

Parish Newsletter

18th February 2018 ✕ 1st Sunday of Lent ✕ Year B



Best wishes to the 41 people who are studying St Matthew's Gospel as the subject of this year's Scripture Study Class

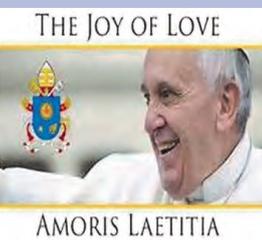
Prayer by text  "The time has come" he said "and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News".



This year's Lenten Trócaire Boxes can be collected from the parish if you have not received one through the schools. When you donate to Trócaire you're not just giving, you're joining the fight for justice.



This Lent, we will be reading Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on love in the family:



'Amoris Laetitia - The Joy of Love'

A link for the text can be found on the Parish website.

Some ideas for Lent this year

Get a Lenten 'Scratch' Card. Each day you scratch off a panel to reveal your daily challenge to **GIVE, PRAY, FAST**.

Each day there is a quote for reflection from the readings. They are available from the Sacristy, Parish Office and Legion Shop.

MASS INTENTIONS

- 6:30pm:** James & Mary Hesnan (A)
- 9:00am:** Altar List of the Dead
- 11:00am:** William, Julie & Bill Jackson; Albert & Thomas Davis & Tom Kennedy (A)
- 12:30pm:** Mary Ryan (A)
- 5:30pm:** Eugene Marron (A)

PRAY FOR

John McGuirk (13th A)

10 AM MASSES NEXT WEEK

- Mon:** Daniel Maughan (A)
- Tues:** Intentions of those who supported a family at the time of bereavement
- Wed:** Thanksgiving Mass
- Pray for:** Margaret Morandeira (5th A)
- Thurs 9am:** Marian Movement of Priests
- Fri 9am:** Ann Cummins (5th A)
- Sat:** Marie Vaughan (A)

Please take this Newsletter home



What abortion is and what abortion is not: The Catholic Church's Teaching

Some of those who advocate deleting or changing Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution, have made it clear that they wish to make abortion available on demand in Ireland. Others say that they are opposed to abortion in general, but would want to see it permitted in certain difficult circumstances.

We do not share that view, because we believe that every unborn child, irrespective of his or her medical condition or the circumstances of his or her birth, has the right to be treated equally before the law.

We are concerned that some elements of the Catholic Church's teaching on the right to life tend to be presented inaccurately:

- The Catholic Church has never taught that the life of a child in the womb should be preferred to that of a mother. By virtue of their common humanity a mother and her unborn baby have an equal right to life.
- Where a seriously ill pregnant woman needs medical treatment which may, as a secondary effect, put the life of her baby at risk, such treatments are always ethically permissible provided every effort has been made to save the life of both the mother and her baby. Abortion, by contrast, is the direct and intentional destruction of an unborn baby and is gravely immoral in all circumstances. It is not a medical treatment.
- When, sadly, a baby dies naturally in the womb before birth, there is no question of the mother being obliged to proceed with the pregnancy. There is now only one "patient", the mother. The mother becomes the sole focus of any medical care that is required. Along with the father, the mother is entitled to the best pastoral care that we can offer, as they grieve the loss of their child.
In the confined context of the debate around the Eighth Amendment, it is important to address difficult cases such as those of children with life limiting conditions; and children conceived as a result of rape, neither of which justifies a change in the basic law:

a) Children with Life Limiting Conditions

It is very distressing for a mother to discover that the baby in her womb is seriously ill and, in all probability will not live. Her dreams and hopes are dashed. She grieves for the child that she will never have. She struggles to tell others of the loss that faces her. The grief of the father is no less real. Children with life-limiting conditions are frequently spoken of as if they were "as good as dead". The use of words like "fatal" or "lethal" to describe these conditions implies that there is something definite about the outcome and that death is imminent and inevitable. The reality is that every case is different and that, while some babies will die before birth, and some will live for just a few hours, others will live for significantly longer.

