



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION
 SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
 (Rom 8:19-25)

In the letter of Paul the apostle to the Romans, the biblical image pictures the Earth as a Mother, groaning as in childbirth (Rom 8:22). Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our

mother in his Canticle of Creatures. The times we live in show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used. And yet, there is hope and the expectation for a better future. To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather groaning, crying, and actively striving for new life amidst the struggles. Just as in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life springs forth.

The symbol for 2024 is 'The firstfruits of hope'.



Hope is an instrument enabling us to overcome the natural law of decay. Hope is given to us by God as a protection and guard against futility. Only through hope we may realize the gift of freedom in fullness. Freedom to act not only to achieve enjoyment and prosperity, but to reach the stage in which we are free and responsible. Freedom and responsibility enable us to make the world a better place. Only when we work together with Creation can the firstfruits of hope emerge.

Season of Creation is a special ecumenical season that takes place every year from September 1 to October 4. It is a time when we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1 September as a day of prayer for Creation for the Orthodox in 1989, then the World Council of Churches helped extend it until October 4, and with time Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar.

Resources available here:
<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/laudato-si/season-of-creation-2024/>



The schools are back! We hope you are all well rested. Sacramentally it is a particularly important year for the 2nd and 6th classes of our parish schools. We hope that the journey and preparations for the Sacrament of 1st Penance, Holy Communion and Confirmation are exciting and rewarding for the pupils, their parents and wider family circle and the class teachers. It is also an important, challenging and probably nervous year ahead for the Junior and Leaving Cert classes of 2025 – we wish them well and assure them of the prayers of the whole Parish Community.

CURRENT SCHEDULE *
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
 Mass at 10am preceded by the Rosary at 9.30am, Church closes at 5pm
Monday: Area Mass at 7.30pm preceded by Rosary and Novena at 7pm
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 at 8pm, all welcome
Bank Holiday: Mass 11am only, no evening mass
 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 7.30pm
Mon: Blanchardstown
Tues & Thurs: Castleknock
Wed: Mulhuddart
Fri: Corduff
 * Please note that our standard schedule may be subject to some change in the current circumstances.

Esker Cemetery Mass, Lucan
 The Annual Mass and blessing of Graves will be on Sunday 1st September at 3pm.
St Mary's Clonsilla—Church of Ireland
 Ecumenical Graveyard Service with Blessing of the Graves—Sunday 8th September at 3pm. All are welcome!

Finance Committee
 The Parish accounts up to December 2023 are published and are on the tables around the Church. Please take a copy. Many thanks to all our parishioners who so generously continue to support the parish.

Funeral Ministry
 The Dublin Diocese is keen to increase the lay involvement in funeral ministry. Three training sessions are to be held locally on Wed 18 & 25 Sep and 02 Oct. Parishioners with any interest in funeral ministry are very welcome to attend. There is a one page letter available in the Church with more details. Or talk to any of the parish team.

Parish Contacts:
 Deacons: Rev Jim Adams 0862232411 Rev Michael O'Connor 0872941729 Sacristy: 8238354
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<https://www.facebook.com/St-Brigids-Parish-Blanchardstown-44438662375848/>

Saints in the Church's Calendar
 St Gregory the Great, 540-604. Tuesday 3rd September. Pope. Roman, noble, he was Prefect of the City before becoming a monk. Patron of musicians.

Lourdes Collection for sick pilgrims
 The Annual outdoor collection will be taken up this weekend to support the Fund that helps send sick pilgrims to Lourdes. They will stay in the Hospital in the Grotto Sanctuary.

Visit of Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis
 St Patrick's Catholic Church Corduff. Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th September. Information on posters around the church or contact Corduff Parish Church office.

St. Brigid's Community Choir Sept. 18th. 8-9.30pm. Aged 18-118! Fulfill your dream—sing in a choir! No audition, just drop in and sing. We supply songs, music and a band. Leave your name with in the Community Centre or call 01 8228435.

St Bernadette Relic Pilgrimage 2024
 * Our Lady of Victories Church, Glasnevin 25th and 26th September.
 * Oblate Church of Mary Immaculate, Inchicore 23th and 24th October.
 * Adam & Eve's, Merchant's Quay 25th and 26th October.

Save the Date! **A date for your diary....** Our Annual Healing Mass will take place on Sunday 15th September at 3pm.

1st Saturday of The Month
 Next Saturday 7th September is the first Saturday of the month. Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am followed by Confessions.

St. Vincent de Paul: The outdoor monthly collection for St Brigid's will be taken up next weekend.

A stepping stone to come closer to God.. Is prayer! Prayer reaches You Lord, where other things do not. Real prayer. It is important not to give up, not allow my prayer book to gather dust. It is not drudgery, it is a wonderful access to God's Presence an audience with the Most High, 'friendly conversation with the One by Whom I know I am loved'. **St Teresa of Avila.**

Children's Corner: In the Gospel Today

Lots of people have made up rules to help us to live as God asks. However, we mustn't get too bothered by human rules – love is what matters. If we have loving hearts and are kind and loving to the people we meet, we are doing just what God wants.

Dot to dot
 What is this shape? Inside are some bad things which you need to cross out. Keep the good things and colour them in beautifully.

THINK ABOUT ITRules are made to help us and keep us safe because people care for us.

Dear Jesus, please help me to have a loving and kind heart. Amen.

We hope to return to our Thursday coffee mornings on 5th Sept. after 10am mass. We would appreciate some volunteers to help set up. Thank you!

CLONSILLA HERITAGE FESTIVAL
TOURS, TALKS, MUSIC AND FUN!
 A celebration of natural and built heritage in Clonsilla. Enjoy walks of Luttrellstown Parklands, Music in Shackleton's Gardens, Concert in St Mary's Church, Stand up paddleboarding sessions, barge trips, Pop up museum, tour of St Mochta's Church and more, in heritage venues on 15th and 16th September. Events can be booked via Eventbrite or see Clonsillaheritage.ie

We welcome those baptised in the month of August:
 Lucy, Henry, Lillah, Callum, Tommy, Luke, Georgia & Millie. May they continue to grow strong in body, mind and spirit.

Mass intentions for the week

Sunday	Denise Smith (MM) Mary and Kevin O'Brien
Monday	Leslie Pio and Surekha Filva
Tuesday	Adam Farrell (1st Anniv)
Saturday	Alice Hurley (1st Anniv)

We pray for our recently deceased;
 Claire McDonnell
 Always loved, never forgotten