



25th December 2020
Christmas Day ✕ Year B

Emmanuel - God Is With Us

I want to wish you, your family and friends a very Happy and Blessed Christmas. This time of year is one that we look forward to spending time with family and friends, celebrating our Christmas Masses and singing Carols with gusto. It is hard that all of these things are going to be limited or not going to happen. It is a time when we have to work even harder to reach out and make those connections which have never been as important as they are this year.

When we look back on this year it is easy to want to just write it off and not want to remember it. For those of us who have lost loved ones it has been really hard to grieve for them as we could not spend time together to honour their lives in the usual way. If you have lost someone we will be praying for you during our Christmas Masses. If you know someone who has had a death in the family, try to make contact with them even just to say "I'm thinking of you."

When we reflect on the story of the Nativity it is about God being with us. God being with us no matter what. The first Christmas was very simple. It was also in a turbulent time of leaving home, being away from family, relying on the kindness of strangers and knowing God's love for us in a new way. Throughout these months there has been such an extraordinary amount of care from people who you might have known to wave at when passing their house, to them reaching out and caring for you. Such expressions of connection have helped so many get through the days and weeks of isolation.

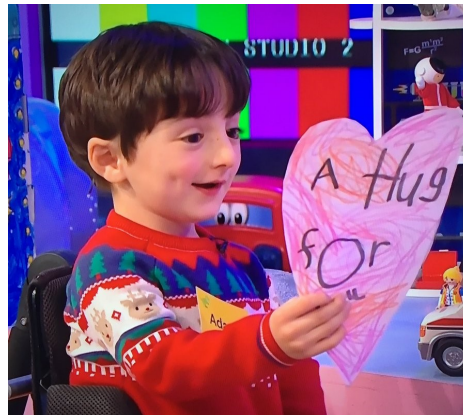
Here in the Parish we have connected together through our webcam for Masses, our nightly rosary and weekly Taizé Prayer. Knowing that there are people joining from their homes here in Swords and further afield has given a sense of solidarity and connection that we are praying with one another, for one another and for those who have asked us to remember them.

When you light your candle on the dinner table this Christmas take a moment to think of all the members of your family, all

the families and individuals around you who are doing the same thing. Send to them the loving kindness of the new born king, the light that has come into the world. In this you are like Adam on the *Late Late Toy Show*, who got around the restrictions by sending a virtual hug to those whom he met. In your prayerful thoughts you are sharing the good news of Christmas with others.

Have a beautiful Christmas and may you and your loved ones be blessed with the peace of Christ.

Fr. Paul



My warmest greeting and Christmas blessings from Kerala. I want to wish all the people of Brackenstown a very happy Christmas and hope that even with all the restrictions you will know the joy and the love of the Christ child.

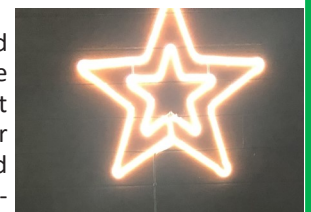
Thank you for all your prayers for my mother, Rosa, who is doing very well now. She is at home and just goes to hospital for treatment. It has been so good to have the time with her and my family. I look forward to returning to Ireland in January and catching up with you all.

Until we meet, stay safe and may God's loving presence watch over you and protect you.

Fr. Bibin



Our crib this year is located inside the window of the Main Porch. We hope that when you are out for your walk that you will come and bring your children or grandchildren to say a prayer in front of it. There will be a crib prayer for families in the window either side of the crib. It looks really good in the evenings. Thanks to Declan and his team.



Christmas Day Masses can be viewed on Webcam
Vigil Masses - 4 pm, 6 pm, 8 pm & 10pm Christmas Day - 8am, 10 am & 12 Noon
All Mass Intentions are for Christmas Bouquet Cards

