

St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

First Sunday of Lent – Sunday 26th February 2023



Trócaire Lenten Campaign 2023

The face on the Trócaire box in this anniversary year is 8-year-old Nasteha Mahat from the Gedo region of Somalia in East Africa. The Mahat family had to leave their farm and village when the last of their goats died from drought and they had absolutely nothing left. Some months before, Nasteha's two-year-old sister, Ardo, had died of dehydration. Nasteha, with her parents Ibrahim and Ambiyo and siblings, had to walk for three days with little food or water. Ambiyo, her mother, was 5 months pregnant and had twin toddlers, one of whom she strapped to her front, the other to her back. After that exhausting journey, the family finally reached a camp for internally displaced people in the Gedo region of Somalia where Trócaire has been running the health service for 30 years. In fact, there, Trócaire is known locally as the mother of health, because of our ongoing commitment to healthcare and to the people there.

When Ambiyo later gave birth on the floor of their makeshift shelter in the camp and became seriously ill afterwards, Trócaire was there to give her the treatment she needed and to save her life. Our team in Gedo have told us that Nasteha is a strong and resilient girl, which really encapsulates the spirit of her parents, who despite the enormous odds stacked against them, live in hope of finding new ways so that **they** can provide for their family and earn an income so they can educate their children. Your support can help make that hope a reality.

Nasteha's family is one of thousands of families in Somalia who are on the brink of starvation due to a prolonged and unrelenting drought which has destroyed crops and livestock and left people with no option but to leave their homes and farms in search of help. You may have seen reports in recent months on the television about the devastating hunger crisis there which has left 8.3

million people, more than half the population of the country, at risk of starvation. The situation there is critical and urgent, we cannot simply look away. The scriptural quote on the box this year is **'hold fast to love and justice'** – from the book of Hosea. And I would like to thank you and your families from the bottom of my heart for holding fast to love and justice through your generous support of the work of Trócaire for the past 50 years.

Trócaire, working through fantastic local partners on the ground and with the people of Ireland, has helped change the lives of millions of people over the last half century.

We remember people in Ukraine and other countries affected by conflict including South Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and pray for the millions of people around the world who are in crisis and at risk of being forgotten and left behind. Lent is a time when we have the opportunity to recommit our support to our brothers and sisters around the world through the Trócaire Lenten Appeal

Your help is needed now more than ever so please take a Trócaire box with you today or go online to Trocaire.org to see how you can donate. A QR code is accessible on this year's big box here in the porch if you would like to scan. For over half a century, your donations have reached millions of vulnerable people and communities around the world, communities like those of the Mahat family in the Gedo region of Somalia. Your ongoing support will help us to continue with this vital work and to continue to change lives (**Source: Trocaire Parish Resource 2023**)



Lenten Lectio Divina 'Lectio Divina' - a reflection on the Scripture will take place on some Wednesdays during Lent, starting on **Wednesday the 1st of March**. We will put the dates in the newsletter next week after our first meeting. You can come to one or all of the meetings, and you can share or not share as you wish. **The meetings will held from 11am to-12 noon in the pastoral centre. ALL are most welcome.**

A Reflective Sentence

The soul speaks: I am called to be the compassion of the angels, because I am the living breath that God sent forth into dry clay. St. Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179, Benedictine mystic)

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Trócaire

Lent is synonymous with Trócaire or is it the other way around! The Trócaire boxes are in the packets at the back of the Church along with included information.

Please take a box home-it can be quite amazing how much loose change can amount to.

Staying the Course

Wednesday's Ashes are a memory now! Just a few days after being reminded that we are dust and unto dust we shall return or that we should turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel, nobody would know that our foreheads bore the mark of the ash and the sign of the Cross. Still though, we know it and somewhere in the depths of our Souls, we know that mark makes all the difference. It reassures us that the road we travel has been travelled before and the steps we take are taken on a well-trodden path. We strive to be faithful to the path and still, somehow, we wander and stray a little, border on being lost but remain confident that we are searched for and found.

