



# St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

## The Ascension of The Lord – Sunday 21st May 2023



*God goes up with shouts of joy:  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast  
Psalms 46:6*

### CURRENT SCHEDULE

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday**  
Mass at 10am preceded by the Rosary at 9.30, 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\*  
*Last Sunday of each month will also have a midday Family Mass \**  
**1st Saturday of the month** – 10am Mass followed by confessions  
**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  
**Wed:** Mulhuddart  
**Fri:** Corduff

Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage To Lourdes **7 – 12 September**  
**Led by the Archbishop**  
If you are interested in travelling this year, then please contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office at 01-8087555 or email : [info@lourdes.dublindiocese.ie](mailto:info@lourdes.dublindiocese.ie)

**A Reflective Sentence**  
A religion without mystery is necessarily a religion without God – Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667, English spiritual writer)

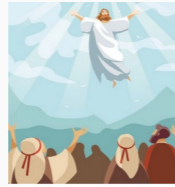


### Feast of the Ascension

*"Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. alleluia"*

In a certain sense the Ascension, or the last experience of the risen Jesus to his friends is like a graduation ceremony. Jesus had been instructing his disciples, men and women, throughout his life, not only in public (Mt.13:24) but in private (Jn. 13:36). Up until now, they were 'disciples' that is students, but now he makes his 'apostles' his ambassadors (2. Cor.5:20). From now on they will be on their own. They will no longer be able to come back to their master to share their experiences (Lk.10:17) and their joy (v.21). Jesus tells them that they will not be entirely alone, they will have the Spirit (Lk.24:29). In this way, they will remain his disciples, always be deepening their understanding of Jesus' teaching (Jn. 14:26).

What is really happening at the Ascension? Well Jesus is returning to the Father. He has completed his mission and his Father is taking him home. It is a most intimate meeting: "Well done good and faithful servant....enter into the joy of the Lord". In our prayer we can ask that we might enter the atmosphere of the Ascension. We should try and be joyful for them. We need to be filled with wonder and awe at what is taking place. Two of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are **reverence and wonder and awe in the presence of God**. As we lead up to the Feast of Pentecost next week why not pray about those two gifts and try and imagine or enter into the Joy of God, the joy of the Trinity at the Ascension. For the Gospel tells us that the disciples worshipped Jesus "and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually praising God". They are starting their journey back to their Father in the same atmosphere, peace and joy, as the gospel began, although it is now Christianised. St. Matthew puts it another way: at the conception, Joseph is told Jesus' name will be 'Emmanuel' that is, God-with-us (Mt.28-20), when he tells his friends, 'I am with you always to the end of time.' The gospel tells us how the human expression of God the Father, Jesus, did this and actually fulfilled himself and enabled us to become his brothers and sisters (Jn.20:17b). Perhaps it is due to that that there doesn't seem to be any nostalgia for the 'good old days' with Jesus during his mortal life, which is really quite remarkable.



By virtue of our callings as Christians, we are meant to be optimistic people, full of hope and deep rooted confidence and joy about our future. The ascension, which marks the final departure of Christ from his friends on earth, celebrates that hope. Today's feast gives us a glimpse of the destiny that awaits us. As Christians we don't die direction-less. We die in the knowledge of where Christ has gone. He told us in John's Gospel that when he was lifted up from the earth, he would draw all people to himself. He began the process on the cross, which too was a lifting up from the earth and completes it in the Ascension. The Lord has set a goal for us to aim at. And we know that it's a goal that we can reach. Our hearts are full of hope – where he has gone, we hope to follow. The Ascension assures us that the longing for happiness and fullness of life which is deeply imprinted within every person can ultimately be fulfilled, that it will really happen. (*'He's Risen', a reflection by Fr. Phelim McGowan SJ*)

### Building Hope—Pray, Reflect, Plan

You are warmly invited to join with every parish in the diocese in a Novena to the Holy Spirit—a period of prayer, reflection and planning for the renewal of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin. The Novena will take place 21-29 May beginning on the Feast of the Ascension, through Pentecost and continuing to the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church.

#### Novena Prayer

*For the renewal of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin*

Come, Holy Spirit, revive and renew us  
Come, Holy Spirit, inspire and enthuse us  
Come, Holy Spirit, unbind and release us  
Open our eyes to see God's grace around us  
Open our ears to hear God's voice within us  
Open our hearts to welcome God among us  
Send us out with joy to live the Gospel  
Send us out with peace to act as one  
Send us out with love to build up hope.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion

Next Saturday 27th May at 11am the boys and girls from Scoil Oilibhéar will receive their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion. At 2pm, the girls and boys from Educate Together will receive their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion. I wish the schools well in all their preparations this week, and I hope the weather is fantastic on the day.



