

# St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday 19th February 2023



### “Take care of him”

Below is an extract from the message of Pope Francis for the 31st World Day of the Sick - 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023

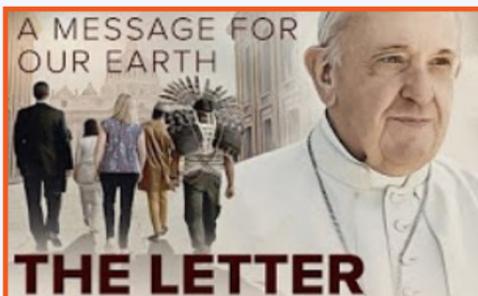
Dear brothers and sisters! Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane. When we go on a journey with others, it is not unusual for someone to feel sick, to have to stop because of fatigue or of some mishap along the way. It is precisely in such moments that we see how we are walking together: whether we are truly companions on the journey, or merely individuals on the same path, looking after our own interests and leaving others to “make do”. For this reason, on the thirty-first World Day of the Sick, as the whole Church journeys along the synodal path, I invite all of us to reflect that it is through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness.

In the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, the Lord speaks these words that represent one of the high points of God’s Revelation: “I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak I will feed them with justice” (34:15-16). Experiences of bewilderment, sickness, and weakness are part of the human journey. Far from excluding us from God’s people, they bring us to the centre of the Lord’s attention, for he is our Father and does not want to lose even one of his children along the way. Let us learn from him, then, how to be a community that truly walks together, capable of resisting the throwaway culture.

The parable of the Good Samaritan illustrates how we can move from the “dark clouds” of a closed world to “envisaging and engendering an open world”. There is a profound link between this parable of Jesus and the many ways in which fraternity is denied in today’s world. In particular, the fact that the man, beaten and robbed, is abandoned on the side of the road represents the condition in which all too many of our brothers and sisters are left at a time when they most need help. It is no longer easy to distinguish the assaults on human life and dignity that arise from natural causes from those caused by injustice and violence. In fact, increasing levels of inequality and the prevailing interests of the few now affect every human environment to the extent that it is difficult to consider any experience as having solely “natural” causes. All suffering takes place in the context of a “culture” and its various contradictions.... Brothers and sisters, we are rarely prepared for illness. Oftentimes, we fail even to admit that we are getting older. Our vulnerability frightens us and the pervasive culture of efficiency pushes us to sweep it under the carpet, leaving no room for our human frailty. When evil bursts onto the scene and wounds us, we are left stunned. Moreover, others might abandon us at such times. Or, in our own moments of weakness, we may feel that we should abandon others in order to avoid becoming a burden. This is how loneliness sets in, and we can become poisoned by a bitter sense of injustice, as if God himself had abandoned us. Indeed, we may find it hard to remain at peace with the Lord when our relationship with others and with ourselves is damaged. It is crucial, then, even in the midst of illness, that the whole Church measure herself against the Gospel example of the Good Samaritan, in order that she may become a true “field hospital”, for her mission is manifested in acts of care, particularly in the historical circumstances of our time. We are all fragile and vulnerable, and need that compassion which knows how to pause, approach, heal, and raise up. Thus, the plight of the sick is a call that cuts through indifference and slows the pace of those who go on their way as if they had no sisters and brothers. God’s word is always illuminating and timely; not only in what it denounces, but also in what it proposes.



The conclusion of the parable of the Good Samaritan suggests how the exercise of fraternity, which began as a face-to-face encounter, can be expanded into organised care. The elements of the inn, the innkeeper, the money and the promise to remain informed of the situation all point to the commitment of healthcare and social workers, family members and volunteers, through whom good stands up in the face of evil every day. The Samaritan calls the innkeeper to “take care of him”. Jesus addresses the same call to us. He exhorts us to “go and do likewise”. To the intercession of Mary, Health of the Sick, I entrust all of you who are ill; you who care for them in your families, or through your work, research and volunteer service; and those of you who are committed to weaving personal, ecclesial, and civic bonds of fraternity. To all, I impart my heartfelt blessing.



**Showing soon!!** *The Letter* tells the story of 5 people of different faiths and from different parts of the world who journey to Rome to meet Pope Francis. **Friday 24th Feb at 7.30pm in the Church extension.** Powerful and moving, *Don't Miss It!*

**Adult Faith Development**  
Discuss the basics of our religion.\*  
**Wed 22 Feb –7:30 pm–Pastoral Centre**  
Each session is separate. All are very welcome. Why not try one to see?  
**This week – What happens at Pentecost?**  
\*Based on *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults*

**Monday 20th February**  
There will be no 10am mass this Monday, instead we will have Liturgy of the Word at 10am. Monday evening 7.30pm mass will go ahead as normal.

### FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Ash Wednesday – 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, a day of fast and abstinence and the beginning of the Season of Lent.

**Why do we put ash on our forehead?** - Ashes are applied to our forehead in the sign of the cross as the words, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return" are spoken to us. The other formula which is used, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" emphasises our call to continual conversion and holiness of life. This act symbolizes our mortality as well as our need for ongoing repentance. It is a reminder that this life is short and merely a foreshadowing of what we shall become through the redemption of Jesus Christ on the cross. The work of our redemption will not be complete until we are raised from the dead, in resurrected bodies like His own and called to the eternal communion of heaven.

Fr Michael Carey PP

### Prayer for Syria and Turkey

All our hearts are going out to the people of Syria and Turkey. May the people of these lands have the courage and strength to live each day. May they have all the supports, aid, love and compassion needed. Syria especially is suffering so much pain and turmoil from war and conflict. May leaders open all borders so that all resources can get through. May generosity and God’s blessings bring strength and hope to everyone who has been affected. May minds and hearts be moved to remember loved ones who have died, those who are injured and missing, We hold them all in our hearts this day, Amen.

### Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC will meet on **Tuesday 21st February at 7.30pm** in the Pastoral Centre.

**First Penance** The celebration of First Penance/ Confession is beginning for the boys and girls in the Holy Communion classes. On Tuesday 21st February we welcome the boys from Scoil Bhríde.

### Confirmation - Ceremony of Light

Over the next 5 weeks the Ceremony of Light for the Confirmation classes will be celebrated.. 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, the parents hand the lighted candle lit from the Pascal Candle directly to their children themselves, symbolising that they 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. Thurs 23rd Feb, 7.30pm-Scoil Oilibheir.  
**Stations of the Cross—begins Friday 24th Feb**  
During the Season of Lent the Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday morning at 9.30am. This will replace the Rosary on Friday.

### A Reflective Sentence

He became what we are, so that he might make us what he is. St. Athanasius the Great (ca.295-373, Father of the Church)



## Children's Corner

### In The Gospel

Jesus tells his friends that the old rules have changed. People used to think it was all right to get your own back if someone hurt you. Jesus says that is not right. He asks us to forgive people, even if they hurt us. Jesus even says that we should love our enemies and pray for them. Jesus will help us as we try to be like him, sharing love in the world.

### Change hate to love



Change one letter to make a new word on each row and you can change hate into love!

### Missing words

Fill in the spaces in this sentence to show how we should behave.

\_\_\_\_\_ wants \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ for them.

Sometimes it is hard, Jesus, to be kind to people who are unkind to me. I know that you will be with me as I try to be more loving. Please help me to be even more like you. Amen.



### Mass intentions for the week

Sat 6pm	Maureen Ryan
Sun 10.30am	Charles & Eileen O'Malley Phyllis & Jim Slevin Bridgie & Maureen O'Reilly Frances Kennedy MM Zofija Vedreviciene
Wed 10am	Thanksgiving

### Ash Wednesday Liturgies

**St Brigid's Blanchardstown:** Mass at 10am with distribution of Ashes. Liturgy of the Word at **7.30pm** led by Deacon Jim Adams, with distribution of Ashes (*No Holy Communion*)

**St Patrick's Mulhuddart:** Mass with distribution of Ashes

### TURKEY & SYRIA EARTHQUAKE COLLECTION—25/26 February

There will be a diocesan collection taken up **next weekend** to support the people affected by the devastating earthquake. Funds raised will be channelled through Trócaire. This will replace the usual SHARE collection.

### CURRENT SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Mass at 10am preceded by the Rosary at 9.30  
Church closes at 4pm

**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](http://www.blanchardstownparish.ie/webcam)

Also on Phoenix Radio— 92.5FM

**Eucharistic Adoration** Tue & Fri 10.30am-4pm

**Blanchardstown Area evening Mass**

**Mon:** Blanchardstown 7.30pm

**Tues & Thurs:** Castleknock

**Wed:** Mulhuddart **Fri:** Corduff

We Welcome our recently Baptised in February: **Lucy Croia Maria Beth Fionn Myla Bobby-Jay**



Please pray for our recently deceased: **Tony Tolan**



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