

St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time—30th January 2022



This Sunday's Readings

1st: Jeremiah 1: 4-5, 17-19
Psalm: 70 R/ My lips will tell of your help.
2nd: 1 Corinthians 12: 31—13: 13
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
 I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; no one can come to the Father except through me. Alleluia!
Gospel: Luke 4: 21-30

CURRENT MASS SCHEDULE

Monday—Friday Mass: 10am preceded by the Rosary church opens at 9.30am and closes at 4pm
 Saturday: church opens for private prayer at 10am Vigil Mass at 7pm
 Sunday Mass at 10.30am* & 12 noon

*available on Phoenix Radio—92.5FM
 All Parish services available on www.blanchardstownparish.ie/webcam

The Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation Available on the 1st Saturday of each month 10.30-11am and on request

Eucharistic Adoration—Tuesdays & Fridays after the 10am Mass until 4pm

Evening Mass for the Greater Blanchardstown Area Mondays—Mulhuddart at 7.30pm
 Tuesdays & Thursdays—Castleknock at 7.30
 Wednesday—Blanchardstown at 7.30pm
 Friday—Corduff at 7.30pm

Please remember: mask, sanitise, safe distance.

Feasts in the Church's Calendar

Tues 1st Feb.—St. Brigid, Abbess, Secondary Patron of Ireland. Known as 'Mary of the Gael', St Brigid is renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care of the sick.

Wed. 2nd —The Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas
 This feast is a remembrance of the Lord and Mary, his Mother.

Thurs 3rd—St Blaise, bishop & martyr. Bishop of Sebaste, martyred in Armenia in 315. Tradition states that he was a physician before becoming a bishop. Since the 8th century he has been venerated as the patron of those who suffer from disease of the throat.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

The Bible – handbook for Christians

Each Sunday we hear the words of Jesus, words that were written down by the early Christians, and which have been preserved for us over the centuries by the Church. Thus Christ's promise has come true: 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

The Gospel consists of a series of stories, all of which coalesce to form one great story—the story of Jesus. While we all like to listen to a story, we grow tired if we are told the same story over and over again. When that happens we switch off. The same thing can happen with the Gospel story. It may come across as old, stale and lifeless.

How can we combat that stale and weary sense of the familiar? We have to try to hear the story afresh, indeed, as for the very first time. **The Gospel is the greatest story ever told.** But we need to recapture the wonder of it. We need to release the energy contained in it, if we are to experience the power it has to charm, surprise, shock, challenge, and inspire.

We need to hear it in such a way that we are drawn into it, and hear our own stories as we listen to it. When that happens, our stories merge with that of the Gospel, and are illuminated by it.

Everything we need is contained in the Gospel. Here we have the words of Jesus himself. Those who make this book their teacher will never go astray.

It's not enough just to turn to the Gospel in times of misfortune. It's not enough to turn it into an object of veneration (like the Book of Kells). We have to examine our lives against the words of this book. Those words should kindle a fire in our hearts, and others should feel the warmth.

The Gospel contains only those things that are the best and the deepest in life. At the deepest level the teaching of Jesus rings true. In listening to him, you feel you are listening to the voice of God.

There was a saint who, whenever he was faced with a difficult decision would ask himself: What would the Book say? The answer would come back from deep inside him: you must do what is right and best. Thus the Book had an enormous influence on him. It strengthened him in moments of weakness. It inspired him in moments of generosity. It shamed him in moments of cowardice. But through it all he had grasped the essential thing: that the Gospel had to be lived.

The Gospel is the handbook of every Christian. The opinions of human beings are rooted in appearances and change from day to day but the words of Jesus do not pass away. We would do well to build the house of our life on his words.

Fr. Flor McCarthy SDB

World day for Consecrated Life – February 2nd In 1997 Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, especially friends and family members and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

Fr Michael Carey PP

Parish Assembly

Please consider if you are free to give of your time and talents to one of the ministries in which your Parish needs you. The commitment is not open ended and the demands on your time are hopefully minimal.

