

St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

The Baptism of Our Lord—9th January 2022



This Sunday's Readings

1st: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11
Psalm: 103 R/ Bless the Lord, my soul!
 Lord God, how great you are.
2nd: St. Paul's letter to Titus 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!
Gospel: Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

CURRENT MASS SCHEDULE

Monday—Friday Mass: 10am preceded by the Rosary at 9.35am church opens at 9.30am and closes at 5pm
Saturday: church opens for private prayer at 10am
Vigil Mass at 7pm
Sunday Mass at 10.30am* & 12 noon
 *available on Phoenix Radio—92.5FM
 All Parish services available on www.blanchardstownparish.ie/webcam
Confession—The Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation will be available every Saturday from 10.30am to 11.00am and on request
Eucharistic Adoration—Tues. and Fri. after the 10am Mass.
New Evening Mass for the Greater Blanchardstown Area
 Mulhuddart – Monday, Castleknock – Tuesday
 Blanchardstown – Wednesday
 Castleknock – Thursday, Corduff – Friday
 Please remember: **mask, sanitise, safe distance.**

Christmas Dues Envelopes Thank you to all who have returned their Christmas Dues, your generosity is much appreciated. If you did not receive a Christmas Dues envelope and would like to contribute to the Priests of the Parish, please take one from the tables in the Church.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK



On behalf of myself, the Parish Team; the Parish Staff and the Parish Pastoral Council, I'd like to wish the parishioners of St. Brigid's Blanchardstown a peaceful and happy New Year

A New Year's Blessing

Lord, at the beginning of this New Year, we thank you for your gift of time.
Let us embrace time as Mary did, as the experience of the unfolding of your plan of salvation.
We measure time with calendars and watches. You experience it as an ever-present "now."
Bless our ordered lists of weeks and months, of holydays and holidays, of feast and fasts, and all our special days of remembering.
Please bless these instruments with which we measure time. Let them remind us that you are the master of time as we dedicate this New Year to you.
Lord, bless this New Year, each of its days and nights. Bless us with happy seasons and healthy lives.
Lord, we thank you for the gift of 2022 Grant that it will be a year of love and peace.
Amen.

Christmas Church Décor—St. Brigid's looked resplendent in its Christmas outfit. I loved everything about it and the crib is magnificent. I'd like to thank Christine Carleton, Mairin Keegan, the Volunteer Sacristans, the cleaners and the Liturgy Team for the hard work they do in bringing the Church to its Christmas glory. A special thank you to Mary Ronayne, Dolores O'Leary and Jean Hamilton who spent hours one afternoon arranging the beautiful Floral display and putting up the crib.

The Liturgies Thank you so much to the Stewards, the Volunteer Sacristans, the Ministers of the Word and the Ministers of the Eucharist who did such a fine job over Christmas. The music was also beautiful. Thank you to John White and the Youth Choir and the Choir and to Mary Kelly and Frances Timmins. All of you helped make our Masses prayerful and uplifting.

Father Michael PP

Ordinary Time We are now in what the Church calls Ordinary Time. The term "Ordinary Time" may be misleading; in the context of the liturgical year the term "ordinary" does not mean "usual or average." Ordinary here means "not seasonal." Ordinary Time is that part of the Liturgical Year that lies outside the seasons of Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas. In Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the mystery of Christ not in one specific aspect but in all its aspects. The readings during the liturgies of Ordinary Time help to instruct us on how to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives.

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Archbishop's Christmas Homily

Today marks the end of the Christmas Season in the Church's calendar and the beginning of Ordinary Time. Below is an **extract** of the Archbishop's homily given on Christmas Eve in the Pro-Cathedral

"Our lives rarely, if ever turn out as we expect. Every human life is a profound gift that is beyond our horizon. We dream of a job we would like to get, or a home we would like to own, or place we where would like to live. But there are always surprises on the journey of life. Frequently, if not always, the reality can be very different from what we imagined.

And this is also the way with and for our children. We have dreams of how our child will be, and we have dreams for our children. But is not the child we receive always a surprise? Anyone who is a parent knows this a thousand times better than I do! Such is the mystery of life. Every child's life has an horizon that is autonomous. Likewise, with marriage; it is different from what we had hoped for or dreamt. Life, marriage and children all carry surprises. Elements of surprise run through all our stories.

