

# St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

## Second Sunday of Easter— Sunday 16th April 2023



### Easter Homily 2023 - Pope Francis

I am including the first half of the Easter Homily of Pope Francis in this week's newsletter;

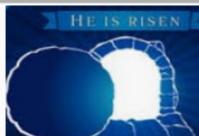
"The night is drawing to a close and the first light of dawn is appearing upon the horizon as the women set out toward Jesus' tomb. They make their way forward, bewildered and dismayed, their hearts overwhelmed with grief at the death that took away their Beloved. Yet upon arriving and seeing the empty tomb, they turn around and retrace their steps. They leave the tomb behind and run to the disciples to proclaim a change of course: Jesus is risen and *awaits them in Galilee*. In their lives, those women experienced Easter as a Pasch, a *passage*. They pass from walking sorrowfully towards the tomb to running back with joy to the disciples to tell them not only that the Lord is risen, but also that they are to set out immediately to reach a destination, Galilee. There they will meet the Risen Lord. The rebirth of the disciples, the resurrection of their hearts, passes through Galilee. Let us enter into this journey of the disciples from the tomb to Galilee.

The Gospel tells us that the women went "to see the tomb" (Mt 28:1). They think that they will find Jesus in the place of death and that everything is over, forever. Sometimes we too may think that the joy of our encounter with Jesus is something belonging to the past, whereas the present consists mostly of sealed tombs: tombs of disappointment, bitterness and distrust, of the dismay of thinking that "nothing more can be done", "things will never change", "better to live for today", since "there is no certainty about tomorrow". If we are prey to sorrow, burdened by sadness, laid low by sin, embittered by failure or troubled by some problem, we also know the bitter taste of weariness and the absence of joy.

At times, we may simply feel weary about our daily routine, tired of taking risks in a cold, hard world where only the clever and the strong seem to get ahead. At other times, we may feel helpless and discouraged before the power of evil, the conflicts that tear relationships apart, the attitudes of calculation and indifference that seem to prevail in society, the cancer of corruption – there is a great deal of it, the spread of injustice, the icy winds of war. Then too, we may have come face to face with death, because it robbed us of the presence of our loved ones or because we brushed up against it in illness or a serious setback. Then it is easy to yield to disillusionment, once the wellspring of hope has dried up. In these or similar situations – each of us knows our own plights, our paths come to a halt before a row of tombs, and we stand there, filled with sorrow and regret, alone and powerless, repeating the question, "Why?" That chain of "why"...

The women at Easter do not stand frozen before the tomb; rather, the Gospel tells us, "they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples". They bring the news that will change life and history forever: Christ is risen! At the same time, they remember to convey the Lord's summons to the disciples to go to Galilee, for there they will see him. Let us ask ourselves today, brothers and sisters: what does it mean to go to Galilee? Two things: on the one hand, to leave the enclosure of the Upper Room and go to the land of the Gentiles, to leave fear behind and to *set out for the future*. On the other hand, and this is very beautiful, to *return to the origins*, for it was precisely in Galilee that *everything began*. There the Lord had met and first called the disciples. So, to go to Galilee means to return to the grace of the beginnings, to regain the memory that regenerates hope, the "memory of the future" bestowed on us by the Risen One.

This, then, is what the Pasch of the Lord accomplishes: it motivates us to move forward, to leave behind our sense of defeat, to roll away the stone of the tombs in which we often imprison our hope, and to look with confidence to the future, for Christ is risen and has changed the direction of history".



### Confirmation Ceremonies – 2023

The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for our Parish Schools will continue for the 4 coming weeks. On **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April** we have the girls from Scoil Bhríde Cailíní at **11.00am**. I welcome the children and their parents/guardians and wider family circle to these wonderful occasions.



### Divine Mercy

An individual can receive complete forgiveness of sin and all punishment due to sin if they receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday (the first Sunday after Easter), and confession within the Octave. The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday and Divine Mercy leaflets are available at the doors of the church. Divine Mercy devotions will be held in St Philip the Apostle Church in Mountview starting **TODAY** at 2 pm on Divine Mercy Sunday. At exactly 3 pm, the Divine Mercy chaplet will be prayed followed by Mass. We encourage everyone to take part.