"There is a variety of gifts, but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose" (1 Cor 12: 4-7)

Feast of St. Brigid—Lá Fheile Bhríde

St. Brigid, Abbess, Secondary Patron of Ireland—known as 'the Mary of the Gael', St Brigid is renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care of the sick. She was born c. 454. When she was young her father wished to make a very suitable marriage for her but she insisted in consecrating her virginity to God. She received the veil and spiritual formation probably from St. Mel and stayed for a period under his direction in Ardagh. Others followed her example and this led her to found a double monastery in Kildare with the assistance of Bishop Conleth. She died in 524 and her cult is widespread not only throughout Ireland but in several European lands. The St. Brigid's Cross, in legend used by Brigid to explain the Christian faith, remains a popular sign of God's protection.

We can't meet to make our St Brigid's crosses as we normally do, so instead of that, rushes, blessed at the 10.00 Mass on the **Feast of St Brigid on the 1st of February**, will be available in the church for collection. We have made a video showing you how to make the cross; see <https://vimeo.com/502994316> Good luck!

Also, check the window in the Pastoral Centre for instructions on how to make one. St. Brigid's Cross is thought to keep evil, fire and hunger from the home in which it is displayed.

The Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas—Wed 2nd

If anybody would like candles blessed on the Feast day, please leave in the Sacristy beforehand or bring on the day and place on the table in the sanctuary.

Feast of St. Blaise—Thurs. 3rd Throats will be blessed at the 10 am Mass to mark the Feast of St. Blaise. The blessing of St. Blaise is a sign of our faith in God's protection and love for us and for the sick. Using two crossed and unlighted candles, blessed on the memorial of St. Blaise or on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the minister touches the throat of each person saying, 'Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from all ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father...

Northside Home Care Services, Meals on Wheels is a seven day service that delivers meals Monday to Friday, to clients in their homes. Would you like us to deliver a meal to a family member or neighbour that could benefit from a nutritious meal and a dessert for €5 per day. Contact Ad or Catherine 018058574

Spiritual Reading Circle with Fr Frank Our current circle commenced on Thurs., the 27th of Jan. at 7:30 pm. In weekly Zoom meetings we collect and discuss the results of our reading. Our reading material is: Richard Rohr, The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For and Believe, London 2019, ca. € 10. It's not too late to register at Mairin.Keegan@dublindiocese.ie and catch up with the reading.

Study Theology Online, is this for you? The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register before 8 February for Spring 2022. Find out more and see to see a 2 minute introductory film on our website prioryinstitute.com

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Children's Corner

In the Gospel Everyone likes what Jesus is telling them about God – until he reminds them that God loves everyone, not just them. Jesus reminds them how much God loves foreigners - and this annoys them. The crowd is angry with Jesus. The people don't want to hear what he has to say. Jesus slips away to safety.

Mixed up words

Find these words about Jesus

honest loving
brave kind

Jesus is _____ evrab
 Jesus is _____ nkid
 Jesus is _____ gnivol
 Jesus is _____ hnoets



A prayer to say

Help me, Jesus, to be a prophet. Help me to speak up for what is right, even if it annoys other people. Amen.

We remember our recently deceased

Sheila Gouldson
 To live in hearts left behind is not to die

CASTLEKNOCK CELTIC FC Children's Academy
 Restarting Sat 12th February
 9.30am - 10.30am
 Porterstown Park
FIRST WEEK FREE
 All New Members Welcome
 For 4 to 7 Year Old
BOYS & GIRLS
 Text Kieran on 086-8091699
 For More Information

Learn The Basics In A Fun Environment
 FAI Qualified Coaches
 SPONSORED BY Glenveagh Home of the new.

Intentions	29th/30th Jan
Sat 7pm	Michael McDonald Thomas & Peg Lynch Miriam Harkin
10.30	Tom Devlin Christian Hempal MM
12 noon	Mary Nugent Elfriede Meere