



St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Good Shepherd Sunday— Sunday 30th April 2023



Why does God need me? Why doesn't he get someone else?

The purpose of this day, "Good Shepherd Sunday" is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest". The summons to "go out from ourselves" to hear the Lord's voice, and the importance of the ecclesial community as the privileged place where God's call is born, nourished and expressed. Pope Francis has the following to say: "I would like to reflect with you on the broader meaning of "vocation" within the context of a synodal Church, a Church that listens to God and to the world. Synodality, journeying together, is a fundamental vocation to the Church. Only against this horizon is it possible to discern and esteem the various vocations, charisms and ministries. We know that the Church exists to evangelize, to go forth and to sow the seed of the Gospel in history. This mission can only be carried out **if all areas of pastoral activity work together** and, even more importantly, involve all the Lord's disciples. For "in virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples. All the baptised, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelisation". The Church as a whole is an evangelizing community. **Called to be guardians of one another and of creation** The word "vocation" should not be understood restrictively, as referring simply to those who follow the Lord through a life of special consecration. All of us are called to share in Christ's mission to reunite a fragmented humanity and to reconcile it with God. Each man and woman, even before encountering Christ and embracing the Christian faith, receives with the gift of life a fundamental calling: each of us is a creature willed and loved by God; each of us has a unique and special place in the mind of God.

At every moment of our lives, we are called to foster this divine spark, present in the heart of every man and woman, and thus contribute to the growth of a humanity inspired by love and mutual acceptance. In a word, we are called to become a single family in the marvelous common home of creation, in the reconciled diversity of its elements. In this broad sense, not only individuals have a "vocation", but peoples, communities and groups of various kinds as well.

Called to welcome God's gaze Within this great common vocation, God addresses a particular call to each of us. He touches our lives by his love and directs them to our ultimate goal, to a fulfillment that transcends the very threshold of death. That is how God wanted to see our lives and how he sees them still. Michelangelo Buonarroti is said to have maintained that every block of stone contains a statue within it, and it is up to the sculptor to uncover it. If that is true of an artist, how much more is it true of God! In the young woman of Nazareth he saw the Mother of God. In Simon the fisherman he saw Peter, the rock on which he would build his Church. In the public Levi he recognized the apostle and evangelist Matthew, and in Saul, a harsh persecutor of Christians, he saw Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles. God's loving gaze always meets us, touches us, sets us free and transforms us, making us into new persons. That is what happens in every vocation: we are met by the gaze of God, who calls us. Vocation, like holiness, is not an extraordinary experience reserved for a few. Just as there is a "holiness of the saints next door" so too there is a vocation for everyone, for God's gaze and call is directed to every person. Each vocation in the Church, and in a broader sense in society, contributes to a common objective: to celebrate among men and women that harmony of manifold gifts that can only be brought about by the Holy Spirit. Priests, consecrated men and women, lay faithful: let us journey and work together in bearing witness to the truth that one great human family united in love is no utopian vision, but the very purpose for which God created us. Today we celebrate the unique gifts that God has bestowed on us and we ask the Lord to give us the strength and wisdom we need to use these gifts wisely.

Confirmation Ceremonies – 2023
The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for our Parish Schools continues. On **Thursday 4th May** we have the boys and girls from Saint Francis Xavier at **11.00am**. I welcome the children and their parents/guardians and families to these wonderful occasions.



1st Holy Communion
Next Saturday 6th May at 11am, the girls from Scoil Bhríde will receive their 1st Holy Communion. I wish the school well in all their preparation this coming week, and I hope the weather is fantastic on the day. Whatever the weather it will be a lovely day!



Lay Ministry Collection
This annual collection will be taken up at all Masses Next weekend Sat 6th/Sun 7th May. It will replace the Share collection. This annual collection will replace the Share Collection and will be devoted to support the building up of new forms of lay ministry in our parishes. The work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus in our changing religious culture will require more lay men and women working in various ways alongside our priests at the heart of parish communities.