What do I give up for Lent

"What do we do? Lent has just started. With it the recurring Catholic question: What will I give up for Lent? The drink or sweets, binging on 'Netflix' or taking to social media to vent our grievances? The waistline penance, fast for the new swimwear, the *Costa del Sol* look. Not too bad, but not particularly Christian, hardly in the image of Christ. This Lent do not think just about giving up something; **simply give**. Not something; someone. Give yourself. Imitate the compassionate Christ. Be honest and humble before with one another. Listen when someone asks you for a few minutes of your time, for the compassion in your heart. If you hear that plea, try not to ignore it. It just might be Christ".

Vocation Intercessions for Lent

First Sunday of Lent - In the Gospel we see Jesus being tempted in the desert. We pray that those who are praying and discerning about a vocation to the priesthood, the diaconate or religious life, may find the strength to overcome whatever may be tempting them away from God's call.



Teen Hope

This event happened on Friday night last 17th February. It went very well. The teenagers, amongst other things, did some CSI work and made copies of their fingerprints, highlighting their unique individuality. Please keep this wonderful initiative in your prayers. I'd like to thank the Teen Hope Team led by Mairín 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 24th March at 7.00pm

Family Mass

I welcome all this weekend to our Family Mass especially the families of the First Holy Communion classes who are invited to attend at all the weekend Masses.

Stations of the Cross

During the Season of Lent the Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday morning at 9.30am. This will replace the Rosary on Friday. I thank Anne Maybury and Maire Martin who undertake this initiative and all who help them.

Fr Michael Carey PP

Trócaire – 50 years old!

On the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in 1973, the Irish Bishops wrote to the Christian people of Ireland establishing Trócaire. As we mark 50 years of Trócaire, we mark 50 years of perseverance, courage, participation, accountability and solidarity. From supporting human rights defenders in Central America, to leading the relief effort in Vietnam following the war, to providing essential emergency assistance in the midst of crisis, Trócaire has been proud to work on behalf of the people of the island of Ireland in fighting injustice across the world. We thank God for our supporters and partners who empower us to do this vital work. We pray that the next fifty years will see all the people of the world working together for a more just world, and that the fruits of this work will be clear to see.

First Penance

The celebration of First Penance/ Confession is beginning for the boys and girls in the Holy Communion classes. On Tuesday 28th February we welcome the boys and girls from St Francis Xavier School. On Thursday 2nd of March we welcome the boys and girls from Educate Together Pelletstown.

Confirmation - Ceremony of Light

Over the next 5 weeks the Ceremony of Light for the Confirmation classes will be celebrated.. This Ceremony is developed around the Pascal Candle. When children are baptised the parents/godparents receive a light to their Baptismal Candle from the Pascal Candle. In this Ceremony, the parents hand the lighted candle lit from the Pascal Candle directly to their children themselves, symbolising that they, their parents have fulfilled their promise to bring their children up in the faith and will continue to fulfil it and that their children now make the step of confirming their faith for themselves. Thursday 2nd March at 7.30pm – Scoil Bhríde Cailíní.

Children's Corner

In The Gospel

Jesus goes into the wilderness. He is tempted three times to do bad things. Jesus knows he must put God first. He makes the right choices and says "no" to temptation.

Say no to bad things

Put a tick or a cross in the boxes to say whether you would listen to these children or not.



Mass intentions for the week

Day	Time	Intention
Sat	6pm	Patrick Doolan Seamus & Maree McGuinness
Sun	1030am	Mary Hehir Stephen Fleming Joe Coughlan Juanito Rondares Sonny Cattle
Sun	noon	Frank Jadwigg Czarkowski Jacqueline Ford Susan Monaghan
Mon	730pm	Patricia Nulty (MM)
Fri		Altar List of the Dead
Sat	10am	Joseph Brennan John Martin Patricia Nulty (MM) Mary Forde-Wyre Vera Gill (MM)

Family Offering Envelope Boxes

These are available for collection in the pastoral centre today.

CURRENT SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
Mass at 10am preceded by the Rosary at 9.30
Church closes at 4pm

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-4pm
Blanchardstown Area evening Mass
Mon: Blanchardstown 7.30pm
Tues & Thurs: Castleknock
Wed: Mulhuddart
Fri: Corduff



Adult Faith Development

Discuss the basics of our religion.*
Wed 1st March –7:30 pm
Pastoral Centre

Each session is separate. All are very welcome. Why not try one to see?

This week – What, or Who, is the Church ?
*Based on *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults*

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