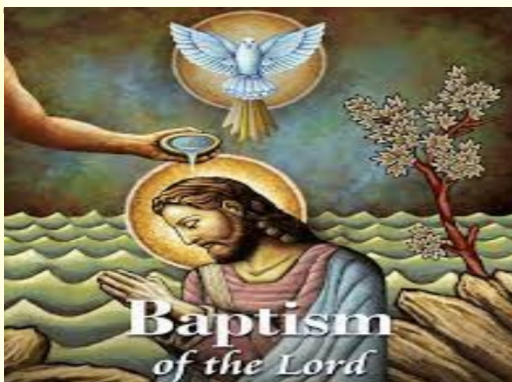


St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

The Baptism of the Lord – Sunday 8th January 2023



This Sunday's Readings
1st: Isaiah 42: 1-4,6-7 **Psalm:** 28
R/ The Lord will bless his people with peace. **2nd** Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-38. **Gospel Acclamation** Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." Alleluia!
Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17

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—5pm

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

World day of Peace
 Over the next fortnight I will print the Pope message for the 56th World Day of Peace which he has titled 'No one can be saved alone'. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace "Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians, 5:1-2).

1. With these words, the Apostle Paul encouraged the Thessalonian community to remain steadfast, their hearts and feet firmly planted and their gaze fixed on the world around them and the events of history, even as they awaited the Lord's return. When tragic events seem to overwhelm our lives, and we feel plunged into a dark and difficult maelstrom of injustice and suffering, we are likewise called to keep our hearts open to hope and to trust in God, who makes himself present, accompanies us with tenderness, sustains us in our weariness and, above all, guides our path. For this reason, Saint Paul constantly exhorts the community to be vigilant, seeking goodness, justice and truth: "So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober" (5:6). His words are an invitation to remain alert and not to withdraw into fear, sorrow or resignation, or to yield to distraction or discouragement. Instead, we should be like sentinels keeping watch and ready to glimpse the first light of dawn, even at the darkest hour.

2. Covid-19 plunged us into a dark night. It destabilized our daily lives, upset our plans and routines, and disrupted the apparent tranquillity of even the most affluent societies. It generated disorientation and suffering and caused the death of great numbers of our brothers and sisters. Amid a whirlwind of unexpected challenges and facing a situation confusing even from a scientific standpoint, the world's healthcare workers mobilized to relieve immense suffering and to seek possible remedies. At the same time, political authorities had to take measures to organize and manage efforts to respond to the emergency. In addition to its physical aspects, Covid-19 led to a general malaise in many individuals and families; the long periods of isolation and the various restrictions on freedom contributed to this malaise, with significant long-term effects.

Nor can we overlook the fractures in our social and economic order that the pandemic exposed, and the contradictions and inequalities that it brought to the fore. It threatened the job security of many and aggravated the ever-increasing problem of loneliness in our societies, particularly on the part of the poor and those in need. We need but think of the millions of informal workers in many parts of the world left without a job and without any support during the time of the lockdown. Only rarely do individuals and societies achieve progress in conditions that generate such feelings of despondency and bitterness, which weaken efforts to ensure peace while provoking social conflict, frustration and various forms of violence. The pandemic seems to have upset even the most peaceful parts of our world.

3. Three years later, the time is right to question, learn, grow and allow ourselves to be transformed as individuals and as communities; this is a privileged moment to prepare for "the day of the Lord". I have already observed on a number of occasions that we never emerge the same from times of crisis: we emerge either better or worse. Today we are asked: What did we learn from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place? After directly experiencing the fragility of our own lives and the world around us, we can say that the greatest lesson we learned from Covid-19 was the realization that we all need one another. That our greatest and yet most fragile treasure is our shared humanity as brothers and sisters, children of God. And that none of us can be saved alone. We urgently need to join together in seeking and promoting the universal values that can guide the growth of human fraternity. We also learned that the trust we put in progress, technology and the effects of globalization was not only excessive, but turned into an individualistic and idolatrous intoxication, compromising the very promise of justice, harmony and peace that we so ardently sought. In our fast-paced world, the widespread problems of inequality, injustice, poverty and marginalization continue to fuel unrest and conflict, and generate violence and even wars.....cont'd next week

FROM THE PASTORS DESK



Statement of Archbishop Dermot Farrell on the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

