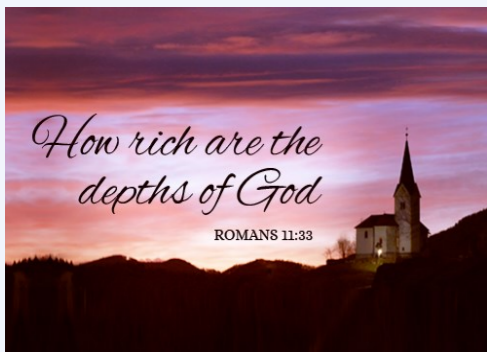


St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday 27th August



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 (EXCEPT JULY & AUGUST)*

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

***(No Exposition from 31Aug for 3-4weeks)**

Blanchardstown Area evening Mass

Mon: Blanchardstown 7.30pm

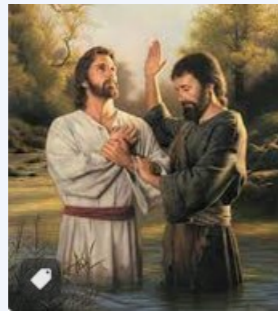
Tues & Thurs: Castleknock

Wednesday: Mulhuddart

Friday: Corduff

St John the Baptist

Tuesday next 29th August is the feast 'The Passion (Beheading) of St. John the Baptist'. He was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Luke tells us the angel Gabriel announced his birth to his father Zechariah and gave him the name John, which means "God is gracious." (Luke 1:8-23) Even while still in his mother's womb he recognized the presence of Jesus by leaping when Mary visited Elizabeth (Luke 1:41).



It is the moment when John the Baptist was cleansed of original sin. The angel Gabriel had previously promised Zechariah that John would be filled with the Holy Spirit even

while in the womb (Luke 1:15), and this promise was fulfilled when he was cleansed of original sin when Mary visited his mother Elizabeth. John left his parents to live the life of a prophet in the desert. He preached in the desert dressed like an Old Testament prophet, wearing a garment of camel-skin and eating locusts and wild honey (Mark 1:6; Matt 3:4). He proclaimed the kingdom of God and a coming judgment, and invited people to accept baptism as a sign of their repentance. His ministry resembled that of the prophets in that he disturbed the comfortable and comforted the disturbed. We see him disturbing the comfortable when he said to the Pharisees and Sadducees, "Brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming retribution? Produce fruit in keeping with your repentance and do not presume to tell yourselves we have Abraham as our father." (Luke 3:7-8) His message obviously disturbed people so some of the powerful did repent, including tax-collectors and soldiers. Tax-collectors asked him what they must do and he replied, "Exact no more than the appointed rate." (Luke 3:13) Soldiers also repented, and his advice to them was "No intimidation! No Extortion! Be content with your pay!" (Luke 3:14). His message spread far and wide. Mark says all Jerusalem and Judea made their way to him and as they were baptised in the Jordan they confessed their sins (Mark 1:5). We see John's humility when he did not want attention on himself but directed people to Jesus. People began to wonder if John was the Messiah so he reassured them that he was not.

He declared that his ministry was preparing for the coming of the Messiah, "I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." (Mark 1:8) When Jesus came to John asking for baptism, John recognised Jesus at once and said, "Look, there is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29)

These words have found their way into the prayer of Mass; when the priest holds up the Sacred Host as we prepare for Holy Communion he says, "This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world..."

Jesus began his public ministry after he had been baptised by John. An expectation had developed among the Jews that the prophet Elijah would return to earth once again to prepare them for the coming of the Messiah and Jesus later declared that John was that Elijah type person they were expecting (Mark 9:13). After Jesus' baptism once again we see John turning the attention to Jesus as he declared, "He must increase, I must decrease." (John 3:30) We are reminded of this fact celebrating John's birth just days after the summer solstice since the daylight will now decrease and we will celebrate the birth of Jesus just days after the winter solstice when the daylight will increase. We see John's great courage in condemning the marriage of Herod to Herod's brother's wife. This is a reminder to us that not everything that is



allowed by law is morally right. Herod had John arrested and put in prison. John stood up for the truth and unfortunately like many who stand up for the truth today he had to pay a price. John's courage in upholding the dignity of marriage and condemning the adulterous relationship of Herod and Herodias was to result in his death by beheading in prison. History repeats itself, and John the Baptist's beheading was repeated in another saint, St. Thomas More, 1478-1535, the first commoner to be Lord Chancellor of England, also suffered martyrdom under Henry VIII, for refusing to accept the marriage of Henry to Anne Boleyn. He was aware that just because something is lawful does not mean it is morally right. He was beheaded in 1535. His final words were, "The King's good servant, but God's first." He was canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1935 and St. John Paul II declared him patron of politicians in 2000. (Source: Fr. Tommy Lane, Maryland. USA)

FROM THE PASTORS DESK



Teen Hope

The Teen Hope Team had their first meeting last week in preparation for the upcoming school year. The team are excited and committed. Please pray that we get teenagers to enroll this coming September.

