



PARISH NEWSLETTER

16th April 2017 ✦ Easter Sunday ✦ Year A

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Please take this Newsletter home

## Easter



## Message

There is a moment in the celebration of the Easter Vigil when I walk into the Church and it is practically empty and in darkness. It is as if an invitation has gone out and no one has turned up! But in my hands I am carrying the Easter Candle and at the door I sing "Christ our Light" and the response comes from behind me "Thanks be to God." As people make their way into the Church from the Easter fire, the place begins to be filled with light and life.

In the light of the Easter candle it reminds us that Jesus comes into a world of darkness to be the light of hope. In recent days it seems that darkness of the world is more intense as we have seen the loss of life in the gas attack in Syria, the attack on St. George's Church in Egypt, those

who died in the mudslide in Columbia, the ongoing terrorist attacks in London, St. Petersburg and other cities, the findings of the investigation into the Mother and baby in Tuam. In the face of so much darkness this flickering candle seems so small and yet in what it proclaims, is that in all of these moments of darkness there is a light that breaks through. The spirit of Jesus is at work when strangers stop to help those who have been hurt, when organisations go into disaster zones to bring relief, when people don't stop in their search for truth and when people of courage stand up.

In recent weeks we have also been aware of the pain of the families of the crew of Rescue 116, a familiar sight and sound over our heads here in Swords. We pray for the Smith and Ormsby families that Ciaran and Paul will soon be returned to them. We remember the Fitzpatrick and Duffy families who laid Dara and Mark to rest and thank them and all who risk their lives for others, for their service.

To be a light in the darkness that brings hope is what we are called to be as a Christian community. But we must come to know the source of light in our lives. During Lent we had a week of prayer where some parishioners went for daily guided prayer. In listening to their experience it was one of finding in Jesus a friend who is there in the turmoil and mess of their lives. In discovering Jesus in this way we can face those times of darkness and know that we are not alone. At this Easter time I pray for all who face dark moments in their lives, may the light of the Risen Christ bring you hope through the kindness and support of family, friends and even strangers. May you and those whom you love be blessed with the light and love of our risen Lord.

*Fr. Paul*

**Catholic Youth Organisation** has a citizenship project with Foróige researching the mental health concerns of young people by identifying how the African Chaplaincy platform can support the positive development of our youths in the church and society. Also as part of our project, each centre of the Catholic Youth Organisation (CYO) of the African Chaplaincy Archdiocese of Dublin, will be fundraising to support the Cross Care family in Blanchardstown, who deal with addressing the issue of Mental Health among youths. Our centre, Swords, will be having a church gate collection at St. Cronan's Parish, Brackenstown on the 16th April 2017 to fundraise. We would greatly appreciate any support to help raise awareness for this cause. Thank you and God Bless.



**Please come into the Parish Centre for some refreshments this Easter after Saturday Vigil and Sunday morning Masses. We would be delighted if you could join us.**

## Brackenstown Parish Pastoral Council



The present Parish Pastoral Council has been in existence now for almost 7 years, and having served 2 terms and in accordance with our constitution we will shortly be standing down and so we are now about to embark on the recruitment process for the next PPC. Inside the Easter envelope which was delivered to the parish you will have found a note from the PPC and in Palm Sunday's newsletter there was a copy of our constitution, both of which would give a little insight into the role of the parish Pastoral Council and also with the constitution there was a nomination form. There will also be some nomination forms available at the back of the church. You can nominate yourself or someone else, but we would ask that if you are nominating someone that you ask them first. Completed forms can be placed in the suggestion box in the porch and the closing date is 1<sup>st</sup> May and then early to mid May we will meet with all nominees and detail and plan the next steps. Again we really appreciate and thank you for your support and prayers over the last seven years.

## Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet

Good Friday 14th April - Saturday 22nd April  
Devotional Leaflets available in the Church

### FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY



Divine Mercy devotions will take place in this church Sunday next 23rd April commencing 2:45pm consisting of chaplet of Divine Mercy, confessions, readings from St. Faustina's Diary, Adoration, Benediction, concluding with the usual 5:30pm evening Mass.

### Next dates for Baptisms:

Sunday 14th May 1:45 pm

Saturday 27th May 12:30 pm

Sunday 28th May 1:45 pm

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



The next  
Parent Meeting is  
Thursday 4th May  
at 8:00pm in  
St. Cronan's  
Parish Centre

## 40th Anniversary Celebration Mass

On the 11<sup>th</sup> December 1977 our Church was blessed, dedicated and formally opened for worship. Over those 40 years many people have prayed here, celebrated Sacraments and marked the passing of loved ones.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June Bishop Raymond Cronan will celebrate the 12:30pm Mass. The statue of St. Cronan which we have commissioned will be blessed that day. Please put the date in your diary and join us for this special celebration.



## MASS INTENTIONS

**9:00pm:** Bridget, Patrick & Colin Green (A)

**9:00am:** Altar List of the Dead

**11:00pm:** Annie, Tom & Philomena O'Leary (A)

**12:30pm:** Michael Harvey (RD)

**5:30pm:** Enda Rogers (B'day Rem)

## PRAY FOR

James Boylan (Rem)

Martina Harley (B'day & A)

Marie Dillon (A)

## MASSES NEXT WEEK

**Mon:** Alan Kavanagh (A)

**Tues:** Kirsten Victoria (B'day Rem)

**Wed:** Mary Ellen & Jack Delamere (A)

**Thurs:** Margaret Kearns (A)

**Fri:** James Pentony (A)

**Sat:** Joe O'Reilly (MM)

## ST CRONAN'S STATUE UPDATE

The statue of St Cronan will be dedicated and blessed by Bishop Field on Pentecost Sunday 4th June. Sculptor Seighean O Draoi has kindly sent some photos which show the completed background stone "wall". The wall depicts a sea-raiders' ship, St Cronan and all of his brother monks were martyred on a single night by a party of sea-raiders. The annals mention two dates, AD 631 & 636. The image of a Christian martyr traditionally depicts the means by which the martyrdom occurred, hence the image of the sea-raiders' ship. The ruins of the Nunnery/Glasmore Abbey located in Lioscian estate are believed to indicate the original site of St Cronan's monastery. Donation envelopes are available at the back of Church. So far we have raised €3,375 of the €5,302 cost of the project. We still need to raise €1,927, can you help?. All donations of €20 or more will receive a St Cronan Statue donation certificate. Thank you for your support, it is much appreciated.



