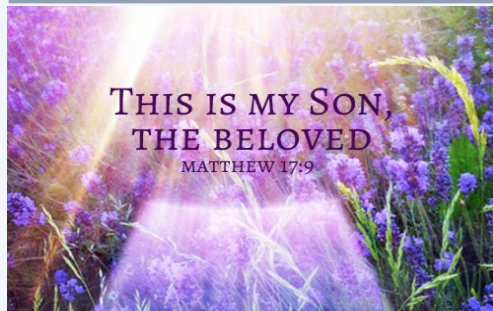


St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Second Sunday of Lent – Sunday 5th March 2023



The Corporal Works of Mercy

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta used to say that there are two kinds of "Real Presence" of our Lord in this world: the Lord's Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament, where He fills us with His light, His life, and His love, and our Lord's real presence in the poor, both in those materially poor and those spiritually poor, where He is waiting for us to give Him back His light, His life, and His love. Living on the Bread of Life, we receive our Saviour's merciful love; sharing our bread with those who hunger physically and spiritually, we return that love back to Him, giving His compassionate Heart solace and joy. Mother Teresa dedicated her life to picking up the poor and the suffering from the streets of Calcutta and other major cities in India and providing for them the most basic necessities: food, shelter, a blanket, and human warmth and kindness. Many were desperately sick with incurable illnesses, but it made no difference to Mother Teresa and her Sisters of Charity. They were committed to loving the poor as "Jesus in disguise," the sisters saw the Lord as truly present in all who suffer. The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbours in their bodily needs", and they respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life. Feed the hungry. (2) Give drink to the thirsty. (3) Clothe the naked. (4) Shelter the homeless. (5) Visit those in prison. (6) Comfort the sick. (7) Bury the dead. Perhaps your first reaction upon reading this traditional list might be, "This list is a bit out of date. After all, when do we ever have the opportunity in the modern world to 'give drink to the thirsty' or to 'clothe the naked'?" And who in their right mind would fail to bury their loved ones these days!"

Don't be too hasty, however, in dismissing the usefulness of this old list of the corporal works of mercy. It may be more helpful than you think in challenging us to discern new ways that our merciful Saviour is calling us to follow Him. In the practice of each of the corporal works of mercy there is both a personal and a wider social dimension, and a true disciple of Jesus Christ will not want to neglect either one. Accepting Jesus as our Lord and Saviour includes rejecting everything incompatible with His reign of compassion and merciful love.

First and Second: Feed the Hungry and Give Drink to the Thirsty On the surface, feeding the hungry seems fairly straightforward. We can help the hungry in simple ways: by making donations to the local food bank, such as those run by 'Crosscare' or if you have the time, by helping with Meals on Wheels or the St. Vincent de Paul. Moreover, unlike Christians in the ancient and medieval world (when this list of corporal works of mercy was first compiled), we can take the time to educate ourselves about the problem of hunger in the world, and we can use our voices and our votes to petition and pressure our politicians to make the fight against world hunger a higher priority for our government. **Giving drink to the thirsty** can be accomplished, by supporting clean water policies to ensure that there will be clean water for future generations. We take it for granted that we have access to clean water – you could donate to 'Trócaire' or some other charity to help build wells for water for those in need. Make an effort not to waste water. Remember to turn off the tap when you are brushing your teeth or washing dishes, especially in regions suffering from drought.

St. Vincent de Paul The outdoor monthly collection for St. Brigid's, VdP, will be taken up next weekend

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS Our Charismatic Prayer Group is taking up the call of Pope Francis and facilitating Life in the Spirit seminars. They will be held in Jubilee Room for **7 weeks** commencing on **Tuesday 14th March at 8pm**. Please join us to deepen your relationship with the Lord.

PARISH FINANCE

The Family Offering envelope collection and the standing orders, along with the tax refund, are the main source of income for our Parish. It covers all administration and general expenses. It pays for salaries, the church, sanctuary, cleaning, repairs, insurance etc. **If you do not have a family offering envelope box I invite you to collect one or alternatively to set up a standing order.**

THANK YOU In these still challenging economic times I thank you most sincerely for your continued very generous contributions to your priests; parish and diocese. Thank you also to those who prepared and issued the envelope boxes to homes in our parish. Lastly, thank you to all who are continuing with their standing orders.

Confirmation - Ceremony of Light

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 9th March at 7.30pm – the boys from Scoil Bhríde Buachaillí.

