



18th December 2016 4th Sunday in Advent — Year A

CHURCH OF ST. CRONAN BRACKENSTOWN PARISH PARISH NEWSLETTER



Emmanuel: God-With-Us

What does it mean for us that God is with us? What difference does it make that in Jesus, God has walked among us, understood the sorrow and joy of our life, the things that hold us back and the things that draw out the very best in us?

A part of the reality of what Christmas means gets lost in the beautiful image of the crib. Yet for God to enter into our lives he had to come into the world the same way that we do. But the message grows and doesn't stay stuck in this moment. When you look at all the things that are associated with the birth in the crib there are so many things which show that the God-with-us is a challenging reality.

The stable was a place of compromise because there was no room in the inn. The Shepherds were a group that wasn't trusted by people, yet they are the first to worship this new born king. The Kings carry three gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. It points to the way that he will accomplish his kingdom through suffering and death.

Emmanuel, God-with-us, is one who touches the parts of our lives that we hide away, that we can be ashamed of, that isolate us. Emmanuel, God-with-us, goes into the messy parts of our lives. Emmanuel, God-with-us, reaches out to those who are on the outside, excluded, abandoned. Emmanuel, wants to be God-with-us. Do you want him to be with you?

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name that means "God-is-with-us".

4th Week:
Prayer by text 

RECONCILIATION SERVICES

*Swords
Brackenstown*

Monday 19th December at 7.30pm
Tuesday 20th December at 7.30pm

MASS INTENTIONS

6:30pm: Anastasia Kelly & D'csd Family Members
9:00am: Altar List of the Dead
11:00pm: Margaret Doyle (A)
12:30pm: Michael Ward (MM), Norah & Michael Ward Snr. (A)
5:30pm: Jerry, Marion, Jerry & Kim O'Rourke (Rem)

PRAY FOR

Chris Barnes (MM)
Michael Harvey (MM)
Ciara Fagan (1st A)
Kevin Donnelly (B'day Rem)
D'csd Members of Hughes Family
Ann Browne (Rem)
Bernard & Margaret Casey (Rem)
Peggy & Brian Casey (Rem)

MASSES NEXT WEEK

Mon: Patrick & Joseph White (A)
Pray for: Eileen McGuirk
Tues: Helen Madden & Family (A)
Wed: Henry & Teresa McGuirk; John & Annie McNally (A)
Thurs: Special Intention
Fri: Kathleen & Sandra Brophy (A)
Pray for: Noel Hoey (6th A)
Sat: Special Intention

Please take this Newsletter home



Christmas Timetable 2016
St. Cronan's Church, Brackenstown



CHRISTMAS MASSES

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 24th December 10.30am – 12.00pm & 2.00pm - 3.00pm

Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

Vigil Mass at **6.00pm** (Family Mass)
 Mass of the Nativity at **9.30pm** (Carols from 9.15pm)

Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day)

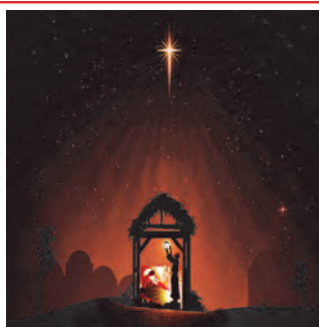
Masses **9.00am, 10.30am and 12.00pm**
No Evening Mass

Monday 26th December

Mass at **11.00am**

Tuesday 27th to Saturday 31st December

Mass at 10.00am



Sunday 1st January 2016 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Vigil Mass: 6:30pm (Saturday); 9:00am; 11:00am & 12:30pm
No Evening Mass (6:30pm Mass in St. Colmcille's Church)

Friday 6th January 2017 (Feast of the Epiphany)

Vigil Mass (Thursday) 7:30pm and Mass (Friday) 10:00am & 7:30pm
Epiphany Gifts can be brought to all Masses between 1st & 10th January 2016



Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its next monthly Parent Evening on Wednesday 21st of December from 19:30 to 21:00 in B.A.S.E Brackenstown Road, Swords, Co. Dublin. This event is open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether the death was recent or not.



CALLING ALL SHEPHERDS & ANGELS!!

Are you aged between 5 & 12?
 Would you like to take part in our Nativity Play during the 6:00pm Mass on 24th December?

Come along to the practice on:
Sunday 18th December after the 12:30pm Mass

Thursday 22nd December at 7:00pm

Saturday 24th December at 4:30pm (Just before 6:00pm)

Would you have any Angel or Shepherd children's costumes to lend for the Nativity Play?

It would be much appreciated!



Christmas Mass Cards

Available from the Parish Office for €5.00. The intentions of the Masses over Christmas are for the names on these cards.

Brackenstown Bible Study 2017

During 2016 we ran two very informative and enjoyable Scripture study courses. In spring we followed Jeff Cavins 8 week DVD study "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible". In the autumn we completed Jeff Cavins 13 week "The Bible Timeline Reading Plan". During 2017 we will study Jeff Cavins 23 week DVD course "The Bible Timeline; The Story of Salvation". The course will consist of 12 classes in the spring and 11 classes in the autumn. This is the foundational study in *The Great Adventure* Bible Study Series that has helped hundreds of thousands of Catholics learn to read the Bible. *The Bible Timeline* is a fascinating study that takes participants on a journey through the entire Bible. They will go deep into each period of salvation history and discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. Using a unique color-coded system, they will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and see how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith.



