

St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Fifth Sunday of Lent – Sunday 26th March 2023

Lazarus, come out!
JOHN 11:42

Lazarus, here! Come out!

(Come forth Lazarus) In today's gospel, Jesus is surrounded by a culture of death. The disciples are afraid to go back to Bethany, the Jews want to stone Jesus to death, Mary and Martha are distraught over the death of their brother Lazarus, and Lazarus himself lies bound in the darkness of the tomb. It appears as if there is no hope. We are told that Jesus weeps because of his friend but perhaps he also weeps because of the lack of hope and faith in those around him.

In today's gospel, Jesus, surrounded by a culture of violence and despair, gives hope, compassion, resurrection and love to those who are in turmoil. It is easy to say that nothing can be done. It is easy to remain cynical. But if we remain hopeless then nothing will be achieved. Jesus says, 'Lazarus, come out.' And to the people he says, 'Unbind him, let him go.' We need help to unbind one another. We are called to take away the stone, to come out of the tomb, to unbind the oppressed and let them free. What we do, what we buy, how we use the plentiful resources at our disposal all affect the wider global community. Today's gospel is a story of liberation. Jesus gives a new insight into the power of faith over death. When we feel helpless where situations of injustice are concerned, we must remember that we are full of light, we can do small things, we can help to remove the restraints of injustice instead of sitting in the darkness.

All it takes is one good person to restore hope! ... In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound ... the principle of the common good immediately becomes a summons to solidarity with the poorest of our brothers and sisters.

A Reflective Sentence I could not believe in a God whom I could comprehend – Cardinal Suenens 1904-1996, Archbishop of Brussels

Hope means to keep living amid desperation and to keep humming in the darkness. Hope is knowing that there is love, it is trust in tomorrow, it is falling asleep and waking to work when the sun rises. In the midst of a gale at sea, it is to discover land. In the eyes of another, it is to see understanding. As long as there is hope, there will also be prayer. And God will be holding you in his loving hands. (Henri Nouwen)(Source: Trocaire Lenten Resources for 2017).

Seeds of Consolation

What can I say to you, my friend, in your hour of grief? Just a word from the heart. In the midst of your sorrowseeds are been sown – seeds of consolation, hope, resignation, and even gratitude. This winter will pass, and spring will again visit the garden of your heart. You will see these seeds grow, blossom, and bear fruit. Then your sorrow will turn into joy, a joy no one will be able to take from you. (Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)

Confirmation - Ceremony of Light

In this Ceremony, the parents hand the lighted candle lit from the Pascal Candle directly to their children themselves, symbolising that they, their parents have fulfilled their promise to bring their children up in the faith and will continue to fulfil it and that their children now make the step of confirming their faith for themselves.

Thursday 30th March at 7.30pm – the girls and boys from St Francis Xavier School.

Lenten Penitential Service

Our Parish will hold a Reconciliation Service on **Tuesday 28th March at 7.30pm** and will be joined by Priests from our Partnership Parishes of Corduff and Mulhuddart. The Choir will be present providing beautiful music and hymns on the evening. You have a special chance this week with the penance service or individual confessions in Holy Week to receive the grace of the sacrament. It may help to see receiving the sacrament of reconciliation as a spirit of repentance to renew our baptismal promises at Easter, and to think more of God's mercy than of your sins

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Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

As you may have noticed in the newsletter the PPC held its monthly meeting on Wednesday 15th March last. **SO WHAT HAPPENS?** We had a good discussion on the Building Hope process which at the moment is very much focused on developing and strengthening our Partnership with Mulhuddart and Corduff Parishes. Regarding Parish Partnerships we have had three meetings to date; two with the Parish Teams and One with representatives from the PPC's – it's a slow process and a 'getting to know you' process. The Child Protection rep gave us an update and even though we're nearly up to date with our Garda Vetting, we were conscious of the fact that the child protection policy needs to be constantly refreshed in our minds. The PPC were also updated on Current Pastoral Initiatives: Sacramental prep (Baptism, First Communion & Confession, Confirmation) Assembly Groups (Social Justice, Communications, Faith Dev – Adult / Youth) Royal Canal Pastoral Centre Liturgy Committee. Finance Committee And questions answered. Next meeting - Thursday 20th April.

ST LUKES PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

Mulhuddart Parish Pilgrimage on Saturday 29th April. Price €45 per adult, €28 per child This includes 4 course meal and a return coach departing St Lukes Church at 9am, departing Knock 6pm. If interested please call Kim 01-8205480 or email mulhudoffice@gmail.com

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Vocation Intercessions for Lent



Fifth Sunday of Lent – In our second reading, St Paul writes to the persecuted church in Rome encouraging them "Unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him." We pray for those discerning a vocation to priesthood, diaconate or religious life, that they may be possessed by the Spirit of Christ and respond to His call.

