

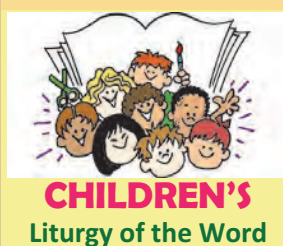
Parish Newsletter

20th May 2018 ✕ Pentecost Sunday ✕ Year B



*Plant seeds
Dream a garden
Seeds of love
Fed with justice
Watered with kindness
**PLAN FOR GOD'S CREATION
TO FLOURISH**
Allow truth to sprout
Compassion to grow
Generosity to be harvested
**Imagine our world
Made new**
Beauty in diversity
Unity not uniformity
ALL THAT IS BROKEN
Transformed to wholeness*

by Christine Sine



The Family Mass Team invite any Primary School age children to be involved in a special Children's Liturgy of the Word during the first part of the

12.30pm Mass on TRINITY SUNDAY, 27th May.

We ask any children who want to take part to gather at Our Lady/Sacred Heart shrines 5 minutes before Mass begins.



In preparation for the upcoming picnic of parishioners in Swords, Rivervalley & Brackenstown, help is required! After all Masses on weekend of 19/20 May, there will be clipboards at the back of the church for people to sign up. Volunteers are needed for roles like traffic stewarding, escorting Ministers of Holy Communion, distributing leaflets, set up and tidy up team, serve tea & coffee etc. We need enough stewards so that nobody is volunteering for more than an hour at a time. If you are available to help on Sunday 10th June please give your name and phone number after Masses next weekend or in the parish office on 01 8401188.

MASS INTENTIONS

6:30pm: Bernie Maher (nee Fitzpatrick) (10th A)
9:00am: Altar List of the Dead
11:00am: Jackie & Peggy Kelly, Tommy Clune & Dcsd Family Members (A)
12:30pm: Michael Kinsella (A)
5:30pm: Eugene Grennan (2nd A)

PRAY FOR

Gerry & Betsy Nolan (A)
Anne Heron (A)
Anne Curtis (A)
Frances O'Hare (A)
Dennis Cullen (A)
Mary Cassidy (B'day Rem)

10 AM MASSES NEXT WEEK

Mon: Patrick, Kathleen & Patrick Jnr. O'Donoghue (A)
Tues: Catherine Harrington (A)
Wed: Frank McCarthy (A)
Thurs: James Nugent (5th A)
Fri: Roger & Dolly Keane and Patrick & Bridie Caulfield (A)
Sat:

Please take this Newsletter home

Take time to consider before you vote on May 25th

Our Parish Approach to the Referendum

Over the past months since the prospect of a Referendum on the 8th Amendment, the Parish has taken an approach to inform our Parishioners about the considerations that the Church asks you to take into account before you vote. We printed the "Two Lives One Love" over 9 weeks in the Newsletter. We have made the Bishop's "Choose Life" Newsletter available in printed form and on the website, where you can read all the issues. We invited Dr. Deirdre Gleeson to speak after Masses on the 5th and 6th May. For some months there has been a dedicated time of "Prayer for Life" on Wednesday evenings from 9pm to 11:00pm. And on the 25th May the Church will have Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 7:00am until 10:00pm.

Now in the week coming up to vote I trust that you have considered the message and vision of these resources

Bishops Statement Our Common Humanity

As pastors we are aware that the conversation about unborn life is sensitive, delicate and, indeed, painful for many. We offer our reflections with the greatest of respect for everyone while wishing to make some points clearly and unambiguously.

Fundamental right

Every one of us has a right to our life. It is not given to us by the *Constitution of Ireland* or by any law. We have it 'as of right', whether we are wealthy or poor, healthy or sick. All human beings have it. For us as a society to now declare that any category of human being should have that right taken from them would be a shocking step. It effectively says that unborn children do not exist or, if they do, they do not count. That is a manifest injustice.

Life begins at conception

At every point, from conception on, the baby has the potential to realise the fullness of life that God intended. All that is needed is time and nurturing. Today we see more clearly that human life begins at conception. There is no later stage in a baby's development where we can say; 'up until now the foetus was not a person and now it has become a baby'.

Are we allowing ourselves to be desensitised?

Making abortion freely available desensitises people to the value of every human life. The scientific evidence about the beginning of human life has never been clearer. It is, therefore, a great irony that we in Ireland are for the first time in our history losing our clarity about the right to life of the unborn. Knowledge about the mysterious workings of DNA and the stunningly vivid evidence of ultrasound images of little persons in the earliest weeks in the womb should be making us more committed than ever to the protection of unborn life.

