



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

Lourdes 2024
 We are travelling as a Parish to Lourdes on 5th September for 5 nights. If anyone would like to join our group please contact Jean in the parish office. The fully inclusive price is €949 per person sharing (single room supplement applies).

DAUGHTERS of CHARITY IRISH PROVINCE
 Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul The Songs & Poems of Percy French will be held on Wednesday 10th April at 8pm in Draíocht Theatre—tickets are €20.

PARISH CONTACTS: V REV Fr. Michael Carey: 8213660 Rev Jim Adams(Deacon) 0862232411 Rev Michael O'Connor(Deacon) 0872941729 Sacristy: 8238354 Parish Finance Christine Carleton / Parish Secretary Jean WalshRogers: 8115412 email: office@blanchardstownparish.ie website: www.blanchardstownparish.ie

The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross

4. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ (Mark 15:34)

Reflection Here, at the turning point of our reflections, are these words of pure desolation. Here we just have a cry of pain and loneliness. It is a question without an answer? Is there anything to be said at all? Few of us will ever have endured such utter desolation, but there may have been moments when we feared to be swallowed by the void, and when our lives appeared to be without sense or meaning, because God had gone. In such times proofs of the existence of God are no great help. Words do not help much.

Reflection What person would allow their son to suffer so much without doing something about it? This short phrase of Jesus on the cross reminds us how our faith can be tested by illness, loss or disillusionment. Why does God allow bad things to happen? Why are we visited so much in life by suffering and pain? Why do we experience sadness and a sense of abandonment in the face of darkness in our lives? These are questions that can only be answered from a place of faith. In the creed we profess that Jesus ‘suffered under Pontius Pilate’. We recognise that human trait of Pontius Pilate when people seem to wash their hands of us and walk away when we need them most. Jesus is at one with us in that feeling of abandonment, of betrayal and disappointment.

Silent Prayer

Gracious God, we unite our anxieties and our sense of abandonment with the lonely pain of Christ on the cross. Be with those who feel deserted and alone today. We ask this in the spirit, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Stations of the Cross

Fifth Station - Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his Cross



Reflection We have no background information on Simon who was conscripted to help Jesus carry his cross. What a difference those extra hands, shoulder and strength made to Jesus as he struggled. Even the presence of Simon at his side must have had some impact. Let us not underestimate the power of a supportive presence or a practical gesture at crucial moments in life. Jesus stands beside us in our time of need as our companion and faithful friend. We are asked to do the same for others.

The members of the Simon Community through their mission and by their name show how the story of Calvary can inspire people to action. We thank God for the many individuals, organisations and groups who help us to carry our crosses in life and show God’s mercy and compassion in abundance

Sixth Station - Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



Reflection Artists have offered us their pictures of the face of Jesus over the past two thousand years. Where is the face of Jesus to be seen today? The encounter with Veronica leaves us with the image of the suffering Jesus whose face is etched on those who are carrying their cross of pain and suffering today. The true icons of Jesus are presented to us daily as we watch the torment of the victims of famine, war, pestilence and death. Let us take some time to bring these uncomfortable images to mind now as we contemplate the face of Christ today. (The source of these stations of the cross is from the Vatican for the Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016)

We welcome those baptised in the month of February ;

Oliver, Conall, Beau, Cali, Maisie & Nathan
 May they continue to grow strong in body, mind and spirit.

From the Pastor's Desk



Intercessions for Vocations

Third Sunday of Lent - To proclaim your faith and belief in God in today’s society is counter cultural. So too in St Paul’s day – proclaiming belief in Jesus who was crucified was an obstacle to the Jews and madness to the Greeks. We pray that those who the Lord calls to follow Him as a priest, deacon or religious, to proclaim the Gospel will have the courage to place their trust in God.

Acts of love for Lent

Our lives will not be measured by the big things we do but rather by the little steps we take to make a difference. Each day during Lent take a step with us and together we will change the world.

