



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.
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

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us, He is the saviour of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May He come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord, **Amen**



Annual Night Vigil in Knock.

7-8 December. Details on the Notice board

When It's Time – The Trouble with Waiting

The season of Advent marks the beginning of the Catholic year. It is a time when we wait and prepare for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. Fr Bernard Kennedy reflects on the challenge of Advent and 'the trouble with waiting'.

Handling tension stretches, as an athlete knows, the muscle, our spiritual muscle. In our present day 'immediate' is the demand, we want it yesterday and now. We are losing the tension of waiting and its benefit. Gratification, speed, target achievement, product, these are buzz words of consumerism, which we sometimes buy into. We lose waiting. We lose being drawn into God's story of *Kairos*. Gardeners know the waiting game, that product is not all, and getting to the point is not the story, and Advent introduces us to waiting.

Waiting can be the tension between our time, our demand for product, getting to the point, and 'God's time, 'in the fullness of time'. When I was young, my father would take me hiking in the Dublin Mountains, and as I got tired, I would ask him, 'dad, when do we get to the top?' His answer: 'soon.' Going there, instead of getting there, like in the poem 'The journey of the Magi' where the journey is depending on the waiting to get there, or in Beckett's 'Waiting for Godot' the waiting is the play, pure and simple, not whether someone is coming or not.

It is a reminder to us of the existence of the 'not yet', a reminder in our time. But God's time is *Kairos*, and waiting, its inbreaking, is the tapestry of that particular cloak of waiting. Waiting stretches the knitting to make it hold. Waiting and the Advent readings teach us, that although we know the story, there is a depth within it which we can only know by waiting. So that Advent and the awaiting it evokes, with all the tensions, is drawing us in, inwards, into what Gerard Manley Hopkins refers to as 'Inscap'. Into an *Other* place, where waiting is about being. Saint Augustine attempted to describe what might happen in heaven, and this was his reflection: 'there we shall sit and we shall rest, we shall rest and we shall see, we shall see and we shall love.' In other words, we will wait and we will hang out together – Just doing nothing. As a caption I once saw said, 'Don't just do something, stand there.' In the Eurozone, there is a strategy for farmers called 'set aside', whereby grants are given to let the land lie, remain fallow. The Bible tells us that farmers, every seven years, let land lie and so waited, so it could rejuvenate. Sunday, a rest day, until recently, is a waiting, and Blessed John Paul II, a philosopher pope, once wrote, being is more important than doing. Saint Ignatius of Loyola proposed that to improve our spiritual lives, we needed to train, in waiting, and a method to help was, that if we allotted a half hour to silent prayer and found it difficult we should add another few minutes, and if we found that half hour beginning to be rich, we should stop earlier. That way we stretched, through waiting, our desire. Desire is a spring within us of transcendence. Perhaps a better word is 'await' the Lord, in the now, by stopping at the side of the road. And perhaps the best understanding of prayer, for me, is 'a-waiting.' In our spiritual life, we can together, aim for a triple A rating: Advent-Awaiting-Awareness. Waiting is the envelope of gestation. Happy Advent, enjoy the wait. Find someone to hang out with.

Father Bernard Kennedy

St. Vincent de Paul:

The Christmas collection for St Brigid's will be taken up **next weekend 7/8 December** at both masses. Your usual generosity would be much appreciated.

Unfortunately, Our Christmas Carol Service (listed for 12 Dec) will not be taking place. But there will be carols on Christmas Eve

MQI Thursday 5th December
 After 10am mass there will be a Sale of Christmas crafts and decorations and a book stall, in the pastoral centre. *Plus a Raffle!* All proceeds will go to preparing care-packs for homeless people to be delivered by MQI Merchants Quay

Trócaire **The Eyes of the Storm**
 This Trócaire photo exhibition illustrates the impact of conflict situations and accelerating climate breakdown by telling the stories of individuals who are working to protect, rebuild and sustain their communities. In the spirit of *Laudato Si'*, Trócaire, the official overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland, works in numerous countries in the Global South providing aid and support, while at the same time advocating for human rights and social justice. The exhibition will be in place in the Parish Pastoral Centre. Trócaire staff members and local volunteers will also be on hand to provide background information and answer questions at the times indicated above.
 Trócaire's Gifts of Change will be on sale, including some olivewood Christmas ornaments produced in Bethlehem. Please consider taking a few minutes to visit the exhibition over these days.

How to Pray? The adult discussion group will run for the next 3 Wednesdays (ie for Advent). All are welcome this Wed 4th Dec at 7pm (in the Jubilee Room) as we explore: 'What is prayer?'

Kilnamanagh Castleview Advent Retreat
 Led by Fr Frank Drescher on Sat 14th December taking place in our own Pastoral Centre here in St Brigid's, beginning with mass at 10am. Open to all. Coffee/Tea/lunch included. Cost €20. Concluding at 4.30pm. Please register at the Office.

Ladyswell Partnership Penitential Service The Parishes of Blanchardstown, Corduff and Mulhuddart will hold their Advent Penitential service (with all 5 priests present) on **Tuesday 3rd December** at 7.30pm in St Luke's Mulhuddart. (There will be Confessions in Blanchardstown on Christmas Eve after 10am mass.)

Children's Corner: In the Gospel Today: JESUS IS COMING

Whatever is happening in the world, keep trying to follow God's ways and keep on praying! Everything around us may look frightening but we do not need to be afraid – Jesus is coming! **Keep praying**

Jesus tells us to stay awake. When we are awake we are alert and ready to spot anyone who needs help.

Draw yourself where you are now. Write your prayer, asking Jesus to help you. Jesus wants us to pray. We can pray anytime and any where!

Thank you Jesus for always listening when I talk to you. Help me to remember to listen too. Amen

Nativity Play The Family Mass team are organising a Children's Nativity Play to be presented during the Christmas Family Mass at 6pm on Christmas Eve. The more children who participate the better! Practices will be held at 6pm on Tuesdays Dec 03, 10 & 17 & the morning of Monday 23 Dec. Those interested please contact the office.

Relaunch of the Basket Collection We are pleased to announce the relaunch of the basket collection during all weekend Masses. To ensure this runs smoothly, we are looking for regular Mass-goers to volunteer to help distribute and collect the baskets as part of the offertory. If you can assist, please leave your name on the sign-up sheet in the church or extension after Mass. Training / instructions will be provided. Your support would be greatly appreciated as we continue to build our parish community.

Thank You to Dolores who generously gave of her time last weekend to demonstrate how to put together the Advent Wreath. The video is available to view on our Website or by following this link...<https://vimeo.com/482573789>

We welcome those baptised in the month of November: Sadie, Katie, Conor and Tadhg
 May they continue to grow strong in body, mind and spirit.

Mass intentions for the week

Sat	Tom & Marie Russell and sons Fr Michaél OFM, Kevin, Paul & Fr Tom OFM Anna Burke John & Josephine Brooks
Sun	John & Mary Dredge Bernard Keville John Kelly Evelyn Balfe Donal Tully (MM)

We pray for our recently deceased
 Maeve Quirke,
 Frances Creighton,
 James Sullivan Tony Long
 Always loved, never forgotten.

Croi Mháire Foodbank Please place non perishable foods in the basket on the altar. As you do your own Christmas food shop, maybe get an extra few luxury items for our Christmas Hampers! Thank you.

