



St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 28th January 2024



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

The Catechism affirms that: “prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture” — the Bible cannot be read like a novel — “so that a dialogue takes place between God and man” (n. 2653). This is where prayer leads you, because it is a dialogue with God.

That Bible verse was written for me too, centuries ago, to bring me a word of God. It was written for each of us. This experience happens to all believers: a passage from Scripture, heard many times already, unexpectedly speaks to me one day, and enlightens a situation that I am living. But it is necessary that I be present on that day for that appointment with the Word. That I be there, listening to the Word. Every day God passes and sows a seed in the soil of our lives. We do not know whether today he will find dry ground, brambles, or good soil that will make that seed grow. That they become for us the living Word of God depends on us, on our prayer, on the open heart with which we approach the Scriptures. God passes continually through Scripture. And here I return to what I said last week, to what St Augustine said: “I am afraid of God when he passes”. Why is he afraid? That he will not listen to him. That he will not realize that he is the Lord. Through prayer a new incarnation of the Word takes place. And we are the “tabernacles” where the words of God seek to be welcomed and preserved, so that they may visit the world. This is why we must approach the Bible without ulterior motives, without exploiting it. The believer does not turn to the Holy Scriptures to support his or her own philosophical and moral view, but because he or she hopes for an encounter; the believer knows that those words were written in the Holy Spirit, and that therefore they should be welcomed and understood in that same Spirit, so that the encounter can occur. It bothers me a little when I hear Christians who recite verses from the Bible like parrots. “Oh, yes... Oh, the Lord says... He wants this...”. But did you encounter the Lord, with that verse? It is not only a question of memory: it is a question of the memory of the heart, which opens you to the encounter with the Lord. And that word, that verse, leads you to the encounter with the Lord. Thus, we read the Scriptures so that they may “read us”. And it is a grace to be able to recognize oneself in this passage or that character, in this or that situation.

Cont'd next week.....

Liturgical Diary This week

St Brigid, abbess, Secondary Patron of Ireland
Our Parish Feast Day - Thursday 1st February
Known as ‘the Mary of the Gael’, St Brigid is renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving, and care of the sick. She was born c. 454. She received the veil and spiritual formation probably from St. Mel and stayed for a period under his direction in Ardagh. Others followed her example and this led her to found a double monastery in Kildare with the assistance of Bishop Conleth. She died in 524 and her cult is widespread not only throughout Ireland but in several European lands. The St. Brigid’s Cross remains a popular sign of God’s protection.

The Presentation of the Lord – Candlemas
Friday 2nd Feb; This feast is a remembrance of the Lord and Mary, his Mother. With candles in their hands, the people go out to meet the Lord and to acclaim him with Simeon, who recognised Christ as ‘a light to reveal God to the nations’. If you would like candles blessed on the Feast Day, please leave them in the Sacristy or bring on the day and place on the table in the sanctuary. Candles can be purchased from the Sacristy at €2 each.

Feast of St. Blaise – Sat 3rd Feb He died 315. Bishop of Sebastes, martyred in Armenia. Tradition states that he was a physician before becoming a bishop. Since the 8th century he has been venerated as the patron of those who suffer from disease of the throat

Throats will be blessed at the 10am Mass this Saturday 3rd February to mark the Feast of St. Blaise.



St Brigid

You were a woman of peace. You brought harmony where there was conflict. You brought light to the darkness.

You brought hope to the downcast. May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious, and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world. Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made. Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and the weary. Strengthen what is weak within us. Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens. May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit.

Amen. (author unknown)
St. Brigid's Feast Day is February 1st.

Eucharistic Adoration



I want to thank Tim O’ Sullivan and John McCormack from the Apostolate of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration who attended our Masses last weekend. I found John’s talk excellent and engaging. I am delighted to say that the parish has signed up some new volunteers. I thank the excellent Adoration Group in the Parish for being present at the weekend Masses and for arranging and maintaining Adoration in the Parish on Tuesdays and Fridays. Weekly and constant prayer is not to be underestimated.

World day for Consecrated Life

In 1997 Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Feb 2nd). Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, especially friends & family members and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God’s gift of their vocation.

Confirmation Retreats

Our retreats continue this coming week with the boys and girls from 6th class. The retreats will be held on Monday and Wednesday at 11.30am. I thank our excellent Confirmation Team: Pat Cummins; Margaret Hill and Áine Jordan who are assisted by the Parish Team. Please keep the boys and girls and their families in your prayers

Family Mass

I welcome everyone to this weekend’s Family Mass at 10.30am accompanied by the Youth Choir, followed by refreshments.

First Penance

The celebration of First Penance/ Confession is beginning for the boys and girls in the Holy Communion classes. On Thursday 1st February we welcome Scoil Bhríde Cailíní.

Intercessions for Vocations

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time - The refrain of our responsorial psalm is “O that today you would listen to His voice; harden not your hearts” – We pray for those who are being called by God to give their lives in service as a priest, deacon or religious, that they may open their hearts and listen to His gentle voice whispering amidst the noise of life.

Chroi Mhaire Foodbank

We thank you for your continuing support to our food basket. Donations gratefully received as they deliver to over 75 households in D15.

Fr Michael Carey PP

Children's Corner: In the Gospel Today

Jesus goes to Capernaum and teaches the people in the synagogue. He is a great teacher. Everyone is very impressed by what he says and the way he speaks. They know he is speaking the truth. No one else has ever explained about God in the same way.

Spreading the good news

When you find out something amazing, how do you tell others about it?

How else can you “tell” people about Jesus, without using words?

Dear Jesus, help me to spread the good news about your love by the way I live. Amen.

JESUS TEACHES!

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council



A CELEBRATION of SPRING FOR ALL THE FINGAL FAMILY

An Evening Concert celebrating St. Brigid

Monday 5th February 7pm (Doors 6:30pm)

St. Brigid's Parish Blanchardstown, Church Ave, Blanchardstown, Dublin

Tickets €5 (Booking available via Eventbrite)



St Brigid's Feast Day - Make your own St Brigid's Cross



On Sunday, 28th January, we will host St Brigid’s cross making workshops after the 10.30am mass and after the midday First Holy Communion mass, in the pastoral centre. The crosses will be blessed on the day and on St Brigid’s Day, 1st February. We will run a further St Brigid’s cross making workshop on Thursday 1st February after 10am mass. In addition, we have made a video showing you how to make the cross. Good luck!! <https://vimeo.com/502994316>

The St Brigid’s cross is thought to keep evil, fire and hunger from your home.

Mass intentions for the week

Sat	Anna Brophy (MM)	Michael McDonnell	Michael McDonald
Sun	Karen Hanratty	Mary & Daniel McCarthy	Jose-Maria Escobar (MM)
	Thomas & Kathleen O’Toole	Patrick & Liam Briody	Michael & Eileen Clancy
Mon	Joe Phelan		
Thurs	Mary O’Brien		

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<https://www.facebook.com/St-Brigids-Parish-Blanchardstown-44438662375848/>



We welcome those baptised in the month of January ;

Ivy, Lilly, Sadie, Amy & Thanusha

May they continue to grow strong in body, mind and spirit.

We pray for our recently deceased;
Albert Muldoon Imelda Healy
Mary Gallagher Sean O’Donovan
Always loved, never forgotten

