



# St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

## Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday 9th July 2023



### 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 (EXCEPT 22ND & 29TH JULY)**

**Sunday Mass at 10.30am** Last Sunday of each month will also have a midday Family Mass (EXCEPT JULY & AUGUST)

**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



### The Papal Cross

The People and Parishioners of Dublin 15 probably see the Papal Cross in the Phoenix Park more than anyone else in Ireland, so what is its background?

The Papal Cross was the work of Scott Tallon Walker Architects, and cost an incredible €50,000. It was constructed in the Inchicore steelworks factory of J. and C. McGloughlin by John Sisk and Sons, and the structure weighs in at 31 tons.

**Papal Cross commissioned only one month before Pope John Paul's arrival.**

It was in the month of August 1979 that the cross was commissioned. At the beginning of that month Archbishop Dermot Ryan made a call to Ronnie Tallon, appointing his practice to design and build a suitable setting for a great liturgical event, in a place which had no infrastructure services available. The Archbishop had just been granted confirmation that the pope was coming to Ireland within eight weeks. The office had a programme of only seven weeks to complete this once in a lifetime project.

The difficulties which faced them were outlined by Tallon in an interview with *The Irish Times* before the visit took place. He told the newspaper that "normally if you were doing a steel contract it would take six weeks to get the material in and another twelve weeks

on top of that too have it fabricated and erected." Writing himself about the cross in 2004 Tallon noted that "...we decided that we required a cross the height of Nelson's Pillar, which was 125 feet high, which would be clearly visible to all from the furthest reaches of the vast congregation and which would give a sense of focus to the occasion."



The cross arrived at the park on Sept 7<sup>th</sup> after travelling a somewhat circuitous route. The journey obviously began in Inchicore but continued via

O'Connell Bridge. The sheer size of the structure meant that this longer trek was necessary, as shorter routes would not accommodate the cross. It took two hundred-ton cranes to lift the cross into position. After several attempts to hoist it into place it was eventually erected just a fortnight before the Pope's arrival. On the platform's raised stone slab to the north are inscribed the words *Moladh go deo le Dia* – Praised be God forever.

Poignantly when John Paul died in 2005, workers built a stage for the celebration of a special Mass on the day of the funeral. Mourners left flowers and tokens of remembrance.

Today the cross is a meeting place for many including the lovely Phoenix park deer. As you gaze travels upward you can still, in the mind's eye see the pontiff's plane in the skies above, and hear the echoing roars of the welcoming crowd, on that memorable day nearly forty years ago. (Source: Marie Therese Ryan – *St. Martin Magazine*)



"This Cross which dominates our gathering today is a symbol. It was probably never intended to be a permanent memorial. There were times when people asked that it be removed. There

were times when this Cross appeared starkly isolated in the bleakness of an Irish winter.

Today we gather around the same cross in the hope of a spring for the Irish Church. We look towards a spring sun that does not wish to cover up the harshness of dark days. We wish rather to help families realise anew that the future of Ireland needs the light of the message of Jesus Christ to reappear in all its simplicity and hopefulness.

(Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, *welcoming comments to Pope Francis as he celebrated Mass in the Phoenix Park – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018*)

### From the Pastor's Desk Summer Holidays



I will be taking the final two weeks of July off for my annual vacation. I have managed to arrange cover for most of our Mass Schedule from the Priests of our Partnership Parishes Corduff and Mulhuddart. Just an advance notice –

**The 6pm Vigil for Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July has been cancelled.**

**Fr Michael Carey PP**

### Statement on Cathedral proposal

Dublin does not have a cathedral: St Mary's Pro-Cathedral was built nearly 200 years ago to provide a focal point for the Archdiocese, but it was always envisaged that at some point a cathedral building would be required that had both the space and the facilities to accommodate the full range of diocesan liturgical and pastoral ministry. For a variety of reasons that never happened, but the limitations of the St Mary's building and complex remain. Meanwhile, the city has changed and developed. While St Mary's is located in an area undergoing renewal and development, on the south side of the Liffey recent and planned commercial and residential development have created a whole new dimension of city life. St Andrew's Church, Westland Row, which was built shortly after St Mary's, is well placed to engage with the vibrant residential, commercial and cultural heart of the city.

Having consulted with the Council of Priests, the Archbishop believes that both St Mary's and St Andrew's have the capacity to be developed as twin pillars of a renewed pastoral and missionary strategy. It is his desire that Dublin should have a properly designated cathedral and that it should be complemented by a church on the other side of the Liffey whose status and dignity are formally recognised and supported. For logistical reasons, there are strong grounds for considering that St Andrew's might better serve the cathedral function, with St Mary's raised to the dignity of a basilica. In order to advance the analysis of these options and prepare a specific proposal (which will ultimately require approval by the authorities in Rome) the Archbishop is establishing a project group which will include representatives of both St Mary's and St Andrew's Parishes to develop proposals in the light of a synodal process of engagement and dialogue, supported by expert and technical advice. The project group will examine the physical and structural aspects of this proposal, the pastoral and programme requirements and opportunities on both sites, the community and parish dimension, including social, engagement and community service, and the financial and other resource implications.

The Archbishop will be communicating the details of this project process over the coming weeks and he envisages that proposals will be presented by the project group for decision before the end of the current year.

## Children's Corner

### In The Gospel

When Mary goes to the tomb where Jesus is buried she finds the stone is rolled away from the entrance and Jesus' body is not there. Mary rushes to tell the others. When they see the grave cloths they understand – Jesus has risen. He is alive!

### Puzzle

Can you fit these words into the squares? One word has been put in for you.

**JESUS SAYS  
COME TO HIM  
ALL WHO ARE  
TIRED AND  
HE WILL GIVE  
YOU A REST.**



Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me and wanting to help me. Please help me to share your love with other people, so they know you love them and want to help them too. Amen.

**St. Benedict, Abbot and Patron of Europe – Tuesday 11th July.** Born c.480 and died c.547 and was educated in Rome. Turning his back on the worldliness, he retired to live as a hermit in a cave near Subiaco.



His fame spread and disciples began to join him, whom he organized into twelve small monasteries. He eventually moved to Montecassino, where he founded the famous abbey.

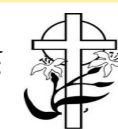
**St. Bonaventure, bishop and doctor of the church – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1221-74,** born in Tuscany. A friend of St. Thomas Aquinas, he taught at the University of Paris and became Minister General of the Franciscan Order.

### The White Fathers

The White Fathers will visit our Parish next weekend Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July. They are still present in 24 African and Middle Eastern countries. From a peak of 3600 in 1967, they are now 1115 from 37 nationalities and are in 44 countries. In many cases their presence is but of 'mustard seed' dimensions. Their communities are largely located in areas where the Church is at an early stage of development. They often represent a focal point of life, justice and hope for the people. Today there are 500 young men in seminaries preparing to become Missionaries of Africa.

**Summer Dues** Envelopes for this collection will be left in the Church for the next few weekends if you would like to contribute to the Common Fund (Income for priests and retired priests).

*We pray for our recently deceased:*



**St. Vincent de Paul**

The outdoor monthly collection for St. Brigid's VdP, will be taken up **THIS** weekend at all Masses.



### A Reflective Sentence

Anyone who knows Easter cannot despair. – Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945 Lutheran theologian, put to death in a Nazi concentration camp)



### Mass Intentions for the week

Sat 6pm	Kathleen & James Burns Elizabeth (Betty) (MM) and Jimmy Leonard
Sun 10.30am	Anne Rogers McGrath Thomas, Sarah & Michael O'Dwyer
Fri	Fr Tom Russell (OFM)

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