Stations of the Cross

During the Season of Lent the Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday morning at 9.30am. This will replace the Rosary on Friday. I thank Anne Maybury and Maire Martin who undertake this initiative and all who help them.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not about a guilt-trip. Rather, it is about unburdening. The Lord invites us to receive from him 'rest for our souls' (Mt 11:29) so that he may set us free (Lk 4:18) that we may continue to seek to live 'life to the full' (Jn 10:10). Jesus is encountered in and through the Sacrament. The Lent Reconciliation service takes place in **St. Brigid's on Tuesday 28th March at 7.30pm.**

Trocaire

Through these weeks of Lent we have had the chance to walk towards people in their time and place of need. We have been brought face to face with people who otherwise we would not encounter. We have had the chance to hear some of their words and to respond in a meaningful way. With Jesus, we have had the chance to make a difference – not loud or dramatic, just in the quietness of reflection and in the generosity of sharing. So, let us look now at some of the words and phrases Jesus might write beneath our feet today, knowing that we have tried to respond to the needs of those put before us during the Lenten Campaign. "Thank you". "Insofar as you did it to one of the least of my brothers or sisters, you did it for me". "Well done good and faithful servant". As for images or emojis! Surely, a smiling face and a thumbs up. *I thank Tony Devlin who spoke beautifully and passionately about his involvement with Trocaire at all Masses last weekend.*

Fr Michael Carey PP

Easter Cards available in the Parish Centre for collection by the usual distributors—thank you !

Caretaker sought for part-time position, in Scoil Bhríde Cailíní, Blanchardstown. 20-25.5 hours per week. Morning and evening. **Hours flexible.** Please contact Scoil Bhríde Cailíní on 01-8201717 or office@scoilbhridecailini.ie for more details.

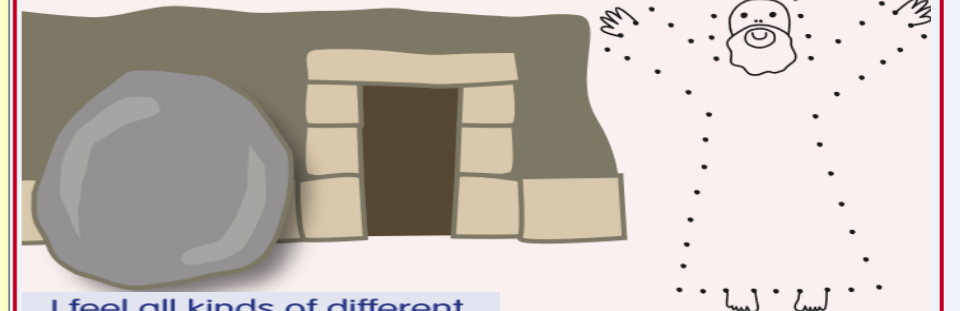
Children's Corner

In The Gospel

Jesus' friend Lazarus has died. Jesus is very sad. He asks for the stone to be rolled away from the entrance to the tomb and calls to Lazarus. Lazarus comes out of the tomb alive - it's a miracle!

Lazarus Lives again!

Join the dots to see Lazarus coming back to life!



I feel all kinds of different things, Jesus. You felt lots of different things too. Help me to remember you are always with me, however I am feeling. Amen.

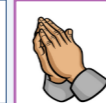
GOD GIVES LIFE!

Mass intentions for the week

Sat 6pm	Kathleen & Joseph Duffy Seán Conlon Maria McCarthy
Sun 1030am	Colin Browne (1st Anniv) Joe Lowther Marie O'Brien Mary O'Brien
Sun Noon	Thomas Healy Brendan Kane Prior Family Matt Farrell Joseph Brennan

Lenten Lectio Divina

'Lectio Divina' - a reflection on the Scripture will take place on some Wednesdays during Lent. Next meeting is on **Wednesday the 29th of March. 11am to 12 noon in the pastoral centre. ALL are most welcome.**



Adult Faith Development

Discuss the basics of our religion. * **Wed 29 Mar – 7:30 pm – Pastoral Centre.** Last night of our current series. All are very welcome. Never too late to start! **This week** – What are the (four) last things? (*Based on *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults*)

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
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

Please note the Parish Privacy Notice is currently under review. A new version will be published very soon. If you have any questions or require further information, please email Noelle Dowling at dataprotection@dublindiocese.ie.

We pray for our recently deceased:

Kathleen McGlynn
Frank Barrett



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