Charity Tax Refund

Thank you all who have returned their CHY charity forms. This is a scheme whereby the Government 'tops up' your contribution to the Parish via the Revenue System. It applies to all registered charities. The benefit to the Parish in 2022 from this scheme was a fantastic €47997.

Schools are back! – 2023/2024

The summer has ended, and the schools are back this coming week with some already back! I hope all are well rested. Sacramentally it is a particularly important year for the 2nd and 6th classes, and I hope that the journey and preparations for the Sacrament of 1st Penance, Holy Communion and Confirmation are exciting and rewarding for the pupils, their parents and wider family circle and the class teachers. It is also an important, challenging and probably nervous year ahead for the Junior and Leaving Cert classes 2024 – I wish them well and assure them of the prayers of the whole Parish Community. We might even get an 'Indian Summer' which will delight all of us.

Fr Michael Carey PP

SAINTS IN THE CHURCH'S CALENDAR-

Saint Augustine – Mon 28th 354-430

He was converted at the age of 33 and baptised by St. Ambrose. He became Bishop of Hippo (Algeria), where he lived with a community until his death. His theological influence has been most significant in the Church, especially on the understanding of God's grace. Patron of theologians.

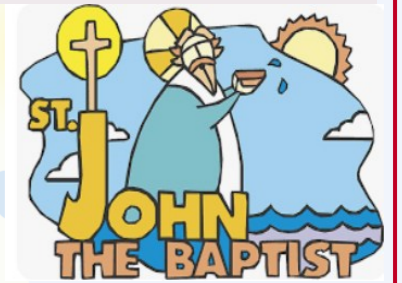
The Passion of St. John the Baptist– Tues 29th August – The gospels relate how St. John fearlessly condemned Herod Antipas's unlawful marriage to Herodias, who had been previously married to his half-brother. The outraged Herodias had him imprisoned. In a moment of weakness Herod promised to grant the heart's desire of Salome, the daughter of Herodias. She asked for John the Baptist's head, which was promptly fetched for her. Thus the Precursor of the Lord preceded his master through his passion.

Children's Corner:

IN THE Jesus chooses Peter to lead his followers forward as their Church begins to grow.

Open the doors

Peter has 7 keys for 7 doors. But which key opens which door?



I know, Jesus, that I am not always perfect, but just like St Peter, I love you. Help me to follow his example and keep on trying to do what is right. I know you will always help me. Amen.

Vacancy—Administrator

Join the team based at Archbishop's House. This full-time role primarily supports the Office for Religious & Extern Priests but also involves working with the Archbishop's Office, Office for Clergy and Chancellery. **Applications are especially welcome from those with relevant parish experience.** A full job description and information is available from Cintia Mota, HR Administrator, cintia.mota@dublindiocese.ie or 01 8087572.

UPCOMING DUBLIN DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

For those who cannot travel this year to Lourdes, there will be an opportunity next week/weekend to write a petition to Our Lady of Lourdes which will be placed at the Grotto during the pilgrimage. You can also become an associate member and keep all pilgrims in your prayers at that time.

1st Saturday of The Month Next Saturday 2nd September is the first Saturday of September. Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am followed by Confessions until 11.00am



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.**

A Reflective Sentence

If one member suffers, all suffer together: if one member is honoured, all rejoice together.... 1 Cor.12:26



ESKER CEMETERY MASS, LUCAN

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

Mass intentions for the week

Saturday	Seamus Early MM
Vigil	Oliver Sheridan and Patricia Sheridan-Hahessy Mary & John-Sonny Flynn
Sunday	Aeneas Lane James & Anne Duffy James Donlon Trevor Webster Frieda O'Hara
Monday	Rose Dempsey Ann & Philip Gammell

BLANCHARDSTOWN PRAYER GROUP

Tuesday 29th August 8pm. A special Mass to be celebrated by newly ordained Fr Anthony Kavanagh O.P. He will give his blessing. All are welcome.

We pray for our recently deceased:

PATRICIA GANNON

Always loved, never forgotten



**PARISH CONTACTS: V REV Fr. Michael Carey: 8213660 Rev Jim Adams(Deacon) 0862232411
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