Novena of Grace – our Parish Retreat

The Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier is from Monday 4th March to Tuesday 12th March inclusive. The Novena Prayer will be prayed at all Masses. The first Novena of Grace of Francis Xavier, nine days of prayer, is said to have taken place in Goa, India, in 1615, when a boy, crippled from birth, was cured. After Francis Xavier was named a Saint on 12th of March, 1622, the Novena of Grace grew in popularity around the world. It reached Ireland in 1712 when it was first celebrated in Mary’s Lane Chapel in St Michan’s Parish, Dublin. Grace can be seen as the power within us that gives us the strength to reach out to others in generosity, care and love. 'Grace' is a traditional term used in the Catholic Church for a favour or free gift from God. Christians often ask God for favours, or graces. In doing this we acknowledge that God is the giver of all gifts.

Leading our Novena this year is Canon Paddy Boyle

Fr Michael Carey

Confirmation - Ceremony of Light

This beautiful Ceremony continues, during which the parents hand the lighted candle lit from the Pascal Candle directly to their children themselves. This symbolises that they, their parents, have fulfilled their promise to bring their children up in the faith and will continue to fulfil it. Their children now make the step of confirming their faith for themselves.

Thursday 7th March at 7.30pm – Scoil Bhride Buachaillí.

Confirmation Reflection

Zoom meetings began last Monday for the parents and candidates. Together they reflect on the Sacrament of Confirmation. Meetings are held over three Mondays and are run by Deacon Michael and the Confirmation Team.

Children's Corner: In the Gospel Today

Jesus goes to the Temple, a very special and holy place, to worship God and pray. He is very cross to see it being used as market. Jesus does not want God’s house to be turned into a shopping centre.

Feelings

Jesus was angry because the traders were stealing and not respecting God’s house.

What makes you angry? Talk to a grown up about your feelings.



You were cross, Jesus, when you saw people mistreating God’s house. Help me to respect and look after the people and places which I know are special. Amen.

We pray for our recently deceased;

*John Nolan
 Patrick McDonagh
 Always loved,
 never forgotten*



St Luke’s Parish Pilgrimage to Knock

Saturday 13th April. Price includes return coach from St Lukes Mulhuddart and a 3 course meal. Register your interest; 8205480. €45 adult/ €28 child.

Irish Episcopal Conference Message regarding the Referendums - March 8th

The full text can be seen on our Parish website. I include in our newsletter the final comment of the bishops on each of the amendments

The Family Amendment – 39th Amendment (amending Article 41)

While ‘Marriage’ entails a public and legal commitment, the term ‘durable relationship’ is shrouded in legal uncertainty and is open to wide interpretation. It does not make sense that such an ambiguous reality would be considered ‘antecedent and superior to all positive law’ and acquire the same ‘inalienable and imprescriptible’ rights as those ascribed to the ‘family founded on marriage’. Various commentators have suggested that the term ‘durable relationship’ risks leading to unforeseen and unintended consequences.

The Care Amendment – 40th Amendment (deleting Article 41.2 and inserting a New Article 42B)

The proposed amendment would have the effect of abolishing all reference to motherhood in the Constitution and leave unacknowledged the particular and incalculable societal contribution that mothers in the home have made and continue to make in Ireland. The present constitutional wording does not in any way inhibit women from working or taking their proper place in social and public life. It does, however, respect the complementary and distinct qualities that arise naturally within the Family. The role of mothers should continue to be cherished in our Constitution.

Pope Francis: “Families are the glue of society, their welfare cannot be taken for granted, but must be promoted and protected by every appropriate means”.

Mass intentions for the week

SUN	Joe Brennan	Ethna Teeling (1st Anniv)	Angela Keogh M/M
MON	Mary Wyer	TUES	Phyllis Maher-Kennedy
		FRI	Patrick Bruen

HAPPY Birthday We would like to wish Canon Harris a very Happy Birthday. All the very best for the year ahead!