

# St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday 23rd July 2023



### Schedule for the coming week

#### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July

Liturgy of the Word 10.00am

Mass at 7.30pm

#### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July

Mass at 10.00am—Exposition until 5pm

#### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July

Liturgy of the Word 10.00am

#### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July

Liturgy of the Word 10.00am

#### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July

Mass at 10.00am—Exposition until 5pm

#### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July

Mass at 10.30am

### The 3rd World day for Grandparents and the Elderly

#### A message from Pope Francis.



"Dear brothers and sisters! "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1:50). This is the theme of the Third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, and it takes us back to the joyful meeting between the young Mary and her elderly relative Elizabeth (cf. Lk 1:39-56). Filled with

the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth addressed the Mother of God with words that, millennia later, continue to echo in our daily prayer: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (v. 42). The Holy Spirit, who had earlier descended upon Mary, prompted her to respond with the Magnificat, in which she proclaimed that the Lord's mercy is from generation to generation. That same Spirit blesses and accompanies every fruitful encounter between different generations: between grandparents and grandchildren, between young and old. God wants young people to bring joy to the hearts of the elderly, as Mary did to Elizabeth, and gain wisdom from their experiences. Yet, above all, the Lord wants us not to abandon the elderly or to push them to the margins of life, as tragically happens all too often in our time. .

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed  
Matthew 13:24 - 43

This year, the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly takes place close to World Youth Day. Both celebrations remind us of the "haste" (cf. v. 39) with which Mary set out to visit Elizabeth. In this way, they invite us to reflect on the bond that unites young and old. The Lord trusts that young people, through their relationships with the elderly, will realize that they are called to cultivate memory and recognize the beauty of being part of a much larger history. Friendship with an older person can help the young to see life not only in terms of the present and realize that not everything depends on them and their abilities.

For the elderly, the presence of a young person in their lives can give them hope that their experience will not be lost and that their dreams can find fulfilment. Mary's visit to Elizabeth and their shared awareness that the Lord's mercy is from generation to generation remind us that, alone, we cannot move forward, much less save ourselves, and that God's presence and activity are always part of something greater, the history of a people.

Mary herself said this in the Magnificat, as she rejoiced in God, who, in fidelity to the promise he had made to Abraham, had worked new and unexpected wonders. To better appreciate God's way of acting, let us remember that our life is meant to be lived to the full, and that our greatest hopes and dreams are not achieved instantly but through a process of growth and maturation, in dialogue and in relationship with others. Those who focus only on the here and now, on money and possessions, on "having it all now", are blind to the way God works. His loving plan spans past, present and future; it embraces and connects the generations. It is greater than we are yet includes each of us and calls us at every moment to keep pressing forward.

For the young, this means being ready to break free from the fleeting present in which virtual reality can entrap us, preventing us from doing something productive. For the elderly, it means not dwelling on the loss of physical strength and thinking with regret about missed opportunities. Let us all look ahead! And allow ourselves to be shaped by God's grace, which from generation to generation frees us from inertia and from dwelling on the past!



In the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth, between young and old, God points us towards the future that he is opening up before us. Indeed, Mary's visit and Elizabeth's greeting open our eyes to the dawn of salvation: in their embrace, God's mercy quietly breaks into human history amid abundant joy. I encourage everyone to reflect on that meeting, to picture, like a snapshot, that embrace between the young Mother of God and the elderly mother of Saint John the Baptist, and to frame it in their minds and hearts as a radiant icon.

Next, I would invite you to make a concrete gesture that would include grandparents and the elderly. Let us not abandon them. Their presence in families and communities is a precious one, for it reminds us that we share the same heritage and are part of a people committed to preserving its roots. From the elderly we received the gift of belonging to God's holy people. The Church, as well as society, needs them, for they entrust to the present the past that is needed to build the future. Let us honour them, neither depriving ourselves of their company nor depriving them of ours. May we never allow the elderly to be cast aside!

Dear grandparents, dear elderly brothers and sisters, may the blessing of the embrace between Mary and Elizabeth come upon you and fill your hearts with peace. With great affection, I give you my blessing. And I ask you, please, to pray for me". Rome, Saint John Lateran, Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Summer Holiday

I'm still on my annual holidays.

