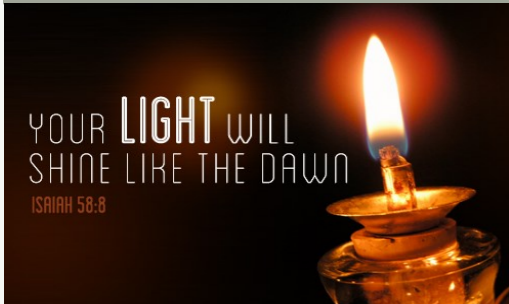


St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday 5th February 2023



This Sunday's Readings
1st: Isaiah 58:7-10 **Psalm:** 111
R/ The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright
2nd Corinthians 2:1-5 **Gospel Acclamation**
Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!
Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-16

CURRENT SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
 Mass at 10am preceded by the Rosary at 9.30
 church closes at 4pm Jan & Feb

Monday: Area Mass at 7.30pm

Wednesday: Liturgy of the Word at 10am

Saturday: church opens at 10am

Vigil Mass at 6pm (note change)

Sunday Mass at 10.30am*
 (last Sunday of each month will have a midday Family mass)

1st Saturday of the month— Mass at 10am followed by confessions

Last Tuesday of the month— Prayer Group Mass at 8.00pm, all welcome

Bank Holidays: Mass at 11 am only

All services available on www.blanchardstownparish.ie/webcam
 *also on Phoenix Radio—92.5FM

Eucharistic Adoration
 Tues. & Fri. 10.30—4pm

Blanchardstown Area evening Mass
 Mon: Blanchardstown at 7.30
 Tues & Thurs: Castleknock
 Wed: Mulhuddart
 Fri: Corduff

EVANGELISATION – Spreading the Good News
 Evangelisation – what does this mean? For some it is a complicated word. For others it may carry the connotation of being preached at, or being told what to do. I hope by the time that you have finished reading this article that you will have a better understanding of evangelisation and that you will accept that it carries no notion of being preached at or being told what to do. So what is Evangelisation? Very simply it is proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. By its very nature Christianity is all about sharing and telling others about Jesus Christ and living out his message. Evangelisation is directed towards one simple goal – **personal conversion through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.** All very well, so how do we as individuals, as family, as parish go about this? Well here are some useful pointers.

Individuals
 Open yourself to God and allow yourself to be formed by God's word.
 Pray daily
 Carry a cross in your pocket
 Participate in a bible study or prayer group
 Communicate with those who inspire you
 Receive the sacraments
 Attend events, talks or courses to deepen your Christian faith
 Reflect on the witness of others

Everyday Evangelising in the Home
 Pray grace before and after meals
 Show symbols of your faith
 Have a religious calendar with the dates of Baptism's, First Communions, Confirmations, Weddings etc.
 Establish family rituals based on the Church year
 Celebrate feast days
 Create new prayer moments in your home
 Have a Bible in every home

Everyday Evangelising in the Parish
 Get involved in your parish
 Periodically sit in a different place in the Church to meet others
 Be gracious in the car park
 Explain rituals in advance to those not familiar with the Catholic faith
 Pray for parish leaders and each other
 You might consider a rolling programme in adopting some of these points.

They don't have to be done at once or even completed within a short timeframe. By discussing them with other parishioners, you may come up with new and helpful suggestions. Evangelisation is not a series of events. Rather it is an ongoing process and commitment, which reaches out and touches the lives of individuals and communities over their entire life span. I hope the above is helpful. An conscious awareness of evangelisation, will establish itself as an ongoing process of deepening the gospel among those already committed to it and reaching out to those who are disconnected from their parish or who don't see it as having a significant role in their lives.

Saints in the Church's Calendar
St Josephine Bakhita – Wednesday 8th
 1868-1947, a native of Sudan, brought as a slave to Italy where she became a Christian and later entered the Institute of Canossian Daughters of Charity in Venice
St Scholastica – Friday 10th, died c.543 was a sister of St Benedict. When she met her brother for the last time, a sudden rainstorm prolonged the meeting; three days later St. Benedict saw her soul ascend to heaven as a dove (her symbol in art)
Our Lady of Lourdes -Saturday 11th On this day in 1858, Our Lady first appeared to the 14 yr. old Bernadette Soubirous. Later Bernadette was to learn that the mysterious lady was the Blessed Virgin and to hear from her lips, 'I am the Immaculate Conception'. There were 18 apparitions in all, the last of which was on 16 July 1858

