

St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Feast of the Holy Family—26th December 2021



This Week's Readings

1st: 1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28
Psalm: 83 R/ They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord
2nd: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!
Gospel: Luke 2: 41-52

CURRENT MASS SCHEDULE

Monday—Friday Mass: 10am preceded by the Rosary at 9.35am
 church opens at 9.30am and closes at 5pm

Saturday: church opens for private prayer at 10am
Vigil Mass at 7pm

Sunday Mass at 10.30am* & 12 noon

Services available on www.blanchardstownparish.ie/webcam
 *also available on Phoenix Radio—92.5FM

Confession—The Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation will be available on the 1st Saturday of every month from 10.30am to 11.00am and by request

Eucharistic Adoration—Tues. and Fri. after the 10am Mass.

New Evening Mass for the Greater Blanchardstown Area
 Mulhuddart – Monday, Castleknock – Tuesday
Blanchardstown – Wednesday

Castleknock – Thursday, Corduff – Friday
Please remember: mask, sanitise, safe distance.

After Christmas Arrangements 2021

Sunday 26th: 10.30am & 12 noon
Monday 27th– Friday 31st: 11am
Sat. 1st Jan: 11am & 7pm—Vigil
Sunday 2nd Jan: 10.30am & 12 noon
Monday 3rd & Tues 4th Jan: 10am Mass resumes
Wednesday 5th Jan: 10am & 7pm Vigil
Thursday 6th Jan (Epiphany): 10am

Christmas Dues Envelopes

Thank you to all who have returned their Christmas Dues. If you did not receive a Christmas Dues envelope and would like to contribute to the Priests of the Parish, please take one from the tables in the Church.

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FROM THE PASTORS DESK THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

The Holy Family This Sunday the Church celebrates the Feast of 'The Holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph', so as a Parish Community we are still celebrating the Feast of Christmas, which is extended over 8 days – the Octave. The Pope in reflecting on this had the following to say, which I think is quite lovely and easily readable as much of the Pope's thoughts are:

"The family is the "great gift that the Lord has given to the world ever since the beginning, when he entrusted to Adam and Eve the mission of multiplying and filling the earth; the gift that Jesus confirmed and sealed in His Gospel".

The incarnation of the Son of God, which opens a new chapter in the universal history of man and woman. "And this new beginning occurs within a family, in Nazareth. He could have come spectacularly, or as a warrior, an emperor... No – he came as the son of a family, in a family", he emphasised.

God chose to be born "in a human family, that He Himself had formed. He created this family in a remote village in the outer reaches of the Roman Empire. Not in Rome, the capital of the Empire, not in a great city, but in an almost invisible and somewhat notorious periphery. This is even noted in the Gospel, almost as if it were a turn of phrase: 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?'

"Jesus chose to remain in the periphery for thirty years, during which there is no mention of miracles or healing, of preaching, of crowds who run after him..... The Gospels, in their sobriety, say nothing of Jesus' adolescence and leave this task to our affectionate imaginings. Art, literature and music have followed the path of the imagination.....

"Every Christian family – as Mary and Joseph did – must first welcome Jesus, listen to Him, speak with Him, shelter Him, protect Him, grow with Him; and in this way, make the world better. Let us make space in our heart and in our days for the Lord. This is what Mary and Joseph did, and it was not easy: how many difficulties they had to overcome! It was not a false or unreal family. The family of Nazareth calls to us to rediscover the vocation and the mission of the family, of every family. And so what happened in those thirty years in Nazareth can also happen to us: making love, not hate, normal; mutual help common, instead of indifference and hostility. It is not by chance that Nazareth means 'she who preserves', like Mary who, as the Gospel tells us, 'treasured all these things in her heart'. From then on, whenever there is a family that preserves this mystery, even if it should be at the outer reaches of the world, the mystery of the Son of God is at work. And He comes to save the world.

