



# St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

## Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday 25th June 2023



### 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 (EXCEPT JULY & AUGUST)*

**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-5pm

**Blanchardstown Area evening Mass** **Mon:** Blanchardstown 7.30pm **Tues & Thurs:** Castleknock **Wed:** Mulhuddart **Fri:** Corduff



### Thank you from Máirín

So for those of you who haven't heard I'm retiring on Sunday the 25th of June and before I go I would like to say thank you to the community of faith in Saint Brigid's parish Blanchardstown.

I was appointed by the Archbishop to Saint Brigid's in September 2017 and was told by Kevin, my predecessor, that I was lucky to get Blanch! Fr. Dermot Clarke was my initial boss in Aughrim Street and he had told me all about his time in Blanchardstown, so before I ever arrived I was hearing good things. From the first meeting with Fr. Cyril, I was made welcome and as I got to know the community of faith more, I realised that I was going to be working in a parish where the parishioners took responsibility for the running of the parish; from the Cleaning team, Collecting & Counting teams, Hospitality team, Prayer group, Meditation group, Adoration team, Baptism team, Confirmation team, Liturgy team, Child protection, Readers, Eucharistic ministers, Parish pastoral council. The Finance committee and the Junior and Senior choirs. So impressive! We now also have a Teen Hope team, a Communications Team, a Property and Finance team, a Family Mass team, a Liturgy of the Word team, a Sacristans team, a Laudato Si team, a Royal Canal team, an Adult Faith group and a Lectio Divina group.

This was and is an active living parish with room for everyone. I got to know the parishioners bit by bit (I can't mention everyone by name but each one of you supported me and encouraged me both personally and in my ministry) and we all worked together with the parish team to build up the community of faith. Christine took me under her wing and supported anything I tried to do with generosity and good humour (which was needed!). We now have Jean on board and it's as if she was always here, both Jean and Christine are always ready to listen and give a hand even in the middle of their busyness.

We all remember March 2020 when we were told to stay at home and to keep one another safe. This was such a challenging time for the Church and for all of us personally. When we reopened it was like a military campaign! Measuring out the seats, making sure we had stewards for the different Masses and keeping everywhere sanitised. None of this would have been possible without the generous support that you gave and once again it showed that in this parish people are willing to walk the walk and do the work necessary. We lost some good friends during Covid and we weren't able to say goodbye as we would have liked, they are still missed and remembered with love. Fr Michael was appointed to our parish in September 2021 and was welcomed as everyone who comes to work here is welcomed, with a wonderful accepting and helpful welcome. I have been blessed to work with priests, sisters and deacons who support me as lay woman in my role. It has been wonderful to be involved in planning with the different parish groups and teams

and to share our vision of how the Church can grow as we go forward, especially in our parish Assembly, and the Synod and Building Hope gatherings. Our Church is changing but it is also alive and active in a new way and I am full of hope for the future even though I don't know what that future will be, it's in God's hands. I'll finish with a quote from Paul's letter to the Philippians. *"Every time I think of you, I thank my God. And whenever I mention you in my prayers, it makes me happy. . . You have a special place in my heart."*

Thank you all for sharing the precious gift of your lives and your faith with me.

### Saints in the Church's Calendar

**Ss. Peter and Paul, Apostles – Thurs 29th,** On the day traditionally considered by pagan Rome to be its foundation day by Romulus, we celebrate the twin founders of the Church in Rome. St. Peter died by crucifixion and St. Paul by beheading between 64-67. Peter was a fisherman, eventually chosen as the leader of the Twelve, the 'rock' on which the Church was built. Paul, a tentmaker from Tarsus, a Pharisee and a Roman citizen was a persecutor of the first Christians but was converted by the Lord on his way to Damascus. He became the Apostle of the Gentiles. But they were chosen to become the pillars of our faith, which they sealed with their martyrdom in Rome.

### A Reflective Sentence

God stretched out his hands on the Cross so as to embrace the farthest corners of the universe – St. Cyril of Jerusalem (313 – 386/387, Father of the Church).



### From the Pastor's Desk

This Sunday will be Máirín Keegan's last Sunday. She retires today as our Wonderful Pastoral Worker. After the 12 Noon Mass there will be a reception for Máirín in the Pastoral Centre...all are invited. On behalf of the Parish, I'd like to wish Máirín and Paul a long and happy retirement together. May it be a blessed and fulfilling time!