Easter in Medjugorje €795
8-15 April Pilgrimage 2023
 The 20th year of Pilgrimages from this area to Our Lady's Shrine in Medjugorje takes place this Easter. If you are interested please contact: Eleanor 087 2351294 or Michael 086 8650708

European Synodal Assembly
 Taking place this week (Feb 5-12) in Prague.
 Follow it live at prague.synod2023.org

FROM THE PASTORS DESK
Day of Prayer and Awareness
against Human Trafficking– 8th February
 Today is *International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking*, first observed in 2015 and on the memorial of St. Josephine Bakhita. Each year, around 2.5 million people are victims of trafficking and slavery. For those engaged in trafficking it has become one of the most lucrative illegal activities in the world. Through the Day of Prayer, we reflect on the experience of those who have suffered but also we are called to reach out to victims and survivors. **St Josephine Bakhita** 1868-1947, a native of Sudan, brought as a slave to Italy where she became a Christian and later entered the Institute of Canossian Daughters of Charity in Venice

Family Mass
 Thank you to all who attended the Family Mass last Sunday. The Junior Choir under the direction of John White are an excellent feature at this Mass. This last weekend of the month is also when the families of the 1st Holy Communion children for the coming year are invited to attend all the weekend Masses. There was a great turnout as is evidenced by the lovely display of St Brigid's crosses the Notice board in the 'stage area'. The next family Mass will be on February the 26th at noon.

Making of St Brigid's Crosses - Workshop
 After the 10.30am and 12pm Mass last Sunday there was a great flurry of activity in the Pastoral area as there was a workshop for the making of St Brigid's crosses. Well done and thank you the volunteers who ran the workshop which included a number of teenagers from the 'Teen Hope' group. Thank you also to the Hospitality team who provided excellent refreshment for both the workshops....a wonderful parish initiative and a great tribute to St Brigid.

Car Park
 APCOA, the church car park management company, have had cause to clamp a number of cars recently. To prevent further instances of clamping please abide by the following:
 - Attending church services (Mass, Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms) - no parking charge.
 -Attending **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Tuesdays and Fridays - enter your car registration in the book in the porch.
 -Attending other meetings/gatherings—a permit is required unless otherwise advised (you can get one from the office).
 At all other times please do not be tempted to park and nip off to the shops or indeed into the Church to light a candle without paying the parking charge, that way you will not be clamped.

Children's Corner

In The Gospel
 Jesus says that his friends are salt for the earth and light for the world. A small pinch of salt makes a big difference to the taste of food. Light gets rid of darkness. When we live as God asks, we will shine with God's light and love and make a big difference to the world.

Jesus' message

Start with the letter arrowed and use every other letter, skipping the **S** the second time around, to find what Jesus said in today's Gospel.
 You are the -----

 Help me, Jesus, to be like you. Help me to shine with your love and goodness, so that I will make the world a better place. Amen.

TRUST GOD!

ACCORD The Dublin ANNUAL COLLECTION of ACCORD the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be made at all Masses next week-end. The Collection for ACCORD will replace the usual Share Collection. ACCORD offers: ❖ Marriage Preparation courses ❖ Counselling for couples/individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationships, online or by phone. Helpline 01 9059555. ❖ Relationship & Sexuality Programme for schools. Please give generously on **11 & 12 February.**

Monday 6th February is our new National St Brigid's Day public holiday. Mass will be at 11.00am. There will be no 7.30pm Mass in the evening.

First Penance
 The celebration of First Penance / Confession is beginning for the boys and girls in the Holy Communion classes. On Thursday 9th February we welcome the girls from Scoil Bhríde.

Divine Mercy Conference
 17th, 18th & 19th February 2023
"Act justly, Love mercifully and Walk humbly with your God."
 Micah 6:8

Full programme and latest information on the website;
www.divinemercyconference.com

Mass intentions for the week

Sat 6pm	Karen Hanratty & deceased family members Jack & Una O'Callaghan Jerry & Margaret O'Neill
Sun 10.30am	Joe Brennan Martin & Claire Corry Eileen Walsh (MM)
Mon 11am	Eithne Foley Joe & Lil Byrne
Tue 10am	Ken Devitt

St. Vincent de Paul
 The outdoor monthly collection for St. Brigid's VdeP, will be taken up **this weekend 4th/5th February** at all Masses.

A Reflective Sentence
 The existence of God is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to be lived Gabriel Marcel (1889-1973, French existentialist philosopher)

Adult Faith Development
 An introduction to the basics of our religion* Will be starting again on **Wed 15 February.** How about "doing it for Lent"? (*Using *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults*)

Please pray for our recently deceased:
 Vera Gill

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