### Priesthood in a Synodal Church

In life, many hear God's call to priesthood. Is your heart open to the Lord? Have you ever considered taking the risk to follow in the footsteps of Jesus? If so, you are invited to the national seminary, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, on April 25 to attend a special conference on evangelisation and vocations in Ireland today. Archbishop Rino Fisichella, Pro Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelisation, will be the keynote speaker. Please register directly at [www.vocations.ie](http://www.vocations.ie), or contact the National Vocations director Fr Willie Purcell at [willie.purcell@iecon.ie](mailto:willie.purcell@iecon.ie) or Rev Eric Cooney secretary of the National Vocations Office at [eric.cooney@iecon.ie](mailto:eric.cooney@iecon.ie). The conference is a prelude to the opening of the national Year of Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood on Good Shepherd Sunday, April 30, on the theme 'Take the Risk for Christ'. There is no charge for attending but places are limited.

**Mulhuddart Cemetery Mass Sunday 11th June 2023 at 3pm.**

**A Reflective Sentence** When Christ's hands were nailed to the Cross, he also nailed our sins to the Cross – St Bernard of Clairvaux



### FROM THE PASTORS DESK

#### The Easter Ceremonies – Thank You!!



Well the Easter ceremonies are all over for another year! I am delighted to say that they went very well and that is due entirely to the huge amount of work and co-operation by so many people. At the Easter Vigil and Sunday Mass I extensively thanked the Sacristans, Liturgy Group, some individuals, Choirs (and soloists), Music Duo and Ministries. I did so knowing that there is always the danger of forgetting someone or some group. I hope that I didn't and if I did I sincerely apologise and please let me know. I thanked extensively because I really appreciate the hard work and time offered for the good of the Parish. I thank Michael Tighe who prepares the Easter Fire every year....maybe next year he'll be able to do something about the wind!!

In this newsletter I want to thank all the individuals who responded to a request to do 'a little job', which although 'little' is so necessary and vital for the overall high quality and prayerfulness of the Liturgy. So thank you to all who had their feet washed; who presented the gifts of bread and wine, the holy oils and the different symbols during the Easter Triduum.

#### The Easter Gospels

The Gospels that we will be listening to over the 50 days of Easter might seem to turn the clock back by visiting Jesus' pre-resurrection. But we remind ourselves that we read our scriptures at Mass not primarily for their historical interest or novelty, but for their ever-present sacramental value for each generation.

#### Good Friday Collection

For the past two years Pope Francis has requested a collection be taken up at the 3pm liturgy – The Celebration of the Lord's Passion. We did not announce this in advance, but only at the end of the celebration. This collection is for the upkeep of the Shrines, churches etc. in the Holy Land. The amount raised was €350...thank you.

*Fr Michael Carey PP*

#### Parish Meetings – This coming week

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April** – The **Finance Team** will meet in the Pastoral Centre at 2.30pm

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April** - **Parents and Baptismal Team** - The parents of children for Baptism are invited to meet the Team before hand and have a presentation on the symbols of Baptism along with a short period of prayer. This meeting for the parents who are having their children baptised in the month of May will take place at 7.30pm in the Pastoral Centre.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April** – The **Parish Pastoral Council** will meet at 7pm in the Pastoral Centre

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April** - **Teen Hope** - The teenagers are invited to gather at 7pm in the Pastoral centre – Pizza, chat, games, reflection, prayer and FUN!

## Children's Corner

### In The Gospel

Jesus comes to see his friends, bring his peace and the Holy Spirit. Thomas is missing and doesn't believe the others. Jesus comes back and gives Thomas the proof he needs that he really is alive and he really is here!

**Thomas believes** Thomas did not believe Jesus had risen from the dead until he actually saw Jesus for himself.

Spot the five differences between Thomas before and after he saw Jesus.

**JESUS IS HERE**

I am so happy, Jesus, that you are alive! Now I know that good things can come out of the worst situation. Thank you for showing me that love will always win. Amen.



### St. Vincent de Paul



The outdoor monthly collection for St Brigid's Blanchardstown, VdP, will be taken up **this weekend** at all Masses.

#### Mass intentions for the week

Sat 6pm	Pat Lawlor John Kane PJ O'Farrell (MM) and Jean O'Farrell Richard Gorman (MM) Patrick Murphy (MM)
Sun	Baby Beth McElroy Angela Connell Peter Foley Mary McMenamin (1st) Clare Egan
Mon	Mary Drummey
Tues	Terry Keaney David Panergo (MM)

**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.

**We pray for our recently deceased:**  
Madeline Curtin Patrick Farrell



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