Saints in the Church's Calendar
St. Joseph the worker – Mon 1st This feast was instituted in 1955 by Pope Pius XII on a day when labour was celebrated in many countries. Jesus was himself 'the son of the carpenter' and St. Joseph presents a wonderful example of how even the most seemingly menial work can be sanctified.
SS Philip & James, Apostles – Wed 3rd St Philip asks to see and having seen, he tells the Good News to others. Formerly a disciple of John the Baptist, he became a follower of Christ.
St James, the son Alphaeus and a cousin of the Lord, ruled the Church of Jerusalem, wrote an Epistle, and led a life of penance.
Blessed Edmund Rice – Fri 5th (1762-1844) came from Callan, Co. Kilkenny. After his young wife's early death, he sold his possessions and dedicated his life to the education of the poor. He gathered like-minded men who took religious vows together to work for the Catholic education of boys.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

PPC The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) held its monthly meeting on Thursday 20th April. We continued our discussion on the Building Hope Programme in the Diocese. The recent meeting of the Partnership Team was reported to the Council. We also reviewed Holy Week and thanks the excellent work put into this by our wonderful Ministry Teams and Volunteers. We noted the excellent turnout on Easter Sunday. It gave us all great hope. The turnout for the Polish Food Blessing on Holy Saturday continues to astound. The new Family Mass initiative was also reported upon and The PPC offered every encouragement. The PPC were also updated on the Confirmation Ceremonies and Assembly Groups (Social Justice, Communications, Faith Dev – Adult / Youth), Royal Canal Pastoral Centre, Liturgy Committee, Finance Committee and questions answered. The next meeting of the PPC is on Thursday 25th May.



John White – Choir Director
John has informed the Choir, the Youth Choir and the Parish Team of his intention to retire this coming summer. His last Mass as Choir Director of St Brigid's will be Sunday June 18th. He will be very sadly missed.



Parish Meetings – This coming week
Tuesday 2nd May - The **Teen Hope** leadership group will meet in the Pastoral Centre at 11.00am
Thursday 4th May – The **Liturgy Group** will meet in the Pastoral Centre at 2.00pm.

1st Saturday of May
Saturday 6th May is the first Saturday of May. Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am followed by Confessions until 11.00am.
Bank Holiday Monday
Monday 1st May is a Bank Holiday. Mass will be celebrated at 11.00am. There is **NO** 7.30pm Evening Mass.



A date for your diary....
Our **Annual Healing Mass** will take place on Sunday 14th May at 3pm.
Mass For All Nations will be at midday on Sunday June 11th.
Our **Parish Pilgrimage** will take place on Saturday June 17th... details to follow soon!



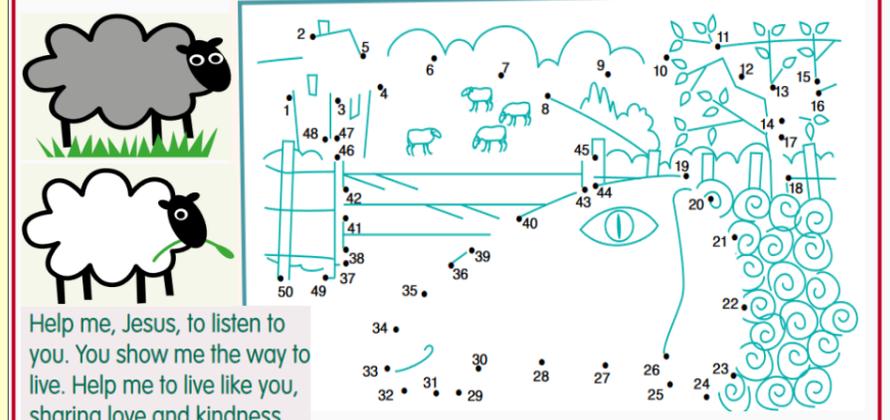
A Reflective Sentence Speak about Christ only when you are asked. But live so that people ask about Christ – Paul Claudel (1868-1955, French Poet and dramatist)



Children's Corner

In The Gospel
Jesus goes up a hill and teaches his disciples. He tells them how people can be really happy. If we trust God, we will have the kind of happiness that lasts forever.

Can you spot five differences between these sheep



Help me, Jesus, to listen to you. You show me the way to live. Help me to live like you, sharing love and kindness with everyone I meet. Amen. Dot to dot of sheep in a field with a gate

Mass intentions for the week

Sat	Anne McDonald (MM) Kathleen Jordan (MM)
Sun	Kay McNally 10.30 Cáit Donohoe (1st Anniv)
Mon	Monica & Joe O'Neill
Tue	Mario Cortez Thanksgiving

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 **
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
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

We welcome our recently baptised:
Kevin Sadhbh
Anthony



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.

Mulhuddart Cemetery Mass
Sunday 11th June -3pm.