This morning, the last morning of the year, our heavenly Father brought Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI home to the house in which—as the Lord Jesus himself assures us—there are many rooms (see *John* 14:2). We pray for Pope Benedict's eternal rest, and give thanks for all that God wrought through his ecclesial service as Pope, as pastor, as theologian, and as teacher of our shared faith in Jesus, the Light of the World (see *John* 8:12). We mourn the loss of a person who gave hope and direction to the Church, in particularly difficult times. Pope Benedict made the voice of the Gospel heard, both in season and out of season (2 *Tim* 4:2). That radical humility was given its most actualisation in his courageous decision to resign from the office of Pontiff in 2013, was a prophetic testimony to his profound freedom as a human being and as a person in Christ (see *Gal* 5:1). In this moment of mourning, we remember his *Pastoral Letter to the Catholics of Ireland* (19th March 2010) on clerical sexual abuse, especially of minors. This letter, at such a painful time for the Church in our land had value not only for Ireland but for the Universal Church. Over a decade later, there is still need to do as he did in the wake of a parallel controversy in the Archdiocese of Munich, he asked for forgiveness from those affected. The Church may not shy away from the questions that remain unanswered. May the Lord who called his servant, Pope Benedict XVI, to himself, give him the quiet peace which he sought all his life. May he grant him eternal rest.

Dermot Farrell . Archbishop of Dublin

Vocation Themed Intercessions for Christians

The Epiphany - As soon as Jesus was baptised, the Spirit of God descended on Him and a voice from heaven spoke, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.' We pray for all whom the Lord is calling to the priesthood, the diaconate of religious life, that the Spirit of God will rest on them and that they will hear his voice in their hearts.

Fr Michael Carey PP

MASS INTENTIONS 7th/8th JANUARY

Sat 10am	Alice, Louis & Anne McCauley.	Mary O'Brien
Sat 6pm	Kevin Kilmurray (MM). James & Agnes Griffin.	Martin & Mary Lynch. Rose & Richard Harris. Caitriona Farrell. Christy & May Somers.
Sun 10.30am	Joan O'Keeffe. Daniel Corr.	Lily & Canice Brady. Brian Condon. Liam & Kitty McCarthy. Philip Dore.

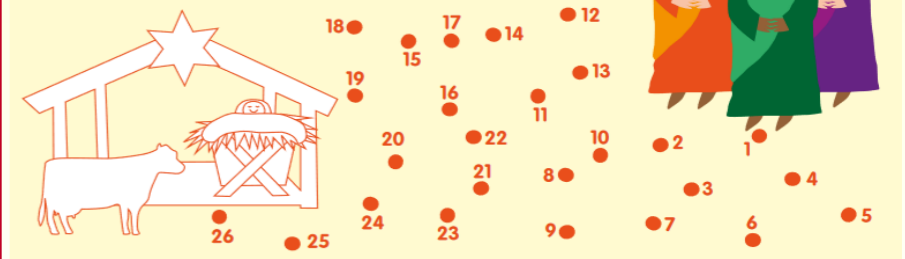
Children's Corner

In The Gospel

God shows how much he loves us by giving Jesus to the whole world. God leads the wise men to Jesus with a star. They travel a long way from a faraway country – but then they find him! The wise men give Jesus gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense.

Making their way to Jesus

The wise men are searching for Jesus. Follow the numbers and make a road to help them.



My gift for Jesus
 Today I will show love and care for someone when I...

Help me, Jesus, to show your love to everyone I meet by the good and kind way that I treat them. Amen.

Meetings this week

Finance Committee - Tuesday 10th January at 2.30pm in the Pastoral Centre

Communications Group - Thursday 12th January at 7.30pm in the Pastoral Centre

Please pray for our recently deceased

Mary Garvey John Massey
 Rose Gill Maria Antonia Macari
 Phoebe Fagan Kevin Forde

Thank You from GOAL

Many thanks to the many families and individuals who came out to support GOAL's annual Christmas Day Mile in the Phoenix Park. Your generous donations on the day and online raised over €9,000 for GOAL's humanitarian work in Ukraine and other countries.

A Reflective Sentence

Walk with your feet on earth, but in your heart be in heaven.
 St. John Bosco (1815-1888, patron saint of youth)



Welcome to our recently Baptised: Isaac & Sebastian and Theodore.

The Letter tells the story of 5 people of different faiths and from different parts of the world who journey to Rome to meet Pope Francis.

There will be 2 special screenings on Thursday 19th January at 7.30pm in the Pastoral Centre in Royal Canal & Friday 24th February at 7.30pm in the Church extension. Powerful and moving, Don't Miss It!



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