I have managed to arrange cover for most of our Mass Schedule from the Priests of our Partnership Parishes. Advance notice – The 6pm Vigil for 29<sup>th</sup> July has been cancelled. A sincere thank you to the Liturgy Group who will celebrate the Liturgy of the Word at 10.00am in St Brigid's on the days when there isn't Mass. There will also be the Rosary each morning at 9.30am and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will continue as normal on Tuesdays and Fridays after Mass until 5pm.

#### The White Fathers

I thank Fr Michael O'Sullivan who spoke so well about the Word of God at our Masses last weekend. He gave us a lovely reflection from St Francis of Assisi who said: "**Preach the gospel at all times and if necessary, use words.**" If you didn't make an offering to the White Fathers last weekend and you would like to do so – the envelopes can be left in the Sacristy or the Parish office. Thank You!

Fr Michael Carey PP

#### A Blessing for Grandparents

Lord of life, we are grateful for the gift of our grandparents.

They have shared with our families life and wisdom and many gifts and talents.

Our parents brought us into life; in our grandparents we have sensed and felt our history that lies at the heart of our family.

We ask that those who guided our early steps and called forth hidden talents, may be richly rewarded by you, O God. May all grandparents be blessed today by your faithful love And kept safe by your grace and protection. Amen



#### We welcome those baptised in the month of July:

Finn, Nova, Phoebe, Charlie

Ben, Remy, Kyra-Rose, Lauren,

Callum, Conor, Riona, Maisie.

May they continue to grow strong in body, mind and spirit.

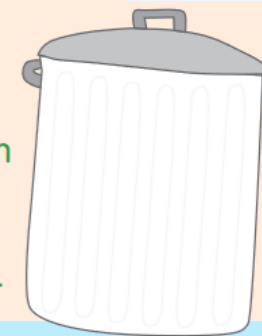
## Children's Corner :In The Gospel:

Jesus tells some stories, to explain what the kingdom of heaven is like. The kingdom of heaven might have very small beginnings, like a mustard seed, but it will grow. The seed in Jesus' story grows into such a big tree all the birds can find shelter in it. We can find shelter in God's love too, as we grow big and strong.

Jesus says that heaven is like a field where both good and bad seed is sown. Both grow together, but, at the end, only the good harvest is collected and stored. We all do both good and bad things.

What are the good things you do? Draw a picture or write about them.

What are the bad things you do? Write them on the rubbish bin to be thrown away.



Dear Jesus, I know that you are helping me grow stronger in your love every day. Help me to make your kingdom real on earth by being kind to everyone I meet. Amen.

We pray for our recently deceased:

Patrick Monaghan

Emily Giffney

Seamus Early

Always loved, never forgotten



#### Saints in the Church's Calendar

**St. James, Apostle – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>,** son of Zebedee and brother of John, called the Greater.

He was one of the three apostles, along with St. Peter and St. John, who witnessed the Transfiguration and the agony in the Garden. He was put to death by Herod, being the first of the apostles to die for Christ. His shrine is at Compostela in Spain.

**Ss. Joachim and Anne – Wed 26<sup>th</sup>** parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandparents of the Lord. St. Anne is patron of Canada, women in labour, miners, cabinetmakers, and homemakers.

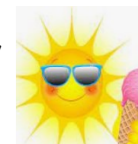
**St. Martha – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>.** Sister of Lazarus and Mary is a woman of faith who made her profession of faith in Christ as the Son of God, and in the resurrection. In welcoming a guest, we welcome Christ. Patron of innkeepers, cooks and dieticians.

#### A Reflective Sentence

To live life to the full in freedom we must overcome the test that this freedom entails, that is, temptation..... Pope Benedict XVI



Wishing all our parishioners a safe, happy and relaxing summer break; whether you are travelling or enjoying the summer in Ireland.



'Our Lady of the Highways, I call on you in my journeys, To make my path a holy one, A safe one'. We welcome all visitors to St Brigid's parish.

#### Mass intentions for the week

Sunday	Michael Brady (3rd Anniv) Mary Coyle Tony Horton Margaret Bishop Vera O'Donohoe (3rd Ann) Philomena Holmes
Tuesday	Rosaleen Kelly

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