

St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Third Sunday of Easter— Sunday 23rd April 2023



Easter Homily 2023 - Pope Francis

Continuing on from last week I am including the second half and conclusion of the Easter Homily of Pope Francis.

“Yet, to do this, the Pasch of the Lord takes us back to the grace of our own past; it brings us back to Galilee, where our love story with Jesus began, where the first call took place. In other words, it asks us to re-live that moment, that situation, that experience in which we met the Lord, experienced his love and received a radiantly new way of seeing ourselves, the world around us and the mystery of life itself. Brothers and sisters, to rise again, to start anew, to take up the journey, we always need to return to Galilee, that is, to go back, not to an abstract or ideal Jesus, but to the living, concrete and palpable memory of our first encounter with him. Yes, to go forward we need to go back, to remember; to have hope, we need to revive our memory. This is what we are asked to do: to remember and go forward! If you recover that first love, the wonder and joy of your encounter with God, you will keep advancing. So remember, and keep moving forward.

Remember your own Galilee and walk towards it, for it is the “place” where you came to know Jesus personally, where he stopped being just another personage from a distant past, but a *living person*: not some distant God but the God who is at your side, who more than anyone else knows you and loves you. Brother, sister, remember Galilee, your Galilee, and your call. Remember the Word of God who at a precise moment spoke directly to you. Remember that powerful experience of the Spirit; that great joy of forgiveness experienced after that one confession; that intense and unforgettable moment of prayer; that light that was kindled within you and changed your life; that encounter, that pilgrimage...

Each of us knows where our Galilee is located. Each of us knows the place of his or her interior resurrection, that beginning and foundation, the place where things changed. We cannot leave this in the past; the Risen Lord invites us to return there to celebrate Easter. Remember your Galilee. Remind yourself. Today, relive that memory. Return to that first encounter. Think back on what it was like, reconstruct the context, time and place. Remember the emotions and sensations; see the colours and savour the taste of it. For it is when you forgot that first love, when you failed to remember that first encounter, that the dust began to settle on your heart. That is when you experienced sorrow and, like the disciples, you saw the future as empty, like a tomb with a stone sealing off all hope. Yet today, brother, sister, the power of Easter summons you to roll away every stone of disappointment and mistrust. The Lord is an expert in rolling back the stones of sin and fear. He wants to illuminate your sacred memory, your most beautiful memory, and to make you relive that first encounter with him. Remember and keep moving forward. Return to him and rediscover the grace of God's resurrection within you! Return to Galilee. Return to *your* Galilee.



Dear brothers and sisters, let us follow Jesus to Galilee, encounter him and worship him there, where he is waiting for each of us. Let us revive the beauty of that

moment when we realized that he is alive and we made him the Lord of our lives. Let us return to Galilee, the Galilee of our first love. Let each of us return to his or her own Galilee, to the place where we first encountered him. Let us rise to new life!”

Saints in the Church's Calendar

St. Mark, Evangelist -Tues 25th, His Gospel gives the teaching and memoirs of St. Peter. He joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey and later became St. Paul's secretary in Rome.

St. Catherine of Siena, doctor of the Church Saturday 29th, (1347-80). Humble Dominican tertiary, who brought peace to her native Siena, to Italy, and to the 14th century Europe. Died aged 33 and proclaimed doctor of the Church in 1970 and patron of Europe in 2000.

Confirmation Ceremonies – 2023

The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for our Parish Schools continues. On **Thursday 27th April** we have the boys from Scoil Bhríde Buachaillí at **11.00am**. I welcome the children and their parents/guardians and wider family circle to these wonderful occasions.



Jesus: life's companion

All through life's day, you walk with us, Lord. But often we don't recognise you, for we are blinded by work and worry, doubt, confusion and fear, and so you remain a stranger to us. Before the day's end we will ask many questions, experience many sorrows and disappointments. And then, suddenly, whether we are young, middle-aged, or old, we will find that night is approaching. In that moment we pray, that, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, our eyes will be opened, and that we will recognise you. And you will not vanish from our sight, but stay with us to guide us to the Father's house. (Source: *Flor McCarthy SDB*)



Priesthood in a Synodal Church

In life, many hear God's call to priesthood. Is your heart open to the Lord? Have you ever considered taking the risk to follow in the footsteps of Jesus? If so, you are invited to the national seminary, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, on April 25 to attend a **special conference on evangelisation and vocations in Ireland** today. Archbishop Rino Fisichella, Pro Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelisation, will be the keynote speaker. Please register directly at www.vocations.ie, or contact the National Vocations director Fr Willie Purcell at willie.purcell@iecon.ie or Rev Eric Cooney secretary of the National Vocations Office at eric.cooney@iecon.ie. The conference is a prelude to the opening of the national **Year of Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood** on Good Shepherd Sunday, April 30, on the theme 'Take the Risk for Christ'. There is no charge for attending but places are limited.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Family Mass – next Sunday

Next Sunday 30th April is the last Sunday of April. To that end the Family Mass will be celebrated at 12 noon.



