Baptismal Team** - The parents of children for Baptism in February are invited to meet the Team and have a presentation on the symbols of Baptism along with a short period of prayer.

Thursday 25th January – Family Mass Team – members of this Team will meet at 6pm

Friday 26th January – Baptism Team – the members of this Team will meet to discuss and review the Parents' Meetings.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Week of Christian Unity-2024

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity concludes this Thursday 25th January on the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. The week

is a privileged moment of prayer, encounter and dialogue. It is an opportunity to recognise and receive the richness and value that are present in the other, the different, and to ask God for the gift of unity. Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) writes: "The immense numbers of people who have not received the Gospel of Jesus Christ cannot leave us indifferent. Consequently, commitment to a unity which helps them to accept Jesus Christ can no longer be a matter of mere diplomacy or forced compliance, but rather an indispensable path to evangelisation" (E.G 246)

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week 2024 runs from Sunday 21st January, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, until Saturday 27th January and its theme is '**Catholic Schools: Communities of service**'. Each of us are on a journey in life. For Catholics each journey begins and ends with God. Each moment on that journey is a chance to come to know and love God, who has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ. We can feel God's presence when we pray, when we spend time with loved ones, in nature, in moments of joy and when we come together as a community to celebrate God's love at Mass. As we walk our journey, God is with us every step of the way.

Confirmation Retreats

These will begin this coming week with the boys and girls from the 6th classes. The retreats will be held on Monday and Thursday at 11.30am. I thank our excellent Confirmation Team: Pat Cummins; Margaret Hill and Aine Jordan who are assisted by the Parish Team. Please keep the boys and girls and their families in your prayers.

Peter McVerry Trust

Thank you all for your generous donation of €400 from the sale of Christmas cards.

Family Mass

Next Sunday, 28th January, we have the Family Mass at 10.30am with the Youth Choir. There will be refreshments afterwards. All welcome.

Fr Michael Carey PP

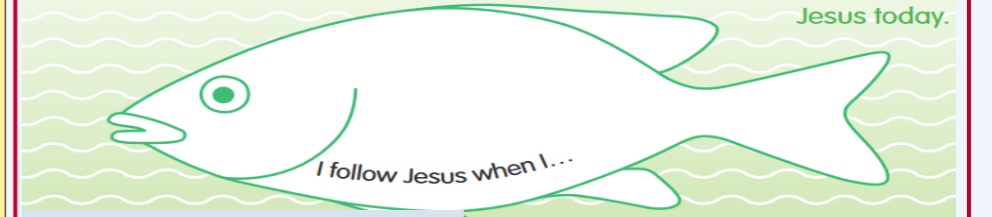
Children's Corner: In the Gospel Today

Jesus asks Peter, Andrew, James and John to stop being fishermen, and to follow him. He asks them to help him to build the kingdom of God.

Following Jesus

Jesus asked the disciples to follow him. Jesus wants us to follow him too. We follow Jesus when we share God's love with other people.

Draw a picture in the fish of one way you can follow Jesus today.



Dear Jesus, I want to follow you and help to build your kingdom too! Help me to be loving, kind and fair in all I do. Help me to stand up for what is right. Amen.

FOLLOW ME!



Sunday, 21 January–Saturday, 27 January

Catholic Schools Week 2024

Catholic Schools: Serving Our Communities

Catholic schools are animated by gospel values, which are lived through active ministry to one another built on a fundamental respect of all people, from all nations and embracing all differences. Every member of our school communities offers their service through the unique gifts and talents they have been given. The service of every single person, regardless of age or role, is of value and contributes to the characteristic spirit of each school within the parish. Catholic schools are intrinsically connected with the local parish community, and both are actively at the service of one another. It is important to acknowledge and celebrate the living connection that exists between school and parish during Catholic Schools Week.

St Brigid's Feast Day



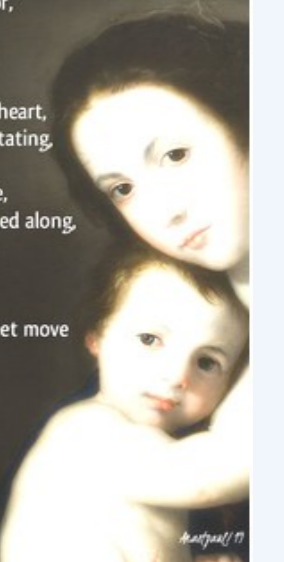
Next Sunday, 28th January, we will host St Brigid's cross making workshops after the 10.30am mass and after the midday First Holy Communion mass in the pastoral centre. The crosses will be blessed on the day and on St Brigid's Day, 1st February.

We will run a further St Brigid's cross making workshop on Thursday 1st February after 10am mass.

Prayer to Mary, Woman of Listening

By Pope Francis

Mary, woman of listening, open our ears, grant us to know how to listen to the word of your Son Jesus, among the thousands of words of this world, grant that we may listen to the reality in which we live, to every person we encounter, especially those who are poor, in need, in hardship. Mary, woman of decision, illuminate our mind and our heart, so that we may obey, unhesitating, the word of your Son Jesus, give us the courage to decide, not to let ourselves be dragged along, letting others direct our life. Mary, woman of action, obtain that our hands and feet move "with haste" toward others, to bring them the charity and love of your Son Jesus, to bring the light of the Gospel to the world, as you did. Amen



Mass intentions for the week

Saturday	John Duffy
Sunday	Kevin Smith Mossie McElhinney Kitty & Liam McCarthy Patsy Barden Sheila & Michael Kavanagh
Thursday	T.J. Tuohy

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