Choose life

The child in the womb has life and potential. However, like all babies, before birth or in the early years, she or he has no choice. Powerless to defend themselves they rely on the rest of us to protect their lives and vindicate their rights. By using the word 'choice' we need to remember that, for the baby waiting to be born, the choice we make can be a matter of life or death.

Two lives, one love

An expectant mother needs and deserves the care and support of everyone around her, particularly if her pregnancy poses a serious crisis for her and her family. A mother may be informed that her baby faces serious challenges or is perhaps terminally ill. She might be pregnant as a result of rape. Especially in those tragic cases both the mother and her unborn child can – and must – be loved and cherished.

A compassionate society will do all in its power to support and love the mother and baby, and encourage responsible support from fathers. This vision of life makes sense to people of all faiths and none. While it is enriched by our Catholic faith, it is our common humanity that convinces us of the right to life of every human being.

A declaration of equality

Article 40.3.3 is a declaration of equality and respect for human life. It represents, at the very foundations and substructure of our laws, a conviction that all human life is worth cherishing equally. To repeal this Article would leave unborn children at the mercy of whatever permissive abortion laws might be introduced in Ireland in the future.

We invite people of faith to pray earnestly that Ireland will "choose life" and that the lives of all women and their unborn children will always be loved, valued, welcomed and respected in this country.

ECUMENICAL
BIBLE WEEK
20TH - 27TH MAY 2018

Ecumenical Bible Week 2018 will take place from 20th-27th May. Now in its fifth year, it is a parish-based event that is jointly sponsored by the Archdiocese of Dublin, the combined dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough, and other key groups such as Scripture Union. The theme this year is '*Handing on Faith - Crisis, Challenge and the Great Commission*'. It begins on Pentecost Sunday with the launch event, '*Praying the New Cosmology*', and will take place in 13 venues across Dublin and surrounding areas. Two key events take place in Holy Cross College, Clonliffe, Dublin 3 on Thursday 24th May. Further information on www.bibleweek.ie and on Facebook.

Swords · Rivervally · Brackenstown
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incorporating Dublin Airport

PARISH FAMILY PICNIC

in
Colaiste Choilm, Swords

Sunday
10th June 2018

Meet at your Church at 11:45am to walk to
Colaiste Choilm for Mass at 12:30pm

Bring:
A Picnic
Chair
Blanket

After Mass:
Facepainting - Music
Dancing - Balloons
Ice cream - Games
Children's Area and more

All Are Welcome

**We Are
One Family**

**We Keep
One Faith**

Brackenstown Parish invites you, your family and friends to join us for a Holy Mass and Blessing as part of World Meeting of Families. We would like to celebrate 10 Holy Masses, one for each area of the parish. The date and time area of the parish will be published later but will take place on Monday nights at 7:30pm in late May, June, July & early August.

During the Mass we will place a box in the middle of the Church where you can place your petitions and special prayer intentions,. You can also include the names of deceased members of your family.

After Mass, each family will receive a bottle of Holy Water to take with you and bless your home.

Frs. Paul & Bibin

My personal thoughts...

This is the second time in my life that the country has had to make a decision on how the Constitution defines and protects its citizens at a very vulnerable moment, vulnerable as a child growing in the womb and vulnerable as the woman who carries that child. Like many, I thought that to give an equal right to life for both the mother and child was a fair way to express a fundamental vision and with the necessary legislation put in place it would allow medical professionals to do their job of care without fear.

The wording that we are being asked to support or delete from our Constitution is:

"The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal rights of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to vindicate that right."

For thirty five years successive governments have avoided defining the laws and medical guideline that the 8th Amendment needed to be able to protect the two lives that are vulnerable in pregnancy. By their failure, not only are we back into a situation of a Referendum but in the meantime situations that could have been prevented have tragically happened. What we are being asked to do now, as far as I can see it, is to remove the safety net for the unborn and hand to the legislators the decisions about life. I like many, am uneasy about this and feel that once the only piece of legislation that protects life in the womb is removed, we haven't only lost a piece of law but have lost something of our own understanding of humanity.

The 8th Amendment was added to protect two lives and as the arguments have gone on, there has been a polarisation on both sides over which life they wish to protect. Listening to the stories of those who have lived through a crisis pregnancy, who have faced the heartbreak of a child dying in the womb or shortly after birth, of women who find themselves in a situation where the only answer is getting pills online and then facing taking them alone and without emotional support, is something that I cannot imagine. I am a man, I am not a father, I am not a brother, so putting myself in someone's shoes who is going through this trauma is that bit more removed from me than it is for most. But in ministry I have been there for the heartbreak of infant death and seen the pain that no words can ease. I have been with families when a mother has died leaving her infant.