### June So Far!!

What a month and it's still not over. You would be forgiven for thinking that once the month of May was over and the 1<sup>st</sup> Communion done, that it would be quiet in the Parish until things kick off again in September. No, June always has a few surprises and last week was no exception.

### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June

We had a wonderful celebration for Canon Harris' Platinum Jubilee, and this was arranged with a fortnight's notice. The Sacristans, Liturgy Team and Parish Office duo were brilliant. It was a beautiful Mass with gorgeous display in the Sanctuary area. Canon Harris looked very well on the day. The choir sang beautifully, and Christine produced a lovely participation sheet. There was a great involvement in the Liturgy from Canon Harris' longtime friends in the Parish. These friends, processed, carried gifts and symbols, and proclaimed God's Word. A special 'thank you' to Betty Cronin and Martin Lynch who are still very much a part of Canon Harris' life. Archbishop Dermot Farrell said Mass and it was lovely of him to have joined us. Afterwards there was a fantastic reception in the Pastoral Centre. I don't think anyone has seen a crowd so big there. The Hospitality Team is outstanding, and they are having a busier June than I am!!

### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June

It has been 4 years since the Parish has had a Pilgrimage and it was a lovely occasion; great to be back on the 17th! Our focus was St Brigid and we travelled to Kildare and visited the Cathedral and the Parish Church and went to 'Solás Bhríde' retreat centre, where we had a bite to eat, visited St Brigid's well and celebrated Mass. The Louis Fitzgerald Hotel produced a delicious meal on the way home. All in all, a beautiful day which ran seamlessly and for that I thank the three ladies: Máirín, Christine and Jean.

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June

This was the occasion of John White's last Sunday as Director of the Parish Choir and the Youth Choir. They both sang beautifully at this Mass and were joined by the Blanchardstown Brass Band. After Mass, our wonderful Hospitality Team were in action again! Several presentations were made to John. He greatly appreciated the reception, and he will be sadly missed.

*It will be hard to fill John's shoes and finding a new Choir Director is not proving to be easy...please pray for a new director.*

**Fr Michael Carey PP**

## Children's Corner

### In The Gospel

Jesus tells us that God loves us so much we do not need to be afraid. God loves the sparrows, but we are even more important than hundreds of sparrows. God loves us so much he knows everything about us - even the number of hairs on our head!

**Puzzle**

**EVEN THE HAIRS ON YOUR HEAD ARE COUNTED**

Can you fit these words into the grid?

**A PRAYER TO SAY** remember you love me and are always supporting me. Help me to find people to help and find a way round my worries. Amen.

Dear Jesus, sometimes I am afraid and do not know what to do. Please help me to

**Summer Dues** Envelopes for this collection will be left in the Church for the next few weekends if you would like to contribute to the Common Fund (Income for priests and retired priests).

1st July, is the first Saturday of the month, we will have 10am mass followed by confessions.

We pray for our recently deceased:



Aaron Keating  
Catherine Conroy  
Joe Galvin

**Trócaire** has expressed their gratitude for our very generous contribution of €2,470.56 during the Trócaire Lenten Campaign.



### Lourdes Pilgrim Fund

This outdoor collection raised the amazing amount of €1800. This is more than the amount raised pre-covid and when the Parish celebrated more weekend Masses. Thank you so much for your wonderful generosity.

*Charismatic conference with Rosary, Praise and Worship, Talk and healing prayers ; Saturday 1st July 10am-1pm*

**Littlepace Church Clonee**  
Fr Prince Panachithara SJ  
Holy Mass and Adoration.

For further information please contact Anne at 085 7340862

### Mass intentions for the week

Sat 6pm	Ann Hanley
Sun 10.30am	Pat McElroy Mary O'Brien Robert Stephens Margaret Duffy John Balfe
Sun 12pm	Nuala Condron (1st Anniv) Angela Dunne (MM) Kumar & family-thanksgiving

The little Sisters of the Poor will hold their annual outdoor collection this weekend after all masses.

Next weekend; 1st & 2nd July, Peter's Pence collection will replace the Share collection at both masses.

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