## Praying with God's Word

Below are the readings for Easter and the Second Sunday after Easter:

**Easter Sunday:** First Reading Acts of the Apostles (Acts) 10:34, 37-43; Second Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians (Col.) 3:1-4; Gospel John (Jn.) 20:1-9

**2nd Sunday of Easter:** First Reading Acts of the Apostles (Acts) 2:42-47; Second Reading 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of St. Peter (1Pet) 1:3-9; Gospel John (Jn.) 20:19-31



## RELIGIOUS GOODS

Crucifixes, Statues, 1st Holy Communion Prayer Books, beads, medals, gifts, cards, as well as Confirmation Gifts etc. available in main porch, after Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses.



## 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 every Sunday during Lent from 4pm–5pm.** Can you stay one hour with me? We encourage new people to come and join us.

## LENT

**Did you give up something?... Why not take up something!** If you could give 20-30 minutes per month you could do a lot to spread the Good News. Help needed to deliver the free Catholic Paper "Alive!" in a number of areas of the parish...eg. **Knocksedan, Glasmore Park, Ashton, Castlevue etc.** Information from Legion of Mary members in main porch after Saturday evening or Sunday morning Masses and arrangements will be made to suit you.

## FAMILY OFFERING

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

**February Standing Order € 3,473**  
**Outdoor Collection €683.45**  
**Annals/Half Yearly €0.00**

## BINGO

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

## THE ROSARY

Prayer is of vital importance in our lives. We pray in praise, petition, thanksgiving. Our Lady asks us to pray the Rosary. Why not make a new start? Having the Statue of Our Lady in your home for a week should help you to take the first step. Just leave your name & contact details with a member of Legion of Mary after Saturday evening or Sunday morning Masses and arrangements will be made to suit you.



Please 'LIKE' Legion of Mary Brackenstown Swords on Facebook!

## PRIESTS OF THE PARISH .....(Part 1)

In 1976 Brackenstown Parish was founded. Its original parish Priest was Fr. Finn McHale, who had been senior curate in Fairview parish. He literally had to start his new parish 'from scratch', renting a house in St. Columba's to live in, while he worked on plans for his new parish. From the beginning he had solid help and support from his new parishioners. His task was formidable, he had to acquire and develop the parish site, draw up plans, work-out a 'modus operandi'. He was, of course, able to draw on Archbishop's house at all times for advise and support, but he was, nevertheless, as the man on the ground, the main manager of the project.

In 1982, Fr. McHale, now Cannon McHale, was transferred from Brackenstown to become Parish Priest of Raheny parish. The bond with Brackenstown was special, a "first" for Fr. McHale and a "first" for Brackenstown which had been a rural area previously; in fact had "adopted" the name Brackenstown and brought it into general usage. (Brackenstown was the name of the local training stables, the church is actually built between on the townlands of Brazil and Mooretown). Because the training stables were the main source of employment in the area for generations, the phrase, 'going up to Brackenstown' was used hundreds of times each day, by the local population. The name seemed to fit the new parish very well, just as the title 'Parish Priest of Brackenstown' fits all of our parish priests.

The shortage of priests was not acute as it is now and within a couple of years, Brackenstown acquired 2 curates. These were Fr. Denis Henry, a very energetic C.C., now a P.P. in the southern part of the diocese, and in 1978, Fr. Joseph Begg C.S.S.P. now deceased, R.I.P.

Fr. John O'Connell succeeded Fr. McHale as P.P. He worked hard at the consolidation of the parish, organising extra church seating and various other additional items. He established the Parish Secretariat in 1983. A parishioner, Joanne Kelleghan, was appointed to the position. Permanent parish secretaries were not yet an established necessity within the diocese; Joanne's appointment was the second.

During his time in Brackenstown, Fr. O'Connell had some health problems necessitating hospital stays. He sadly died in 1988, on the altar in the church, as he celebrated morning Mass.



*Aine Shields*

## PARISH INFORMATION

### Mass Times:

Sunday: 6:30pm (Sat. Vigil); 9:00am, 11:00am, 12:30pm & 5:30pm

### Weekday Mass:

Monday to Saturday 10:00am

### Holyday Mass:

Vigil 7:30pm; 10:00am

### Confession:

Saturday 10:30am to 11:00am and 6:00pm to 6:20pm

**Fr. Paul Thornton, Adm,**  
**Fr. Joseph Njanackal, C.S.T., C.C.**  
**Peter Siney, Pastoral Worker**  
**Louise Donnelly, Secretary**

After 10:00am Mass on the Thursday before the First Friday  
 01 8401661 – 087 7404729 – pauljthornton@gmail.com  
 01 8408926 – brackenstownparish@gmail.com  
 089 4614226 – peter.siney@dublindiocese.ie  
 01 8401188 – brackenstownparish@gmail.com  
 Mon to Fri. 9.30am – 1.00pm



## CHURCH GATE COLLECTIONS

**29/30 April**  
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**13/14 May**  
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