

St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

1st Sunday in Lent—6th March 2022



This Sunday's Readings

1st: Deuteronomy 26: 4-10
Psalm: 90 R/ Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.
2nd: Romans 10: 8-13
Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Gospel: Luke 4: 1-13

CURRENT MASS SCHEDULE

Monday—Friday: Mass at 10am preceded by the Rosary church opens at 9.30am and closes at 4pm
Wednesday: Mass also at 7.30pm

Thursday (during Lent): Mass in the Pastoral Centre, Royal Canal Park at 7.30pm
Friday (during Lent): Stations of the Cross 9.30am

Saturday: church opens at 10am **Vigil Mass** at 7pm
Sunday Mass at 10.30am* & 12 noon
1st Saturday of each month—Mass at 10am

All available on www.blanchardstownparish.ie/webcam

The Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation

Available on the 1st Saturday of each month after 10am Mass, and on request

Eucharistic Adoration—Tues. & Fri. 10.30—4pm

Evening Mass for the Blanchardstown Area

Mondays—Mulhuddart at 7.30pm
 Tuesdays & Thursdays—Castleknock at 7.30
Wednesday—Blanchardstown at 7.30pm
 Friday—Corduff at 7.30pm

Dates for your Diary

5th March—the 1st Saturday of March. Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am immediately followed by Confessions – The Sacrament of Reconciliation.
4th—12th March—Novena of Grace
17th March—St. Patrick's Day
Remember also:
15th March—2nd Parish Synod Gathering

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

The Season of Lent The season of Lent started on Ash Wednesday. It will continue for five and a half weeks, forty days traditionally, and will be followed by Holy Week. Fasting is a theme of Lent which was encouraged by the Lord by both word and example and was coupled by him with prayer. Lent coincides with springtime and in fact the word itself probably comes from the Old English 'lencten' meaning the lengthening of the days that occurs in spring. And indeed spring is not a bad image for Lent. Spring is the time of new life when the long nights of winter become a thing of the past. It is a time when the hearts of many people lift. Lent offers the possibility to renew and reawaken the life of the spirit and so is a season of joy.

What do I give up for Lent "What do we do? Lent has started. With it the recurring Catholic question: What will I give up for Lent? The drink or sweets, binging on 'Netflix' or taking to social media to vent our grievances? The waistline penance, fast for the new swimwear, the *Costa del Sol* look. Not too bad, but not particularly Christian, hardly in the image of Christ. This Lent do not think just about giving up something; simply give. Not something; someone. Give yourself. Imitate the compassionate Christ. Be honest and humble before with one another. Listen when someone asks you for a few minutes of your time, for the compassion in your heart. If you hear that plea, try not to ignore it. It just might be Christ".

Novena of Grace This continues until Saturday 12th March with our wonderful guest speaker and Novena director for the week, Sr. Anne Neylon (Daughter of Charity). Petitions may be placed in the box before the statue of St. Francis Xavier and thank you so much to the School for the loan of the statue.



Synod Thank you to all who turned up for our first of two meetings last Tuesday – we are talking about 90 people which was excellent. I hope you found it worthwhile. A sincere thank you to the two animators Mary Tighe and Grainne Uí Chaomhanaigh who gave up a lot of their time in preparation for the two Synod gatherings and thank you also to the 16 Facilitators. Next and final gathering on Tuesday 15th March next for 7.30pm in St Brigid's GAA – Russell Park. (If you didn't come to the first gathering you can come to the second)

Confirmation - Ceremony of Light Over the next 4 weeks the Confirmation classes will celebrate the Ceremony of Light. This Ceremony is developed around the Pascal Candle. When children are baptised the parents/godparents receive a light to their Baptismal Candle from the Pascal Candle. 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.

Last Monday 28th Feb it was for the girls of Scoil Brid,
 Next Monday 7th March at 7.30pm – the boys from Scoil Brid

First Penance The celebration of First Penance/ Confession is beginning for the boys and girls in the Holy Communion classes—on Tuesday 8th March we welcome the girls from Scoil Brid

Stations of the Cross During the Season of Lent a team will pray the Stations of the Cross every **Friday** at 9.30am. This will replace the Rosary.

