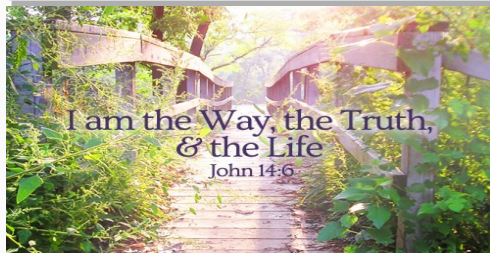


St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Fifth Sunday of Easter— Sunday 7th May 2023



Extract from Archbishop's Homily at Knock 2023

"After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped walking with him, and returned to their former way of life. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, "What about you, do you also want to go away?" Simon Peter answered, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life..." (John 6:66-68) **Jesus Shows the Disciples and Us the Way** Jesus poses a stark question, "What about you, do you also want to go away?" Peter—for all his weakness—displays something that comes from staying the course with someone for a long time: "...to whom shall we go?" Peter realises where he really belongs. In today's Gospel, St John brings us right into a moment of crisis in the relationship between Jesus and his followers. In the middle of this crisis, Peter comes to realise that it is with Jesus that he wants to be. As many of us know it is in a moment of crisis—be it in a relationship, a family/friendship, that we come to our senses, and realise where we belong. There we come to know where we truly want to be, and who the person is that we want to be with. "Lord, to whom shall we go?" In the life of faith, just as in the life of a family, that realisation is a moment of growth, real maturity, a true coming home to ourselves. It is a *moment of conversion*, a moment of *turning towards* the Lord, a moment of deciding to go after him. The way of the early disciples was not easy. As his disciples would remember, he was "the way, the truth and the life". It takes time for the deeper things to emerge. Therefore, learning to wait—to wait for the other, to wait for ourselves, is vital on the road to maturity, and fullness of life. In our busy lives, and in a frantic world of immediate answers and easy "take-aways," finding the time to wait, to listen, to hear, becomes more and more difficult. It is vital that we do it—for ourselves, our families, our Church, and our world.

Walking Away or Walking with Jesus

The disciples are in crisis—and some walk away; some stay. To walk with Jesus—to be with him on the way—in Greek, *syn-(h)odo*—is the Gospels' way of speaking about being a disciple. Where did the two disciples in last Sunday's Gospel meet Jesus? *On the way* to Emmaus! How did they meet him? They met him by walking with him! We do the same. Of course, remaining with Jesus on his journey does not wipe away all their issues, fears, or weaknesses. To be a disciple is not to run away from life and its challenges.

Turning to Walk with Jesus—Learning from Mary

Mary is a model for walking with Jesus. In a sense, she is Jesus' first disciple. She shows us that, at the core of our faith, are not abstract ideas, but lives, real lives. Mary was a real woman who lived in Nazareth. She was married to Joseph—"Joseph, her spouse," as we pray in the Eucharistic Prayer at every Mass. God calls her. God reaches into her life, and asks her to embrace her life with Him in a radical way. In the very same way that God spoke to Mary, God comes to us and through us. As Pope Francis constantly reminds us, "God is manifested in time and is present in the processes of history. This means prioritizing actions that generate new dynamics. And it requires patience, waiting." Mary's exchange with God in the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38), her conversation with God, is honest. It is a 'no-holds-barred' conversation. In that conversation nothing is left unsaid, not even her doubts and fears. Faith is built on dialogue; solid faith grows in honest exchange! What God has to say to us is important, but what we have to say to God is also vital: we cannot hear God unless we hear ourselves. The complete honesty of Mary from the outset is critical. Mary's honesty, like the first disciples, is a form of availability, readiness to do what the Lord is asking, even if she does not fully understand.

A Reflective Sentence

People do not criticise Christ. They criticise Christians because they do not resemble him – Francois Mauriac (1914-1996, French Novelist)



Confirmation Ceremonies – 2023

The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for our Parish Schools continues. On Thursday 11th May we have the boys and girls from Saint Francis Xavier at 11.00am. I welcome the children and their parents/guardians and wider family circle to these wonderful occasions.



1st Holy Communion

Next Saturday 13th May at 11am, the boys from Scoil Bhríde Buachailli will receive their 1st Holy Communion. I wish the school well in all their preparation this coming week, and I hope the weather is fantastic on the day. Whatever the weather it will be a lovely day!



Parish Meetings – This week

Thursday 11th May – The Communications Group will meet in the Pastoral Centre at 7.30pm.

Lay Ministry Collection

This annual collection will be taken up at all Masses THIS weekend Sat 6th/Sun 7th May. This annual collection will replace the Share Collection and will be devoted to support the building up of new forms of lay ministry in our parishes. The work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus in our changing religious culture will require more lay men and women working in various ways alongside our priests at the heart of parish communities.

Saints in the Church's Calendar

Our Lady of Fatima – Sat 13th May The apparitions to the three children of Fatima took place in the summer of 1917, beginning on the 13th May when the 'Lady' asked them to pray for sinners and an end to the world war. In the final apparition on 13th October, the 'Lady' identified herself as Our Lady of the Rosary and called for prayer and conversion.

A date for your diary....