Course Duration: Spring classes commence Monday 30/01/17; twelve sessions. Autumn classes commence Monday 04/09/17; eleven sessions.

Course Cost: €20.00 to cover the cost of the DVDs & the study book

Course Time: Monday evenings from 7.30 to 9.00 p.m **Venue:** St Cronan's Parish Pastoral Centre. **Bookings:** by 09/01/17. Limited to 35 people

Contact: Louise 01-8401188; **Email:** brackenstownparish@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS DUES

The Christmas Dues together with the First Collection at Mass and the Easter Dues goes to support myself and Fr. Joseph and the sick and retired Priests of the Diocese. We really 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. Under the terms of this scheme only the Dues banked before 31st of December can be claimed in the 2016 submission. Any received after that date will be included in the 2017 claim. It would be helpful if we can get as many of the Christmas Dues returned by the 31st December.

Thank you again for your generosity and for all the support you give to myself and Fr. Joseph.

Fr. Paul



Envelope Delivery Team

Thank you to all who volunteered to become part of our delivery team.

Your help is greatly appreciated in this important outreach to parishioners and all in our parish.



Prayer Tree

The Thanksgiving Prayers have now been removed and our theme for the Prayer Tree this month is "Our Christmas Prayers". You can write your Christmas prayer on a post it and put it on the tree (between St. Anthony and St. Francis). Remember to pray for all the prayers that are there as you add yours.

Christmas Tree Stars and Angels

If you would like to remember a loved one who has died or who is away from home this Christmas you can write their name on a star which will be put on our Christmas Tree. If you want to remember a baby who has died, a miscarriage or still birth you can write their name or the date you lost them on the angel which will also go on our Christmas tree.

Both the stars and angels are on the table beside the Jesse Tree and you can put them into the white box provided.

PARISH DIARY

DATE	EVENT
DECEMBER 2016	
19th DEC	Reconciliation Service St. Colmcille's 7:30pm
20th DEC	Reconciliation Service St. Cronan's 7:30pm
JANUARY 2017	
6th JAN	EPIPHANY MASS - Vigil Mass (Thursday) 7:30pm & Mass (Friday) 10:00am & 7:30pm
14th JAN	DO THIS IN MEMORY MASS 6:30PM
15th JAN	DO THIS IN MEMORY MASS 12:30PM
18-25 JAN	WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
21st JAN	COME FOLLOW ME MASS 6:30PM
22nd JAN	COME FOLLOW ME MASS 5:30PM

THE PARISH DIARY IS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

Dates for Baptisms:

8th January 11am & 12:30pm
14th January 12:30pm
28th January 12:30pm
29th January 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 Preparation Meeting is Thursday 5th January 2017 at 8pm in St. Cronan's Parish Centre.

BINGO

EVERY SUNDAY

in the Pastoral Centre at
8:00pm
Doors Open at 7:30pm
Everyone welcome



St. Vincent de Paul

Last week's annual collection again showed the great generosity of the people of the Parish. The collection brought in €8,000.00 which will go a long way to help them in their work in the coming year. It was great to have members of the Brackenstown Conference speaking at all the Masses. In this day and age when we are told they things are getting better, there are still so many families who are being left behind. Through the work of St. Vincent de Paul members there is someone there to reach out to them in these difficult times.

If you would consider helping as a volunteer you can leave your name in the Parish Office or contact SVP headquarters at 018386990 or info@svp.ie.

If you need help from SVP you can also ring 018386990.

The Lions Club in Swords do a great collection of food at the local supermarkets. Again the generosity of the people of the area has been outstanding. This year the Brackenstown Conference alone will help over 100 families in the Parish. This picture shows the hampers which the members of the Conference put together with the help of the students from Colaiste Choilm.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Church Art Calendars, little Christmas book sets, Christmas Cards, Crib Figures, Stables, little gifts etc. available in main porch after Saturday evening & 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 of Advent from 4pm–5pm. Can you stay one hour with me? We encourage new people to come and join us.

THE ROSARY

Praying for a special intention? Praying for peace? 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 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 Masses.

FAMILY OFFERING

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

October Standing Order €3,691
Outdoor Collection €836.09
Annuals/Half Yearly €250.00

Introduction of an envelope system for the 1st collection

Thank you to those who have returned the forms that were inserted recently in the parish newsletter. As mentioned there are substantial benefits to the Parish to be gained by using an envelope system for the 1st collection at no extra cost to anyone. Information sheets on how this scheme works are available on the tables at the back of the church. Thank you for your generous support of our Parish.



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
After 10:00am Mass on the Thursday before the First Friday

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

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

17/18 December
No Collection

24/25 December
No Collection

7/8 January
No Collection



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Best wishes to all Parishioners from the Blanc family and the whole team at Sherry FitzGerald Blanc

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