



St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown

3rd December 2023 First Sunday of Advent



As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?" Psalm 42:2-4



CURRENT SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
Mass at 10am preceded by the Rosary at 9.30am, 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
1st Saturday of the month— 10am Mass followed by confessions until 11am
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
Wednesday: Mulhuddart **Friday:** Corduff

One day on a winter's walk through Phoenix Park I came face to face with a deer. The country had been in the midst of a stretch of very cold weather, and the little stream I was walking along was mostly frozen over. I had stopped at a place where the swift current of the stream broke through to the surface and swirled around in eddies before it disappeared back under the ice. As I sat for a while watching and listening to the gurgling water, a deer quietly appeared out of the trees. We stared at one another for a few moments and, sensing I was no threat, the deer moved to the edge of the water and drank deeply.

I recalled the words, "As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God." I had been experiencing a kind of winter in my soul. There were few signs of life, and the Spirit of God seemed to have become frozen over within me. Somehow, I was drawn to this external image of my internal longing—flowing water finding a way to bubble up from beneath solid ice.

It was Advent and I was longing, even though I was barely aware of my discontent. Like everyone else I had been caught up in the busyness of Christmas preparations. Though we had lit the Advent candles at home and I had tried to pray, I needed more. I needed time to really allow my sense of longing to swirl up and become clear to me as it did on that winter's walk in the park. I knew then that I needed a closer relationship to God and that I had to stop just going through the motions of my prayer life. My longing, once acknowledged, turned out to be an invitation to live with a deeper awareness of God's presence and care all around me.

What are you longing for? What is your heart trying to tell you?

The gift God offers this first week of Advent is the invitation to explore your inner longings. The Church, through our Advent customs, and even the weather of the season itself support such inner work. During the first week of Advent, give yourself time and space to contemplate what you are truly longing for in life. Know that this is the season when your longings will lead you to the Christ Child, in whom the hopes and fears of all the years are known and responded to with generous love.

Theme: Our World Longs for God

As individuals and as a community, we are longing for the presence of God. World events shatter our complacency; family difficulties shake our resolve. How can we say God is present when so much seems to be unstable? Where is God in your life?

These gifts are given freely to be OPENED - ENJOYED & SHARED

Adapted from *Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts*—Parent newsletter



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK- THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent is a most wonderful time of the year. We rejoice in the first coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ, long for his second, and praise the Father for his coming into our lives. Two features in the Sanctuary for the season of Advent are the Jesse Tree and the Advent wreath. With the Jesse Tree different symbols are added each week and for the Advent Wreath a different candle is lit each week of the four weeks of Advent.

Advent Wreath Packs

A lovely tradition in our Parish is the making of the Advent wreath which families may purchase at a very low cost of €10. I thank Dolores O'Leary and Anne Maybury who put the packs together and a special Thank You to Dolores and Mary Ronayne who generously gave of their time on Sunday to demonstrate how to put together the Advent Wreath. The video is available to view on our Website.

Communion Masses

Thank you to the parents and children who attended our Mass last weekend. There was a huge turnout and many stuck their coloured in pictures of Christ the King on the notice board. At the 12 noon Mass we had 6th class Confirmation candidates from Scoil Bhríde Cailíní read the Word of God. A big 'thank you' to Judi and Ludavica.

Family Mass

We held our second Family Mass since the re-launch and it went very well. A big thank you to our Family Mass Team: Marie Feeney; Soni Cynthia Nagakumar; Mary Ann McDermott and Andrea Rock. Integral to the Family Mass is our beautiful Youth Choir under the direction of James Murphy. Last Sunday I involved pupils from St Francis Xavier Confirmation classes to read the Word of God and the Prayer of the Faithful. They were excellent. A big 'Thank You' to Ava; Lily May; Ben and Kathlyn. Christmas intervenes and our next Family Mass is on Sunday 28th January 2024.

Fr Michael Carey PP

Annual Night Vigil in Knock
The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Lady.

Bus leaves Church Avenue, Thursday 7th December at 4pm.
To book contact Michael 086 865 0708
Intention: Peace at home and worldwide

Partnership Penitential Service
The Parishes of Blanchardstown, Corduff and Mulhuddart will hold their Advent Penitential service (with all 5 priests present) on **Tuesday 5th December at 7.30pm in St Luke's Mulhuddart**. There will be individual Confessions in Blanchardstown in the week leading up to Christmas.

Holy Hour
For the three Fridays of Advent (December 8th, 15th and 22nd) there will be a Holy Hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament from 4pm till 5pm.

SVP St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal—takes place after all masses next weekend, 9th and 10th December. This annual appeal replaces the Share collection.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception December 8th

We celebrate Mary, who, from the first instance of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, was 'by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved free from all stain of original sin'. This feast day is a Holy Day of obligation.
Mass times are as follows:
Thursday 7th December (Vigil) 7.30pm.
Friday 8th December 10.00am

Christmas Carol Service
St Brigid's Church
Thursday 14th December 7.30pm
Donations to St Francis Hospice

EXPLORING THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS
What is Christian Morality?
St Brigid's Pastoral Centre
THIS Wednesday 6th December 7pm to 8.10pm. For discussion this week:
Why promote justice and tell the truth?
NB. Due to popular demand, an extra session has been added on 13th Dec

ST MOCHTA'S CHURCH PORTERSTOWN
CHRISTMAS WARMTH CONCERT
SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER AT 4PM
A Christmas Concert featuring their own Church Choir and Mary Flynn. Please come along and enjoy the afternoon (incl refreshments)
Tickets €10 adult/Family €20

Children's Corner:
In the Gospel Today: As we start Advent, the Gospel tells us to be ready to welcome Jesus. It is like when a man goes away leaving his servants in charge. The doorkeeper needs to stay awake to welcome the master when he comes back. Jesus wants us to be ready to welcome him—and he is coming soon!!

We wait *pa_i_n_l_ (tyet)* h__fully *(epo)*

There are 4 Sundays in ADVENT.

I am really looking forward to welcoming you into my heart, Jesus!
A PRAYER TO SAY: Help me to get ready for you by being kind and loving. Amen.

Parish Meetings this week
In the Pastoral Centre
Monday 4th December – The Teen Hope Team will meet at 11.00am.

St Francis Hospice Blanchardstown
Thursday 7th December @ 8pm
Tree of Life Ceremony,
Refreshments will be served.
All Welcome!

THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER
After 10am mass there will be a Sale of Christmas crafts, toys, decorations and a book stall, in the pastoral centre. All proceeds will go to preparing care-packs for homeless people to be delivered by Merchants Quay volunteers, at Christmas time.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK	
Saturday Vigil	Mary Carey (2nd Anniv) Kevin Kilmurray Sheila & Patrick Fitzpatrick
Sunday	Patrick & Bridget Keane Bernard Keville Myra Murphy Evelyn Balfe Eddie Long

We pray for our recently deceased; Paddy Gernon Paudie Coughlan Always loved, never forgotten

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