First Penance

The celebration of First Penance is continuing for the boys and girls in the Holy Communion classes. On Tuesday 7th March we welcome the boys and girls from St Francis Xavier.

Lenten Lectio Divina 'Lectio Divina' - a reflection on the Scripture will take place on some Wednesdays during Lent. Next meeting is on **Wednesday the 8th of March. 11am to-12 noon in the pastoral centre. ALL are most welcome.**

Lenten Reflection—Musical Lectio— Corduff Church Harp, Voice and Strings. A journey in song from Jerusalem to Calvary. Part 1-Sunday 5th March 4-5pm. Part 2 -Sun 26th Mar 4-5pm .

A Reflective Sentence Culture – that cluster of assumptions, values and ways of life that both create and give expression to the identity of each human community.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Novena of Grace

The Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier is from this Saturday Vigil Mass 4th March to Sunday 12th March. 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 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. 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 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. This year our preacher is **Fr Colm Mannion OP.**

What's my penance Father? The doing/saying of penance is part and parcel of the Sacrament of Confession. Why? What is the object? The object of Penance is: To help us to reform a sinful way of life. To make us more just and more compassionate in our dealings with others.

Vocation Intercessions for Lent In today's letter to Timothy, St Paul urges: "With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy ..." We pray for those who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, that they will rely on the power of God who calls them to live a life of holiness.

Family Mass Thank you to all who attended the Family Mass last Sunday. The Junior Choir under the direction of John White are an excellent feature at this Mass. This last weekend of the month is also when the families of the 1st Holy Communion children are invited to attend. There was a great turnout as is evidenced by the lovely display of Lenten promises on the Notice board in the 'stage area'. The next family Mass will be on Sunday 26th at 12 noon. **We are trying to gather a team together to help this Mass going forward 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**

The Letter Thanks to all who attended, and to the team, Tony Devlin, Pádraicín Ni Mhurchu and Sylvia Daly. It was a great evening and we were all challenged by the stories that we heard. Good conversation abounded at the refreshments afterwards!
Fr Michael Carey and Mairín Keegan



Children's Corner

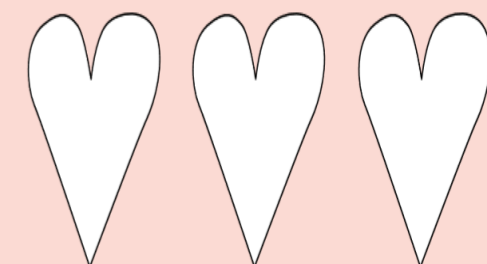
In The Gospel

Jesus takes his friends up a mountain. Jesus changes and shines brightly with God's glory. Jesus' friends have a glimpse of who Jesus really is. A voice from heaven tells the disciples, "This is my Son. I love him. Listen to him."

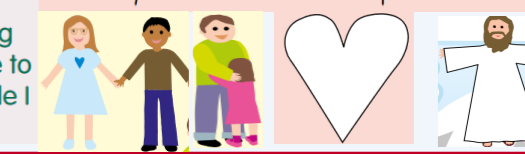
How do YOU show someone that you love them? Write down your thoughts.

Thank you, Jesus, for loving me. Thank you for always standing with me and showing me that you love me. Help me to share your love with the people I meet today. Amen.

Jesus KNOWS that God loves him.



Who loves you? Write a name or draw a picture in the hearts.



Mass intentions for the week	
Sat 6pm	Mary & Hugh Ruddy
Sun 1030am	Nora O'Reilly Thomas & Kathleen O'Toole Ann Duffy Gerard Egan Grégoire Epitalon
Mon 10am	Phyllis Maher-Kennedy
Tues 10am	Intentions of the Sisters of La Sainte Union
Wed	Ellen Duffy
Thurs	Patrick Bruen

Wanted— volunteer Church cleaners!

Are you—a dab hand with a duster? Magic with a mop? Handy with a Hoover? Or, would you just like to be part of a parish team? If you have up to an hour to spare once a month, we would love you to join our group of Church Cleaners! If interested, please leave your name in the sacristy

We pray for our recently deceased:

Patricia Cusack
Anne Carberry



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 8th March –7:30 pm
Pastoral Centre

Each session is separate. All are very welcome. Why not try one to see?
This week – Is the Pope a Catholic?
*Based on Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults

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