

CURRENT SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
 Mass at 10am preceded by the Rosary at 9.30am, 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
1st Saturday of the month— 10am Mass followed by confessions until 11am
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
Wednesday: Mulhuddart **Friday:** Corduff

Sunday Mass Collections :

Many thanks for your continued support of the collections which are vital for the support of the priests of the diocese. You can contribute to the Mass collections by: -Putting your offerings in the 'white boxes' around the Church or by leaving your Envelope into Parish Office during the week.
 -Using the 'Tap and Go' machines.
 -Using the online 'Donate' facility on the Parish Website. See www.blanchardstownparish.ie where you can select both one-off and recurring payments. The Mass collections are divided – 60% to the 1st – Common Fund for Priests; 40% - to the 2nd – Share.
Thank you so much for your generosity

The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross

Introduction



The Apostles' Creed is our fundamental Baptismal symbol of faith. We can draw strength from the power of this Creed to live more deeply the faith into which we were baptised and which we renew at Easter. During Lent and Holy Week certain parts of what we believe come into focus.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the

third day He rose again from the dead. This set of reflections on the 'Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross' are taken from 'Seven Last Words' by Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP and are an attempt to open a door into a safe place of hope where we can reflect on our faith in a time of crisis and suffering. There we hope to encounter Jesus who understands pain, loss and struggle.

1. Forgive them for they know not what they do. (Luke 23:34)



Reflection The first word given to us today is forgiveness. Forgiveness comes before the crucifixion, before the insults and the death. Forgiveness is always first. Maybe we could not cope with listening to the passion of Christ if we did not begin with forgiveness. Before we ever sin, we are forgiven. We do not have to earn it. We do not even have to be sorry. Forgiveness is there, waiting for us. Forgiveness is not God forgetting Good Friday. It is the Father raising the Son on Easter Sunday.

Reflection John McAreavey whose wife of 12 days, Michaela, was murdered in Mauritius while on their honeymoon in 2011 was asked if he forgave her killers. He said – 'Nothing is impossible. Being Catholic and trying to follow the example we're set ... forgiveness is a big part of it'.

Silent Prayer

Let us pray,
 God of love and mercy, Renew my faith in the forgiveness of sins so that I will: Accept your gift of compassion.
 Turn away from thoughts of hatred and revenge
 Share the grace of mercy with others.
 We ask this in the Spirit of peace and through your gentle Son, Jesus Christ.

Ash Wednesday— There will be mass at 10am and 7.30pm on Wednesday.

Friday 16th February— There will be no mass, we will have Liturgy of the Word at 10am.



Climate Crisis— Water Justice
 Salome Mumba from Trócaire will give a presentation on Friday 23rd February at 7pm in the Church of the Most Precious Blood, Fassaugh Ave, Cabra.



Lourdes 2024

It's been a while since the Parish organised a pilgrimage. Would there be an interest in a Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year? I would envisage us joining with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes which will travel from Sept 5th to 10th. If so please ring Jean in the Parish Office or speak to one of the sacristans or Fr Michael with your expression of interest as soon as you can.

From the Pastor's Desk



What a three Days! As I was saying to one of the Sacristans – Feb 1st (St. Brigid), Feb 2nd (Candlemas) and Feb 3rd (St Blaise) are like a mini Triduum and then you have the St Brigid's Bank Holiday which this year stretched the occasion to 5 days. Each of the Celebrations had its own unique character and each was a wonderful occasion. A huge amount of work went on in the background involving the Sacristans, Liturgy Team, Hospitality Team and the Parish Office – Thank you all!

Intercessions for Vocations Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time - St Paul in his letter to the Church community in Corinth tells them that he takes Christ as his model. We pray for those discerning a vocation, that they will always strive to model their lives on Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Ash Wednesday – 14th February

Next Wednesday 14th February 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.

Hospitality Team Our fantastic Hospitality Team are hoping to recruit a few new volunteers to help with occasional events in the parish. Would you have an hour or so to spare once in a while? We would really appreciate it—please contact Jean in the office.

Love is in the air! As we approach St Valentine's Day on 14th February there will be a blessing at our Masses **THIS** weekend 10th/11th Feb for couples who are engaged AND couples who are married. It will be simple enough – a Prayer of Blessing after the distribution of Holy Communion and before the Final Prayer of the Mass.

Chroí Mháire Foodbank We thank you for your continuing support to our food basket. Donations gratefully received—they deliver to 75+ deserving households in D15.

Fr Michael Carey PP

Children's Corner: In the Gospel Today

A man with a skin disease asks Jesus for help. Jesus wants him to be well and so he heals him. The man tells everybody his good news! Lots of people come from all around to find Jesus so that he can heal them.

Reach out

The leper was left out. Jesus reached out and touched him. *Jesus wasn't worried that he might catch the leper's skin disease.* Sometimes people can be left out at school. *Draw a picture of you inviting someone to play.*



Help me, Jesus, to care for other people like you did. Amen.

I WANT YOU TO BE WELL!

ACCORD Dublin The **ANNUAL COLLECTION** for **ACCORD** Dublin, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family,

will be made at all Masses on the weekend of **17 & 18 February 2024.**

ACCORD Dublin throughout the Diocese offers:
 Marriage Preparation courses – online, small groups.
 Counselling for couples and individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationships, currently online or by phone.
 A Relationship and Sexuality Programme for schools.
ACCORD Dublin needs your support this year more than ever.
Please give generously on 17 & 18 February 2024

Parish Meeting – This week
Thursday 15th February – The Teen Hope Team will meet at 11am in the Pastoral Centre to plan the next gathering of the teenagers.

St. Vincent de Paul The outdoor monthly collection for St. Brigid's Blanchardstown, VdP, will be taken up **this** weekend at all Masses.



Stations of the Cross; Stations will start on Friday 16th February at 9.30am before mass. They will continue each Friday at 9.30am during Lent. This is a lovely way to begin Lent.

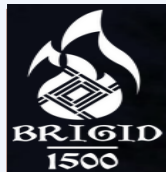
MEDJUGORJE 2024 MARIAN PILGRIMAGE
 15th May 2024— 7 nights €750pps.
 Contact Pat 087 223 8911 or Marian Pilgrimages.

We pray for our recently deceased;
Rita Power
Always loved, never forgotten



Mass intentions for the week

Saturday	Fran Owens Eugene Kettle	Tony Tolan (1st Aniv) Martin & Claire Corry	Patricia Howard (MM)
Sunday	Martin & Mary Lynch Evelyn Hobbs	Vivien Delaney Mary Keogh	Patrick Kelly Paddy Fox Joseph Brennan



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