Many of us have met parents whose children have been born with life-limiting conditions. They have told us about the support they needed to deal with this very difficult situation. They have emphasised how important it was for them to have the memory of doing the best they could for their sick child. They have spoken about how helpful it has been to them to have had the possibility of holding and caring for their child for a few hours or even for a few minutes, until death naturally occurred. Others have told us about their joy in discovering after birth that, while their child did have serious health issues, the prognosis was actually far better than they had originally been given to understand. May we encourage you to listen to their own stories on the websites www.onedaymore.ie and www.everylifecounts.ie.

Even taking the worst case scenarios, the situation of an unborn child with a life-limiting condition is comparable to that of a born child or adult at an advanced stage of terminal illness. One of the particular challenges facing parents of unborn children with life-limiting conditions is the lack of coordinated support for them. We believe a lot more needs to be done to provide appropriate perinatal hospice services, which offer warmth, tenderness, nutrition and hydration and, in that way, support parents in caring for their sick children until natural death. This, rather than the repeal of Article 40.3.3, should be the focus of government policy and it is something towards which we can and should all work.

b) Children conceived as a result of rape

Rape is an act of violence and a crime. A woman who has been raped needs compassionate care and support. Under such circumstances one can scarcely begin to imagine the physical and emotional stress facing the expectant mother. Society has a moral duty to support her and to do so with the utmost compassion.

A child conceived following rape is also a person. He or she has rights, including that most fundamental of all rights, the right to life. Society must similarly extend its support to the unborn baby.

Some people respond to crisis pregnancy by proposing abortion as a solution. It may even seem like the compassionate thing to do. But these children are innocent and they are entitled to the best support and care that we can provide.



Children's tickets are Free but they must be named and registered as part of a Family Group.

www.worldmeeting2018.ie

5 day Ticket: 22nd - 26th August 2018

Online Registration: €68

On the day Registration: €78

Attendance to the 3 day Congress + Guarantee ticket for Festival of Families + Ticket for the Final Mass

1 day Adult Ticket

Online Registration: €38

On the day Registration: €43

Single day attendance to Congress + Option Festival of Families Ticket subject to availability at time of booking + guaranteed ticket for Final Mass (€5 off for Pensioners, students & unwaged)

We need a diverse mix of people with various skills and experiences to ensure the success of this event. Whatever your reasons or your focus, we know your skills and experience can help us and we would welcome your support in creating a successful, historic and joyous event.



WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018

Further details on the website:

www.worldmeeting2018.ie

PARISH DIARY

DATE	EVENT
FEBRUARY 2018	
22nd	Confirmation - St. Cronan's @ 11am
23rd	Confirmation - St. Cronan's @ 11am
MARCH 2018	
5th	DTIM Preparation Group Meeting @ 7:30pm
6th	Parkinson's Group Meeting at 11am
6th	Sacrament of Penance @ 7pm - St. Cronan's
7th	Sacrament of Penance @ 7pm - St. Cronan's
8th	Sacrament of Penance @ 7pm - St. Cronan's

THE PARISH DIARY IS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on the pupils from St. Cronan's Senior School on Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd February at 11:00am. To facilitate this, the daily Mass on both days will be at 9:10am. The Car Park will be closed at 9:30am. Thank you for your co-operation.



Rite of Election

This Sunday our RCIA candidates Esther, Eddie and Kornel with their sponsors will participate in the Rite of Election where their request to become full members of the Catholic Church will be received by Archbishop Martin. Please pray for them as they make this important step in their journey of faith.

ONLINE THEOLOGY COURSE



Study theology by distance learning, attend lectures in Tallaght or from your own home - join us this spring.

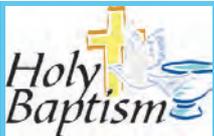
Register by February 27th
CALL (01) 404 8124



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Volunteers are needed for WISH DAY, our annual fundraising day, on Friday 9th March 2018. Please visit www.makeawish.ie to register online or contact Emma Horgan emma@makeawish.ie or call 01 2052011 for more details.