### FROM THE PASTORS DESK

#### Mass for Healing with the Sacrament of the Sick

The parish celebrated Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick last Sunday at 3.00pm. It was a lovely celebration and I thank all who attended. There was a great turnout! It seemed to have touched people, which is all that one can ask for. Those in attendance received the Sacrament and at this Mass we prayed for, and remembered, all our parishioners who are sick and/or housebound. After the anointing those who are Carers came forward and had their hands blessed. Also as a special 'treat' for the occasion Fr Frank Drescher concelebrated the Mass.

A huge amount of preparation goes on in the 'lead up' to this mass and on the day. I thank the Sacristans, the Liturgy Team, the Parish Choir and the Ministers of the Word and Ministers of the Eucharist. I thank Jean and Christine in the Parish Office for all the secretarial work involved. There were cakes in the Centre afterwards, beautifully prepared by our fantastic Hospitality Team, who were getting ready from mid morning. A special thank you to Anne Maybury who is the 'driving force' behind this Mass and does a huge amount of work, ably assisted by Kathleen Nolan.

—> If anyone would like myself, or a Minister of the Eucharist, to visit a sick or elderly relative at home please let us know, or leave information with Jean in the Parish Office.

#### Choir Director Organist/Choir Director

As you now know, John White is retiring from his position as Choir Director/Organist after 10 years of wonderful service to St Brigid's. We wish him well, there will be an opportunity to pay tribute to him at a later date. Is there someone in our community or among a wider circle that you think might be interested in this position which will become vacant at the end of June? Good keyboard skills, sound knowledge of the liturgy, experience of choir work and ability to work as a member of a team are some of the gifts that we would look for in reviewing applications. Diocesan Guidelines for Church Musicians are used to determine remuneration.

#### Vocations

Solemnity of the Ascension - In our Gospel reading, Jesus missions his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations '*Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them....*' (Matthew 28:19). We pray for those who the Lord is calling today to this same mission to serve as priests, deacons or religious that they may hear his voice in their hearts.

*Fr Michael Carey PP*



## Children's Corner

### In The Gospel

Jesus gives his friends a very special job: they are to spread the Good News about God's love to everyone in whole world.

When I am kind and thoughtful I am sharing God's love. Colour in the petals of the things you will try to do. When I am kind and thoughtful I am sharing God's love. Colour in the petals of the things you will try to do.

#### Add your own ideas

Help me, Jesus, to share your love with everyone I meet. Amen.



#### Family Mass – next

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May** is the last Sunday of the Month. The Family Mass will be celebrated at 12pm

#### Mass For All Nations

will be at midday on Sunday June 11th.

#### Parish Meetings

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** – The **Family Mass team** will meet in the Pastoral Centre at 7.00pm.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May** – **Parents and Baptismal Team** - The parents of children for Baptism In June, are invited to meet the Team and have a presentation on the symbols of Baptism along with a short period of prayer - 7.30pm in the Pastoral Centre.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May** – The **Parish Pastoral Council** will meet at 7.00pm in the Pastoral Centre.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May** – we welcome the 5 candidates from Pelletstown Educate together who will be confirmed at the 10.30am Sunday Mass.

## Annual Parish Pilgrimage

**Saturday 17th June**

*(Theme: Drawing Wisdom from Ancestral Wellsprings)*



Kildare Cathedral & Town located in the heart of Kildare town. This visit will be followed by tea/coffee and a scone in Teach Dara.



Solas Bhríde Spirituality Centre a calm and tranquil space, ideal for resting & recharging body, mind & soul.

*Lunch time - (you can bring a small snack for this time if you wish)*

*Free time to either go to the Maze in the garden for a guided meditation or to go to St. Brigid's Well with a member of the Solas Bhríde team.*

*Followed by Mass in the centre chapel and*

*Finishing with Dinner in the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel*

**Bus leaves the church at 9.00am and arrives back at approx. 8.00pm**

**Cost €50 (includes morning coffee and dinner)**

*Places can be booked through the office*

#### Mass intentions for the week

Sat 6pm	Hilda Baird John Donohoe	Paul Kiernan (MM)
Sun 10.30	Thomas Delaney Mary Fahy Jastine Valdez	Michael Flanagan Clare Keating
Mon	Philip Furlong	
Thurs	Denis Bushe	

Please pray for our recently deceased:

**Paul Kirwan**



**PARISH CONTACTS: V REV Fr. Michael Carey: 8213660 Rev Jim Adams(Deacon) 0862232411**  
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