



# St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

## Third Sunday of Advent—Sunday 17th December 2023



### 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

#### The O Antiphons 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December

An antiphon is a sentence from Scripture and its purpose is to highlight one aspect of the Psalm; Reading or indeed the Mass – e.g. Opening antiphon; Communion antiphon. The O antiphons during Advent also known as The great O's and are used the last seven days of Advent in Western Christian traditions. You will hear them in the alleluia verses of the Mass. They are referred to as the "O Antiphons" because the title of each one begins with "O". Each antiphon is a name of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture. *They are:* December 17: O Sapientia (*O Wisdom*); December 18: O Adonai (*O Lord*); December 19: O Radix Jesse (*O Root of Jesse*); December 20: O Clavis David (*O Key of David*); December 21: O Oriens (*O Dayspring*); December 22: O Rex Gentium (*O King of the nations*); December 23: O Emmanuel (*O With us is God*).



The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—

a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will put my law within them, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:31-33

As a child, every year before Christmas I drew up a list of the toys and presents that I had my heart set on receiving. Usually there was that one special item that I just knew would gladden my heart and make me feel complete.

This week in Advent we focus on hearts: glad hearts, sad hearts, hard hearts, broken hearts, longing hearts. In the Scriptures much is written about hearts because the heart represents the person's deepest identity. Our hearts reveal who we most truly are because they hold what we most deeply desire. What's in your heart? We can give many answers to that question, and it's a good question to ponder during this week of Advent. But God has an answer for that question, too. "I will put my law within them, and write it on their hearts," says the Lord. So in addition to whatever else might be in your heart, you can also be sure that the law of the Lord is written—in permanent ink—on your heart. That law is love. It's time to live out what's in your heart. I know that when I've gotten confused and lost in my faith there is one sure way to find my way back, and that is to love somebody. In my confusion, I look around to see who in my life could use a loving response. It might be my daughter, who's confused about a decision she faces and needs someone to listen—truly listen; my son who needs a bit of quality Father-Son time. Or it might be my wife, who is overwhelmed with responsibilities and could use a helpmate to shoulder some of those duties. Or it might be that my parish offers me an opportunity to get involved or the chance to help make Christmas happier for a family in need. The Advent gift this week is the love God places in our hearts.

*Theme: God Calls Us to Conversion of Heart*

The bottom line is that we have to take responsibility for ourselves. The seed of change in our families, in the community, and in the world begins with answering God's call to meet us and to change our heart. In the midst of a world going insane, in a life filled with so many pulls, it seems a small thing to do.

But one heart in tune with God can resonate in our families and through our families and communities into the world.

Can you be the heart in tune?

**These gifts are given freely to be OPENED - ENJOYED & SHARED**

Adapted from Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts—Parent newsletter



*From the Pastor's Desk*  
The Season of Advent  
**Advent stillness before - Christmas**

Advent is a season of attentiveness. We wait in a spirit of calm expectation, with our eyes wide open in gentle alertness, for the unfolding of the gifts that Jesus has prepared for us. A Christmas song tells children 'You better watch out'. In the Gospel of Mark, for the first Sunday of Advent, Jesus challenges us to 'stay awake'. These two phrases have something in common – being alert and being attentive.

What is this attentiveness like? Is it noticing the peace that comes when we create the right environment – no phone or radio or T.V. – some gentle music – a candle – a quiet place or are feeling more chilled out as the season moves forward.

Is it about hearing God crying from the wilderness of our mindlessness – speaking words of promise, encouragement, and renewal? Is it paying attention to the people in our lives who we might take for granted? This attentive standing back sometimes reveals the other person in a new light – their presence illuminated by the glow of their constancy, the warmth of their support or the unnamed security of their being there. As we count our gifts, we are mindful of ways to offer what we have received. 'You received without charge, give without charge'. (Source: Unknown)

**Holy Hour** For the three Fridays of Advent (December 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>) there will be a Holy Hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament from 4pm-5pm

#### Parish Calendar

The 2024 Parish calendar is available in the Church. Please take one and also take one for a neighbour who might like one.

Fr Michael Carey PP

A huge thank you to all who contributed to our recent coffee morning and sale of crafts in the Parish Centre. We raised **€1,231** which will go a long way in helping to fill back backs for homeless people this Christmas with MQI.

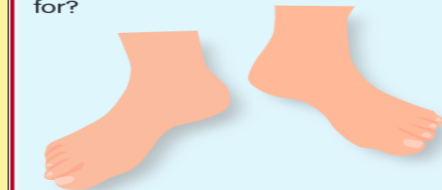


### Children's Corner: In the Gospel Today

People are wondering who John the Baptist is. He tells them he is God's messenger, sent to tell us all that Jesus is coming. Jesus is our light, someone so special that John is not good enough to untie his sandals.

#### Whose sandals?

These feet belong to the important person coming after John the Baptist. Design a really special pair of sandals for him. Who do you think the sandals are for?



Cross out the first letter and then every other letter to find out who the sandals belong to.

X J Q E Z S Y U W S

Loving Lord, John the Baptist knew Jesus was special. I know Jesus is special too. Help me to shine with Jesus' light in the way I share love and kindness. Amen.

8 sleeps till Santa arrives in Ireland !!

Fill in the spaces, using the Gospel story to help.

John said that he had come to tell about \_\_\_ (het) \_\_\_g h \_\_\_(ilt) which would \_h \_\_\_e (nis) on \_ve\_y\_n\_ (reoe).

#### Countdown to Christmas!



### ADVENT

#### Prayer for the 3rd Sunday of Advent

This is Advent, the season of preparation. The shops are full of gifts that we might give or receive. Streets are decorated and choirs are singing carols. As we prepare, we remember another, John the Baptist, who came to prepare the Jewish people for the arrival of Jesus. John, who would prepare a way through a call to repentance, so that hearts and souls would be ready to receive the One who was to come. God our Father, prepare our hearts not only for the celebration to come, but also for sharing that Good News with friends, family and work colleagues should opportunity arise. Grant us courage and a real willingness to talk about the love that came down to earth and walked among us. **Amen**



#### Confessions

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December – after the 10.30am Mass**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – after the 10.00am Mass**  
**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – From 11.00am until 12 noon**

Mercy and forgiveness are available to us. As we read in the prophet Isaiah, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming to save you' (Is 35:4). And the first thing Jesus said to the man who was lying on the stretcher was, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven' (Lk 5:23). Jesus passed on the power to forgive sin to his Church. This power is exercised mainly through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament is an encounter with Jesus. When we confess our sins in this sacrament, in effect the Lord says to us: 'Your sins are forgiven. Now go and walk in the freedom of the children of God.'

#### Mass intentions for the week

Saturday	Christopher and Frances Howard	Tony Conway	John Moran (1st Anniv)
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	Marie McCabe	Eamonn Gough	Siobhan Moran
	Des Connolly	Thomas, Maura & Declan Maundsley	Margaret Kenny
	Thomas, Sean & Maud Reidy	Marciano & Aurora Santos	Perlita Okonski
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis Prior		
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	James Duffy (MM)		

**PARISH CONTACTS: V REV Fr. Michael Carey: 8213660 Rev Jim Adams(Deacon) 0862232411**  
**Rev Michael O'Connor(Deacon) 0872941729 Sacristy: 8238354**  
**Parish Finance Christine Carleton / Parish Secretary Jean Rogers: 8115412**  
**email: office@blanchardstownparish.ie website: www.blanchardstownparish.ie**