Trocaire There are Trócaire boxes available at the doors of the Church. Please bring one home. For the millions who are starving throughout the world, our Lent would be some luxury. A fast day for us would be a feast day for them. Prolonged hunger can kill more than people. It can kill conscience. It can kill generosity. Hearing so much about starvation has, to some extent, anaesthetised us. If you must put Lent in a box, put it in the Trócaire one. After all it's not every box that one can fill with life and with love!

Trocaire's work in Zimbabwe Zimbabwe is a country located in Southeast Africa. It was once regarded as the great hope for Africa. However, it has not been able to reach its potential due to a series of crises, including climate change and economic and political instability. Zimbabwe has been very badly affected by climate change. Approximately 70 per cent of people in Zimbabwe rely on agriculture, but rising temperatures and worsening droughts are leaving farmers without harvests, making it harder for them to survive. In Zimbabwe, violations of human rights remain pervasive. Citizens for the most part remain unaware of their civic, economic and social rights. Women suffer disproportionately the effects of poverty and human rights abuses. Violence against women, in all its forms, continues to be recorded at extremely high levels. Trócaire's work in Zimbabwe aims to achieve:

- The development of sustainable and resilient livelihoods. Our partners support communities to increase their resilience to withstand climate shocks, and to increase food production.
- Stronger human rights protections. Our partners influence the government of Zimbabwe to address human rights violations and support citizens to demand their rights.
- Women's empowerment. To protect women from violence and encourage them to have a stronger voice. (Source: *Trocaire Lenten Resource Pack for 2022*).

We are looking forward to the return of our regular parish events though the following protective measures are still in place:

- The wearing of face coverings inside Church buildings;
 - Good sanitising and cleaning arrangements;
 - Suspension of a handshake as the Sign of Peace
 - Holy Communion to be received in the hand
 - Holy water to be used in asperges but not yet restored to fonts for communal use at the entrances to Church buildings.
- A note of caution however: as this will mean increased use of the carpark, we advise parishioners to park in designated parking spaces only. We would encourage you to park in the carpark areas at the Castleknock Road entrance, or at the boys school and leave the section at the 'circle' for those with mobility issues.



Check out www.sanctuary.ie for information on their Lenten events
 1. 'Be Still and Know' - Experiencing Meditation in the Christian Tradition: A Journey for Lent
 2. 'Mindfully waiting for Easter with Sr. Stan

We remember our recently deceased

Frances Daly

Fr. John O'Connell

Marie Brennan



Always loved, never forgotten

Children's Corner

In the Gospel Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus goes into the wilderness where he is tempted. Although it is hard, Jesus does not give in to temptation but does what he knows is right. Jesus trusts God the Father.

My Lenten promise
 What have you decided to do during Lent? Draw yourself inside the angel keeping your Lenten promise.



A Prayer to Say Dear Jesus, please help me to grow closer to you this Lent. I want to be more loving and do to what is right, just like you. Help me to talk to you more and to give my time and energy to other people. Amen.

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There are 6 letters left. Can you arrange them to make the name of the big day when Lent comes to an end, when Jesus rose again?

Fr. Frank's book recommendations for Lent
 Introduction to the Spiritual Life: Walking the Path of Prayer with Jesus—Brant Pitre,
 Intimacy with God: An Introduction to Centering Prayer—Thomas Keating
 Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith—Henri Nouwen
 Wrestling with God: Finding Hope and Meaning in Our Daily Struggles to Be Human—Ronald Rolheiser

Local group *Vox Hiberniae* have put together a 2 part Reflection for Lent "A Celtic Lenten Journey - Harp, Voice and Violin" from the Avila Carmelite Centre in Donnybrook. It can be viewed at the following address: www.youtube.com/c/VoxHiberniae

Eight Free Go for Life PALs (Physical Activity Leader) Workshops

Starting Friday 25th March 2022
 10am to 2.30pm

Blakestown Community Resource Centre
 More information email sports@fingal.ie

Intentions

7pm	Michael McDonnell
10.30	Johnny Lundy MM Ann Duffy
12 noon	Tom & Kathleen O'Toole Nora O'Reilly Harry McCarthy MM

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