Teen Hope

This event happened on Friday 21st April. It went very well. 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 who give of their time not only on the night but also in preparation. The next Teen Hope gathering is on Friday 19th May at 7.00pm.

Parish Partnership

The Parish Partnership of Blanchardstown, Corduff and Mulhuddart held a meeting in St Patrick's Corduff on Monday last. Our discussions always have as a backdrop the Building Hope Programme of the Archdiocese. Part of that discussion is as to whether there are events-liturgies that we can hold as a Partnership as opposed to each Parish holding separately. The most recent example being the Penitential Liturgy which was held in St Brigid's Blanchardstown. The Advent Penitential Liturgy will probably be held in one of the other Parishes. We have also printed the timetable of the weekly Mass Schedule and displayed in the three parishes. All three Parishes had above average attendances at the Easter Triduum ceremonies, especially Easter Sunday – the crowds at these Masses were phenomenal and a great sign in our opinion of the Holy Spirit at work. **Fr Michael Carey PP**

Monthly mass this Friday 28th April in St Patrick's Church Corduff at 7.30pm. Our guest speaker a 27 yr old Joy Byrne who suffered mental health issues, ended up in psychiatric care self harming and suicidal thoughts. She heard a girl giving her testimony at the youth festival in Medjugorje. She joined Cenaclo and will tell of her path back to health! A Grace filled story not to be missed.

Parish Meetings – This coming week

Thursday 27th April – The **Family Mass Team** will meet in the Pastoral Centre at 7.00pm. This is a new team, please pray for its success and if you are interested in joining please contact any member of the Parish Team.

Easter Dues Envelopes If you did not receive Easter Dues envelope and would like to contribute to the Priests of the Parish, please take one from the tables around the Church. A sincere thank you to all who have returned their Easter Dues. Your continued generosity is very much appreciated. **If you have not made a return and would like to there are dues envelopes available in the Church.** If you are not a regular contributor to the Parish and would like to do so, please leave your name and contact details with myself or in the Sacristy or Parish Office.

Children's Corner

In The Gospel

The disciples don't know what to do now Jesus has died. Two of them leave Jerusalem to go home. A stranger walks with them and explains how God always knew what would happen. The stranger joins them for food. When he breaks the bread they realise it has been Jesus all along! He is alive! Now they understand.

Jesus can help

Jesus helps his two friends understand all that has happened. Do you sometimes need help understanding things? Who explains things to you when you don't understand?

Draw a picture of that person, write their name and say thank you to God for that person.

Help me, Jesus, when I don't understand things. Give me the courage to ask for help and the determination to keep on trying. Amen.



Mass intentions for the week

Day	Intention
Sat 6pm	Thomas Behan Noel Wright Kay McGlynn (MM)
Sun	Frank Barrett (MM) Catherine Hegarty Mary & Czes Kubiak Eillie Peake Jack Quirke Herbie Hughes
Mon	Ann Fitzgerald

We welcome our recently baptised:



Nathaniel and Rian

Mulhuddart Cemetery Mass
Sunday 11th June 2023 at 3pm.

Castleknock and District Lions

Club are holding a **QUIZ!** table quiz on Friday 28th April in Castleknock Tennis Club, Old Navan Road, in aid of the victims of the Turkey & Syria earthquakes, €60 per table. Lots of spot prizes. Contact 086 6089629 for tickets.

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
Sunday Mass at 10.30am*
*Last Sunday of each month will also have a midday Family Mass **
1st Saturday of the month– 10am Mass followed by confessions
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
Wed: Mulhuddart
Fri: Corduff

A Reflective Sentence

That is one of the reasons why I believe in Christianity: it is a religion that no one could have thought up. – Clive Staples CS Lewis (1898-1963 author of the Chronicles of Narnia).



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