Restrictions from 26th December

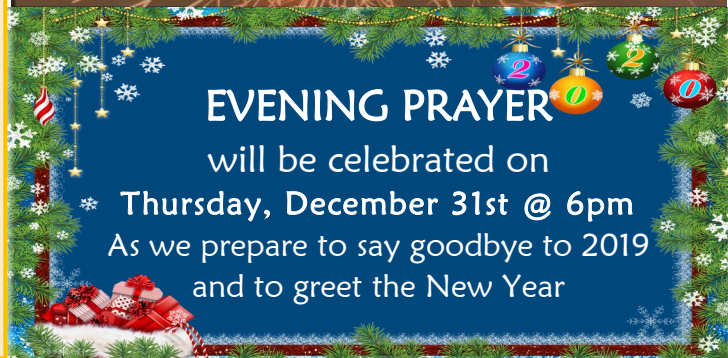
- ◆ The following restrictions come into effect on 26th December.
- ◆ All Religious Services will be available online from then until further notice.
- ◆ Funerals can only have 10 people present.
- ◆ Weddings can only have 6 guests.
- ◆ There will be no Adoration or public praying of the Rosary.
- ◆ The Church will remain open for private prayer. Remember that when you visit the Church use the entry/exit system as marked. Wipe down any area you touch or sit at, with the disinfectant provided and dry with the blue towels.
- ◆ Maintain social distancing within the Church and Car Park.
- ◆ The following services will be provided online:
- ◆ Saturday 26th: Mass at 11:00am
- ◆ Sunday 27th: Mass at 9:00am & 11:00am
- ◆ Monday 28th to Thursday 31st: Mass at 10:00am
- ◆ Thursday 31st Evening Prayer at 6:00pm
- ◆ Friday 1st January 2021: Mass at 10:00am
- ◆ Saturday 2nd Mass at 10:00am & 6:30pm
- ◆ Sunday 3rd Mass at 9:00am & 11:00am
- ◆ We await Diocesan guidance on other service such as Confession.
- ◆ The Church will open 15mins after the last Mass and close at 6:00pm each evening.

CHRISTMAS DUES

The Christmas Dues together with the First Collection at Mass and the Easter Dues goes to support myself, Fr. Bibin and the sick & retired Priests of the Diocese. We sincerely appreciate your generosity to this collection. There is a financial benefit to the Parish as your Dues contributions can be included in your Family Offering for the Tax Reclaim Scheme. Thank you again for your generosity and for all your support at Christmas and throughout the year.

Fr. Paul & Fr. Bibin.

AS YOU CELEBRATE THE GLORY OF THIS MIRACULOUS SEASON, MAY YOUR HOME BE FILLED WITH LOVE, PEACE, AND JOY. MAY THESE BLESSINGS FOLLOW YOU THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR.



READINGS FOR Feast of the Holy Family

1st Reading: Gen 15:1-6; 21:1-3
PSALM: Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
2nd Reading: Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-18
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

READINGS FOR 2nd Sunday of Christmas

1st Reading: Sir 1-2, 8-12
PSALM: Ps. 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20
2nd Reading: Eph 1:3-6, 15-18
Gospel: Jn 1:1-18

*Praying with
God's Word*

Sunday 27th December Mass Intentions
 Kathleen, Marie, Aisling & Sharon Skelton (A)
 Norah, Michael Snr & Michael Jnr Ward (A)
 Pat Tierney (2A) & Jonny O'Sullivan (5A)

Mon

Jim Reid (A)
 Pray for Christopher & Christina Coffey (BR)

Tues

Eileen, Pat & Michael Howard (A)
 Pray for Vincent Healy (A) and Willie, Eileen & Maria Adams (A)

Wed

Maoliosa & Bobby McCourt
 Pray for Jim Rogers (A)

Thurs

Thomas Greene (A)

Fri 11am

John Keaney (A)

Sat

For all who supported the family of the late Douglas Crosbie

Pray For
Altar List of the Dead
 Madge Hickey & Dcsd Family Members (A)
 Gabriel Murphy & Dcsd Family Members (A)
 Katrina Harford (A)

Sunday 3rd January Mass Intentions
 Christina Walsh & Olive Brennan (A)
 Myles Kenny (A)
 Katherine Mallin (A)
 Robert Nolan (A) & Freda Nolan (R)
 Mary Holland (RD)

Mon

Frances McEntee Nolan (RD)

Tues

Charlotte, Vincent & Fintan Delamere (A)
 Pray for Lawrence & Ann Mongan & Dcsd Family Members

Wed

Catherine White (A)

Thurs

Anne & Laurence Maughan (A)

Fri

William & Lily McNamara (A)

Sat

Marian Movement for Priests

Pray For
Altar List of the Dead

View our Parish Webcam via the Parish Website www.brackenstown-parish.com

CONTACT



brackenstownparish

Fr. Paul Thornton, Adm, 01 8401661 – 087 7404729
 pauljthornton@gmail.com

Fr. Bibin Jacob C.S.T., C.C. 01 8408926 – 089 4238775
 brackenstownparish@gmail.com



@cronanparish

Niamh Morris, Pastoral Worker
 085 7708759; niamh.morris@dublindiocese.ie

Louise Donnelly, Secretary Mon to Fri. 9.30am – 1.00pm
 01 8401188 – brackenstownparish@gmail.com



01 8401188