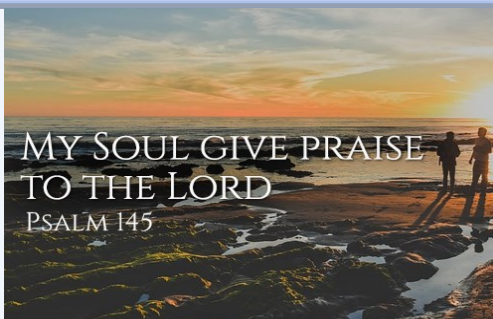


# St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown -Newsletter 12th November

*We remember our own dead and our own sadness this November. Tears speak out our grief, but they also witness to our love and we are glad to have loved so much that we can cry. May those we have loved rest in your embrace, O Lord.*



MY SOUL GIVE PRAISE TO THE LORD  
PSALM 145

## 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](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

**Wednesday:** Mulhuddart **Friday:** Corduff

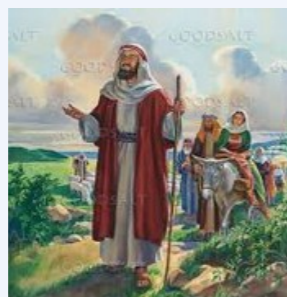
## Synod Retreat

Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP is the former Master General of the Dominicans and at the Pope's request he gave the retreat to the participants of the Synod before it began its deliberations. I thought that I would use the next 3 newsletters before the Season of Advent to give a flavour of the material used.

**'Hoping against hope'** When the Holy Father asked me to give this retreat, I felt enormously honoured but nervous. I am deeply aware of my personal limitations. I am old - white- a Westerner- and a man! I don't know which is worse!

All of these aspects of my identity limit my understanding. So I ask for your forgiveness for the inadequacy of my words. We are all radically incomplete and need each other. So when we listen to each other during the coming weeks and disagree, I pray we shall often say, 'Yes, and.....' Rather than 'No'!

That is the Synodal way. Of course, No is also sometimes necessary! In the second reading at Mass today, St Paul says to the Philippians: 'Complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing'. We are gathered here because we are not united in heart and mind. The vast majority of people who have taken part in the synodal process have been surprised by joy. For many, it is the first time that the Church has invited them to speak of their faith and hope. But some of us are afraid of this journey and of what lies ahead. Some hope that the Church will be dramatically changed, that we shall take radical decisions, for example about the role of women in the Church. Others are afraid of exactly these same changes and fear that they will only lead to division, even schism. Some of you would prefer not to be here at all. A bishop told me that he prayed not to be chosen to come here. His prayer was granted! You may be like the son in today's gospel who at first does not want to go to the vineyard, but he goes! At crucial moments in the gospels, we always hear these words: 'Do not be afraid.' St John tells us 'Perfect love casts out fear.' So let us begin by praying that the Lord will free our hearts from fear.



For some this is the fear of change and for others the fear that nothing will change. But 'the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. [1]' Of course, we all have fears, but Aquinas taught us

that courage is refusing to be enslaved by fear. May we always be sensitive to the fears of others, especially those with whom we disagree. 'Like Abraham, we leave not knowing where we are going.

But if we free our hearts of fear, it will be wonderful beyond our imagination. To guide us during this retreat, we shall meditate on the Transfiguration. This is the retreat Jesus gives to his closest disciples before they embark on the first synod in the life of the Church, when they walk together to Jerusalem. This retreat was needed because they were afraid of this journey they must make. Until now they have wandered around the north of Israel. But at Caesarea Philippi, Peter confessed that Jesus was the Christ.



Then Jesus invites them to go with him to Jerusalem, where he will suffer, die and be raised from the dead. They cannot accept this. Peter tries to prevent him. Jesus calls him 'Satan', 'enemy'. The little community is paralysed. So Jesus takes them up the mountain. This retreat gives them the courage and hope to set off on their journey. It does not always go well. They immediately fail to free the young lad from the evil spirit. They quarrel about who is the greatest. They misunderstand the Lord. But they are on their way with a fragile hope.