Father Michael

Royal Canal - Pelletstown

The Mass was celebrated for the four Thursday's of Advent and it went quite well. There was a turnout in excess of 10 people including children which was lovely. From small acorns... We hope to continue this initiative during the Thursday's of Lent.

Parish of St. Brigid, Blanchardstown

Important Note

1. The Church can accommodate 220 people (100 Church and 120 Extension) for each Mass on December 24th & 25th. With 5 Christmas Masses (two on the evening and three on the day) we can accommodate 1100 people.
2. A steward will place a cord across each door when limits are reached - this is to comply with Covid regulations and to keep everyone safe. The Government has expressly forbidden people standing in the Church
3. In the Church, Christmas is celebrated over an Octave that is 8 days, so if you would like to attend a 'Christmas Mass' you don't have to confine yourself to December 24th (Vigil) or December 25th, you can attend a Christmas Mass any day up to and including January 1st.

Saints in the Church's Calendar

Sunday 26th, St. Stephen, 1st Martyr, died, c.35AD, the first Christian martyr, was one of those in charge of the poor and needy. He is outstanding for his forgiveness of his enemies. Present at his martyrdom was Saul of Tarsus, soon to become the Apostle to the Gentiles. Patron of stonemasons, bricklayers and deacons. (Not celebrated this year as it falls on a Sunday)

Monday 27th, St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, died, c.100AD, brother of James, son of Zebedee, the disciple whom Jesus loved, is traditionally said to have died in Ephesus. Alone among the Twelve, he stood at the foot of the cross and was entrusted to the Blessed Virgin. He is considered to be the author of the fourth Gospel, the Book of Revelation and three Letters. The Letters especially teach us the law of love; John is said in his old age to have preached only one message: love one another.

Tuesday 28th The Holy Innocents, Martyrs, 'The flight into Egypt and the massacre of the Holy innocents make manifest the opposition of darkness to the light: "He came to his own home, and his own people received him not." Christ's whole life was lived under the sign of persecution. His own share it with him. Jesus' departure from Egypt recalls the exodus and presents him as the definitive liberator of his people'.

We welcome our recently Baptised

**Mason, Elizabeth, Niamh,
 James, Éabha,
 Killian and Ailbhe**

Children's Corner

In the Gospel As they were on their way home from the festival in Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph realise that Jesus is missing. He is not where they thought he was, with the rest of their family and friends. Mary and Joseph search for three whole days. Eventually they find Jesus, in the Temple with the teachers. Even if they have misunderstood each other, everyone is safe and happy to be together again.



Maze

Help Mary and Joseph find Jesus. They are very worried about him.

More detective work!

Break the code and read the message.

6 11 3 + 8 13 10 16 + 5 1 14 7 4 12. 7 4 + 9 11 15 4 13 + 10 4.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
A	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	L	M	O	R	S	T	V	Y

A prayer to say Thank you, Jesus, for my family. Thank you for the love they give me. Help me to show them how much I love them. Amen.

Santa travels the world in one night A British professor has calculated that Santa and his reindeer powered sleigh would have to travel at about 6 million miles per hour to deliver presents to every child expected to celebrate Christmas in 31 hours (taking into account different world time zones). Travelling at that speed would make Santa appear like a brief blur – blink and you'll miss it: which explains why we hardly ever see him. So how does Santa manage to reach these phenomenal speeds? Well, that's magic! (Santa's Reindeer by Patricia Hope – St. Martin Magazine, December 2018)

We remember our recently deceased

**Christopher Howard
 John Ennis
 Dolores Humphries**

*To live in hearts left behind
 is not to die*

Intentions 26th December

7pm	-
10.30	Philip & Anne Gammell Pat & Cis Devitt
12 noon	Mary Carey MM

Alone—COVID-19 SUPPORT LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE - 0818 222 024

The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm

AWARE - SUPPORT & SELF CARE GROUPS . Find more information about the groups and all of our services on www.aware.ie/