I have also been there when friends show me pictures of the first scan, when people bring me their newly born baby for a blessing and I'm always struck by the delicate smallness and dependency of this child and the joy of the mum as she looks at and cares for her infant.

I have made myself listen to the arguments on both sides and have read articles and opinions. The Jesus I believe in is one of compassion, so I can't close myself off to the reality of crisis pregnancy or the complications faced during pregnancy. But if the only way we can face these situations is to say that if we get rid of the one you can't see, then we are creating a society which has lost its compassion. Whatever the outcome of Friday 25th May things cannot remain the same. No woman should have to feel that in a time of crisis there is only one thing to do. So we need to look at how we teach relationships and sexual education and healthcare. We need to ensure that doctors are clear on what it means to do everything to care for the mother even if the unintended consequence is the loss of the child. We have to provide a place of care and trust for women to be supported through pregnancy. We have to build proper maternity facilities that provide peri-natal and post-natal palliative care when the outcome of pregnancy is the death of the child.

This for me is what the 8th Amendment and the laws that go with it intended to provide and this is where we as a society who values both lives needs to be active. I fear that if we remove the 8th Amendment the safety net that has been there to watch over the unborn will be gone forever and in losing that we lose something of how we see human life especially vulnerable human life.

Over the past few months we have made available to you the reasons why our vision of life as a Christian community is something that is so precious, the life of the mother in pregnancy and the life of the child she carries. Before you vote please look again at these statements and vote in the way that your conscience directs you as the right path for our country and the right care for the two lives in the vulnerability of pregnancy.

Fr. Paul

ST. FRANCIS HOSPICE would like to extend sincerest thanks to those who contributed to the Church Gate Collection in St. Cronan's Church weekend of 28th April, to raise much needed funds. We are delighted to advise the collection amounted to €1925.00.

CROSSCARE YOUTH SERVICES would like to thank you for your most generous contribution to the Annual Collection. The amount raised by Brackenstown Parish was €1,735.00.



The next Parent Meeting is Thursday 7th June

Next dates for Baptisms:

Saturday 9th June at 12:30pm

Sunday 24th June 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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK FOR OUR LADY?

Why not do something new? Legion of Mary needs new members to help Our Lady bring Jesus to more people. Meetings: **adults - Tuesdays 10:30am** in Sisters' House, **and Wednesdays 7:30pm** in Sacristy and **we need more Junior members on Fridays 4:45pm** also Sacristy. Why not come and see what you can do!

THE ROSARY

Praying for a special intention? The "Rosary Statue" was blessed for use in the homes of the parish at the October Candlelight Procession. If you would like to pray the rosary again and have the rosary statue in your home for a week, or **get more information**, please contact a member of Legion of Mary in main porch after Saturday evening or Sunday morning Mass.

EASY EVANGELISATION! SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS!

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... including **St. Cronan's, Park Ave.** Etc. Information from Legion of Mary members in main porch after week-end Masses or leave your 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 the last Sunday of every month 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.

March Standing Order €3,109.00

Outdoor Collection €780.77

Annals/Half Yearly €0.00

All of the above contributions are recorded for the tax rebate

COLLECTIONS AT THE WEEKEND MASSES

First Collection €1,257.50

(€394.90 recorded for tax rebate)

Share Collection €1,056.50

(€243.55 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:

Pentecost Sunday: First Reading: Acts 2:1-11;

Psalm 103; Second Reading: Galatians 5:16-25;

Gospel John 15:26-27, 16:12-15.

Trinity Sunday: First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:32-34,

39-40; Psalm: 32; Second Reading: Romans 8:14-17;

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20



PARISH INFORMATION

Mass Times:

Weekday Mass:

Holyday Mass:

Confession:

Fr. Paul Thornton, Adm,

Fr. Bibin Jacob C.S.T., C.C.

Peter Siney, Pastoral Worker

Louise Donnelly, Secretary

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

View our Parish Webcam via the Parish Website



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DEPRESSION FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE RETREAT

Join Fr. Jim Noonan ODC & Fodhla McGrane on the 15th 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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"Tara Winthrop Private Clinic is a family owned and managed, complex care nursing facility. We have 140 beds consisting of five separate specialist nursing units, catering for the needs of patients with Alzheimer's Disease, under 75 patients with Neurological Injuries and End of Life Care. We employ a highly skilled workforce, consisting of circa 210 employees, under the direction of Ms. Catherine Dunleavy, Director of Nursing, Medical Officer, Dr. Tomasz Tomasiuk, Asst. Directors of Nursing, Physiotherapists, Nursing and Ancillary Staff. During the past fifteen years in existence, we have built up an enviable reputation in the community, in the care of older people."

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: mccormack@tara-winthrop.com

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