Our **Annual Healing Mass** will take place on Sunday 14th May at 3pm. **Mass For All Nations** will be at midday on Sunday June 11th. Our **Parish Heritage Pilgrimage** will take place on Saturday June 17th- details to follow



FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Family Mass Team



Last Sunday, the new Family Mass Team celebrated their first Family Mass at 12 noon. All went exceedingly well. I thank the new team who met on the previous Thursday evening to plan the Mass. The Youth Choir were magnificent.

Parish Mass of healing and Anointing for the sick

On Sunday 14th May at 3pm the Parish will celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick. All parishioners are welcome. It is an ideal opportunity to reach out to a housebound neighbour or a neighbour who has no means of transport and bring them to the church for this celebration.



The Sacrament of the Sick

This sacrament proclaims God's immediate and saving presence, that God will act in a saving way within this very sickness, that God will make this illness redemptive; he will turn it 'unto good' on some way or another. Your illness may heal other wounds-in the family perhaps, or draw out the generosity of relations or the goodness of neighbours. God will comfort the sick person, strengthen you and reach through the pain to enlighten the mind or change the heart. That's what we mean when we say that God will use the illness 'redemptively'.

John White – Choir Director

John has informed the Choir, the Youth Choir and the Parish Team of his intention to retire this coming summer. His last Mass as Choir Director of St Brigid's will be Sunday June 18th. He will be very sadly missed.



Vocations

Fifth Sunday of Easter – 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me.' (John 14:1) Jesus encourages his disciples not to be afraid, but to 'trust in God' and to 'trust in him' We pray that those who are discerning a call in their hearts to serve as a priest, deacon or religious may be encouraged to place their trust in the Risen Lord.

Youth Choir—Choral Festival

John White took the Youth Choir to the Navan Choral Festival on Thursday. They did themselves and the parish proud and had a fantastic experience! Well done all!!

Fr Michael Carey PP

Why lead a good life?

What is a good life?

What are the Foundations & Principles of the Christian Moral Life?

Join us for a discussion over 2 evenings
Wed 17 & 31 May – 7:30 to 8:40 pm
St Brigid's Parish Pastoral Centre



Children's Corner

In The Gospel

Jesus has to leave his friends. He is going to get a place ready for them to be happy together forever. Jesus wants his friends to be happy. They will be happy when they find God the Father and Jesus is the way to God the Father. If we want to know God the Father we just need to know Jesus, God the Son!

Word Search

Jesus' way is found in all these words

PRAYING LOVING
KIND HONEST
SHARING BRAVE
CARING HELPFUL

G	R	N	K	O	U	R	P	Y
C	S	O	I	B	N	Y	R	E
A	H	O	N	E	S	T	A	H
R	A	D	D	B	E	X	Y	E
I	R	Q	U	R	L	K	I	L
N	I	U	M	A	E	A	N	P
G	N	L	O	V	I	N	G	F
A	G	N	A	E	P	D	A	U
S	H	M	R	A	O	G	D	L

Thank you, Jesus, for loving me. Help me to walk in your footsteps and follow your way. I know I will be happy when I trust you. Amen.

JESUS IS THE WAY

Mass intentions for the week

Sat 6pm	Bessie McCabe Madeline Curtin Patrick Farrell (MM)
Sun 10.30	Mary Briody (MM) Richard Brabazon Aileen Canning Teresa O'Neill
Tue	Bridie O'Mara

We welcome our recently baptised:

Darach Wylder
Ava



Easter Dues Envelopes

If you did not receive Easter Dues envelope and would like to contribute to the Priests of the Parish, please take one from the tables around the Church. A sincere thank you to all who have returned their Easter Dues. Your continued generosity is very much appreciated. **If you have not made a return and would like to there are dues envelopes available in the Church.** If you are not a regular contributor to the Parish and would like to do so, please leave your name and contact details with myself or in the Sacristy or Parish Office.

Mulhuddart Cemetery Mass
Sunday 11th June -3pm.

CURRENT SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
Mass at 10am preceded by the Rosary at 9.30
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*
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-5pm
Blanchardstown Area evening Mass
Mon: Blanchardstown 7.30pm
Tues & Thurs: Castleknock
Wed: Mulhuddart **Fri:** Corduff

LOUGH DERG: Last year a group of parishioners from St. Mochta's Parish, Porterstown held a 3-day pilgrimage and had a wonderful experience. If you are interested in going this year, please phone St. Mochta's -8213218, secretary@stmochtaspriest.ie or contact Ellen on 087 9668356. **Friday 7th– Sunday 9th July.** We will depart from St. Mochta's Church Courtyard at 8am.

PARISH CONTACTS: V REV Fr. Michael Carey: 8213660 Rev Jim Adams(Deacon) 0862232411
Rev Michael O'Connor(Deacon) 0872941729 Máirín Keegan (Pastoral Worker) 8115414 Sacristy: 8238354
Parish Finance Christine Carleton / Parish Secretary Jean Rogers: 8115412
email: office@blanchardstownparish.ie website: www.blanchardstownparish.ie
https://www.facebook.com/St-Brigids-Parish-Blanchardstown-44438662375848/