The next Parent Meeting is Thursday 1st March

Next dates for Baptisms:

Sunday 1st April at 11am & 12:30pm Masses

Saturday 14th April at 12:30pm

Sunday 29th April at 1:45pm

Please note one Month's Notice to be given & a copy of baby's Birth Cert is required when booking a Baptism.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation gifts & cards, children's books, Bibles, as well as other religious items etc. available in main porch after Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses.

ROSARY

Honour the Mother of God & begin the New Year with the Rosary. Let us help you get started by having the Rosary Statue in your home. Just leave your contact details with a member of Legion of Mary in main porch after Saturday evening or Sunday morning Masses and suitable arrangements will be made for you.

SERVANT OF GOD, ALFIE LAMBE

Holy Mass for the Beatification of Servant of God, Alfie Lambe, Legion of Mary Envoy to South America, will be celebrated on Sunday, 25th February at 12 noon in Church of the Three Patrons, Rathgar. Celebrant & Homilist - Rev. Fr. Colm Mannion O.P.

EASY EVANGELISATION

Could you give 20-30 minutes per month to help spread the Good News? Helpers needed to deliver the free Catholic Paper "Alive!" in a number of areas of the parish.... Information from Legion of Mary members in main porch after weekend Masses or leave you name & phone number with Louise in parish office.



'LIKE' Legion of Mary Brackenstown Swords

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Mon: 10.30 am – 11.30 am
Wed: 6.00 pm – 11.00 pm
Fri: 10.30 am – 5.45pm
Sat: 10.30am – 11.30am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on the Sundays of Lent from 4pm—5pm. Can you stay one hour with me? We encourage new people to come and join us.

FAMILY OFFERING

We thank all those parishioners who support the running of the parish through the Parish Family Offering fund.

January Standing Order €4,186.00
Outdoor Collection €848.82
Annuals/Half Yearly €200.00

All of the above contributions are recorded for the tax rebate.

COLLECTIONS AT THE WEEKEND MASSES

First Collection €1,599.81 (€369.77 recorded for tax rebate)
Share Collection €1,196.28 (€0 recorded for tax rebate)

BINGO



Every Sunday in the Pastoral Centre at 8pm
Doors open at 7:30pm - Everyone welcome!

Praying with God's Word

Below are the readings for next Sunday:

First Sunday of Lent:

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm 24; Second Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22; Gospel Mark 2:12-15

Second Sunday of Lent:

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18; Psalm 115; Second Reading: Romans 8:31-34; Gospel Mark 9:2-10



PARISH INFORMATION

Mass Times:
Weekday Mass:
Holyday Mass:
Confession:

Sunday (Sat. Vigil) 6:30pm, 9:00am, 11:00am, 12:30pm & 5:30pm
Monday to Saturday 10:00am
Vigil 7:30pm; 10:00am
Saturday 10:30am to 11:00am and 6:00pm to 6:20pm
After 10:00am Mass on the Thursday before the First Friday
01 8401661 – 087 7404729 – pauljthornton@gmail.com
01 8408926 – 089 4238775 – brackenstownparish@gmail.com
089 4614226 – peter.siney@dublindiocese.ie
01 8401188 – brackenstownparish@gmail.com
Mon to Fri. 9.30am – 1.00pm

Fr. Paul Thornton, Adm,
Fr. Bibin Jacob Mukkadaackal C.S.T., C.C.
Peter Siney, Pastoral Worker
Louise Donnelly, Secretary

View our Parish Webcam via the Parish Website



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brackenstown-parish.com



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10/11 March
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DEPRESSION FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE RETREAT
 Join Fr. Jim Noonan ODC & Fadhla McGrane on the 13th October at the Emmaus Centre, Swords. The weekend will bring your peace and comfort through music, praying The Divine Office, daily mass and the sacrament of reconciliation.

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 Please do not hesitate to call us should you need our advice or expertise.
 All enquiries to: Mary McCormack (Managing Director)
 Tel. No: 00353-1-8079631
 Email Address: mccormackm@tara-winthrop.com
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