So we too prepare for our synod by going on retreat where, like the disciples, we learn to listen to the Lord. When we set off in 3 days' time, we shall often be like those disciples, and misunderstand each other and even quarrel. But the Lord will lead us onwards towards the death and resurrection of the Church. Let us ask the Lord to give us hope: the hope that this synod will lead to a renewal of the Church and not division; the hope that we shall draw closer to each other. This is our hope not just for the Catholic Church but for all our baptised brothers and sisters. People talk of an 'ecumenical winter'. We hope for an ecumenical spring.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



### November Mass for Deceased

On Thursday last, 2nd November we celebrated our annual Remembrance Mass and it was a beautiful liturgy. The comforting Liturgy of Remembrance after the Gospel was accompanied by uplifting music and song. It gave all present space to remember their loved ones who died during the past year and perhaps provided some comfort. The evening was a huge undertaking with weeks of preparation. Thanks to everyone involved - for the spotlessly clean Church, beautiful flowers, the décor, the list of names in front of the altar, and invitations. Not forgetting the Ministry Teams - The Liturgy Team, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, the volunteer Sacristans, and the Parish Choir. And thank you to the Hospitality Team for the beautiful reception afterwards which I'm delighted to say, many attended.

### Prayer for Vocations

**Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** - Our first reading tells us that "Wisdom is found by those who look for her" and the psalm responds: "For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God". In the Gospel Jesus tells us to "Stay awake". We pray for those who are discerning a vocation, that they 'thirst for God' that like a dry weary land without water, they pine for God, that they look for Wisdom and that they "stay awake" to watch for the signs of God in their lives.

Fr Michael Carey PP

## EXPLORING THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

### What is Christian Morality?



St Brigid's Pastoral Centre, Blanchardstown

**This Wednesday (15 Nov) 7:00pm to 8:10pm**

**Questions for discussion this week: How do we honour life and fidelity?**

### A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE

It is no part of our duty to judge others, so let us not torment ourselves about their doings..  
Edel Quinn, Words of Life.



## Children's Corner:

**IN THE GOSPEL** Jesus tells us a story about ten bridesmaids. Five of them were ready for the wedding but five were not, so they couldn't go to it. We can get ready to enjoy the party with Jesus by being kind and loving.

### Light up the world

Jesus is like the bridegroom and we are like helpers at a wedding. Tick the ways we can light up the world today.

Notice if someone needs help

Be mean

Be lazy

Be cheerful

Get dressed quickly

Help me to lead other people to you, Jesus. Help me to shine brightly with your love by being kind and helpful. Amen.



PRAYER TO SAY

SHOW THE WAY!

### Scoil Bhríde Enrolment '24/'25

Applications for enrolment in Junior Infants and ASD Special class, will be accepted from Monday 6th to 27th November. Scoil Bhríde Cailíní will have an open evening on Monday 13th November from 6.30-7.30pm for girls and their parents.



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November

**Teen Hope** - The teenagers are invited to gather at 7.00pm in the Pastoral Centre.

Pizza, chat, games, reflection and prayer and FUN.

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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



### ALTAR LIST OF THE DEAD

Thank you to all who have returned their altar list of the dead. There are still envelopes around the church if you would like to complete one. The Mass is 'offered' for all names on these lists on the First Friday of every month and the lists will be in the Sanctuary area in front of the altar for the month of November.

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday Vigil	Marie Tone Helen Collins (MM)
Sunday 10.30	Joseph & Christina Wall Christopher & Myra Wall Pat & Mary Kate O'Reilly
Tuesday	Michael & Brigid Scallan



**Irish Guide Dogs**  
for the blind

### Table Quiz!

Castleknock Tennis Club

Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> - 8pm

Contact John Mitchell for information

**086 264 5861**

### Saints in the Church's calendar:

**St. Laurence O'Toole, bishop, patron of Dublin - Thursday 14th November**, born in Castledermot in 1123. Became abbot of Glendalough in 1148 and in 1162 chosen as the first native Archbishop of Dublin. He lived simply and returned to Glendalough every Lent. He worked for peace and reconciliation and died on a mission of mediation with King Henry II and the Irish rulers in Eu in Normandy in 1180. **THIS IS THE DIOCESAN FEAST DAY**

St Brigid's Church of Ireland  
Castleknock Ecumenical graveyard  
service with blessing of the graves.  
Sunday 12th November **3pm**.  
All welcome.

### Confirmation Enrolment Mass

**THIS MASS WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER AT ST BRIGID'S CHURCH AT 7.00PM.**  
IT IS FOR ALL THE CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS.



We pray for our recently deceased;  
**MAX WEBSTER**  
**ANDY EDDERY**  
Always loved, never forgotten



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