In our lives, in our marriages, with our children we are called to engage with reality. This is how God gives us to ourselves and God gives God's very self to us—what we call grace, the blessedness of God himself. It is to be found in the most unlikely places, in a hospital ward, in homeless shelter or a family home. We stumble across God when we least expect it, and where we least expect Him; when we are alert to this, a new world appears within and around us, what previously appeared impossible becomes an everyday experience.

Reality can be very different—much better or worse than we thought it would be. It can far surpass the dream or indeed disappoint. Not every surprise is a good one. We also have to cope with darkness and sickness and death. In this perspective, faith—living faith—can be understood as how we respond to reality.....

The reality of Jesus was a big surprise. He was in fact God in the flesh, the divine in human, the Son of God made man. His birth was not a time of fanfare; there was no wild exuberance. It was so ordinary—God himself was present in the dreariness and poverty of a hillside cave. From that moment the world was different because God came and continues to come, continues to make himself present in the hearts of women and men.

And what is the surprise and what is this new world? It is simply this—that from Christmas night God is always present in the midst of our world. No matter what our burden, no matter what illness, anxiety, worry or trouble we have one hope to cling to—that God is with us. There is no situation in which he is absent.

We welcome our recently Baptised
Seán, Jack & Róisín



**Matilda Dowling
 Christian Hempal**

live in hearts left behind
 is not to die

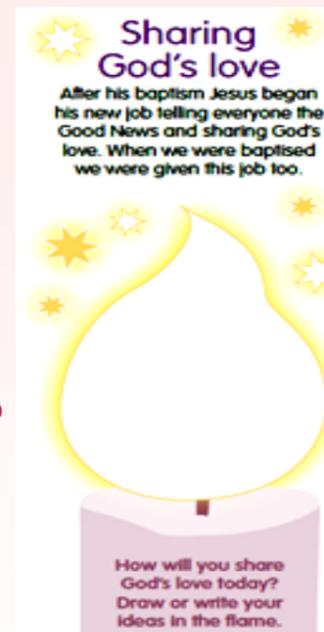
Children's Corner

In the Gospel

Jesus comes to his cousin John to be baptised. While Jesus prays, the Holy Spirit comes down on him and God the Father is heard, saying that Jesus is his Son.

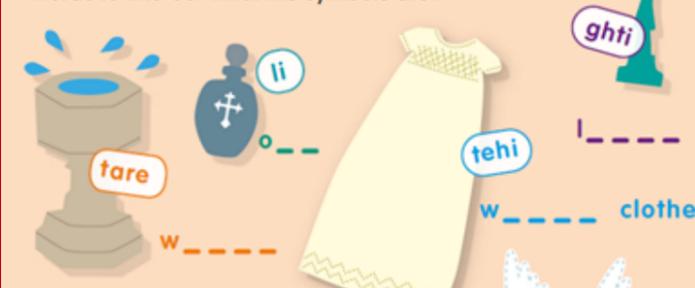
A prayer to say

Dear Jesus, after your baptism you began to tell everyone all about God's love. Help me to tell people all about God's love by what I do and by what I say. Amen.



Symbols in Baptism

Just like Jesus, we are baptised too. Different symbols are used during baptism. Can you unscramble the words to find out what the symbols are?



Join the dots

When God the Son, Jesus, is baptised God the Holy Spirit comes down on him. Find out the shape of the Holy Spirit in this story by joining the dots.



Answers: This is my beloved Son. Water, oil, white, light.

We remember our recently deceased



Intentions

8/9th January

7pm	James & Agnes Griffin Mary & Sonny Flynn Rose Harrison Caitríona Farrell (Birthday rem.)
10.30	Kitty & Liam McCarthy
12 noon	Ned Conlon Joan O'Keeffe Phil Webster MM
1.30	Michael Millington

Alone—COVID-19 SUPPORT LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE - 0818 222 024 The line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm
AWARE - SUPPORT & SELF CARE GROUPS. Find more information about all groups and services on www.aware.ie