

3rd January 2021
2nd Sunday of Christmas ✠



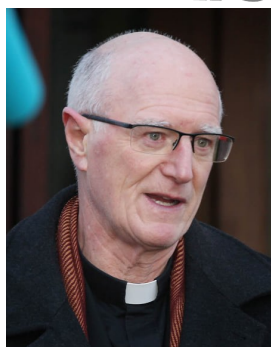
Wishing you and your loved ones every blessing in what we hope will be a better and healthier year.

Welcome back

It is with great happiness that we welcome Fr. Bibin back from his break in India. His mother's health has greatly improved and he thanks everyone for their prayer and kindness.

Fr. Bibin was tested in Kerala before he left and his test came back negative. However he has to isolate for 14 days from the 1st January, after which he will be tested again before returning to ministry. You can contact him by phone or email but please don't call to his house until his time isolation is finished. You can leave anything for him with Fr. Paul.

New Archbishop of Dublin



On Tuesday 29th of December, Archbishop Okolo, the Papal Nuncio, announced that Dr. Dermot Farrell would succeed Archbishop Diarmuid Martin as the pastoral leader of the Church in the Dublin Diocese. The announcement took place in Sean MacDermott Street Church and it is expected that the formal installation will take place on the 2nd February. We welcome Archbishop elect to Dublin at a very challenging time for the Church in Ireland. With the support of the people, clergy and lay leaders of the Diocese he will be supported in the work of preaching the good news.

We thank Archbishop Martin for his ministry over the past 16 years and wish him every blessing. Those years were marked with the most

ing in where his future takes rapid changes in Irish society and the place of the Church in public life. The robust way in which he faced the failures of the past and has put in place a child safeguarding structure in every Parish in the Diocese will be his legacy. He has challenged structures and reached out to those whose lives were damaged by members of the clergy. We hope that he enjoys many years of good health in his retirement.



EPIPHANY

Epiphany Gifts Appeal

Each year we support the Alice Leahy Homeless Trust with our Epiphany Gifts. Things are a bit different this year and Alice has sent us a wishlist of the things they need. If you can help please put the items beside the Christmas Tree in the Church up to 6th January.

Jeans – Mens: Waist 30/32/34. Ladies: All sizes: T-Shirts/Shirts/Jumpers / Fleece / Hoodies; Shoes/Runners – Mens 7/8/9/10/11. Ladies: All sizes Sleeping Bags/Tracksuits /Anoraks – Ladies/Mens; Towels/Rucksacks / schoolbags

Toiletries:

Disposable Razors/Hair brushes and combs/Soap/Shampoo/Deodorants/ Perfume/After-shave Please note only aerosols (roll-on deodorants can only be used once)

Shaving Cream/Gel/Disposable Razors/Toothbrushes

Tea/Coffee/Cup A Soups; Biscuits/Cakes; Sugar

Hats/Caps/Gloves/Scarves; Magazines/Paperbacks; Small bars/sweets



Understanding Epiphany with the Russian Orthodox Church

On 12th January you are invited to a zoom presentation by Fr Mikhail Nasonov of the Russian Orthodox Church in Dublin. You must register your interest at brackenstownparish@gmail.com and we will send you the link.

Fr. Mikhail Nasonov is Rector of the patriarchal monastery of the Church of Holy Apostles Peter and Paul in Dublin. He was born in 1973 in Sevastopol. He studied theology in St. Petersburg and in Paris at the St. Sergius Orthodox Theological Institute. After receiving religious education the priest worked in the seminary in Kostroma and then taught at St. Tikhon's Theological University in Moscow. He was ordained a priest in Kostroma. Father Michael came to Ireland in April 2011. He has a wife and three children.

Masses for the Feast of the Epiphany will be online at 7:30pm on Tuesday 5th and 10:00am on Wednesday 6th January. There will be no evening Mass.

COVID19 RESTRICTIONS

All Masses are online only: Mon to Sat 10:00am; Sunday 6:30pm(Sat. vigil) 9am and 11am

Rosary and Night Prayer online 8:30pm Mon to Fri (from 4th January) Taizé Prayer Friday 7:30pm (from 11th Jan)

Confessions Saturdays 10:45am to 11:30 in Pastoral Centre. Church closes at 4:00pm until 4th Jan, 6pm from then.

Saying goodbye to a strange year - Looking forward in hope

It's hard to find the words to describe 2020 without getting too depressed. Yet throughout the year the Parish was seen to respond to the challenges that were set before us with creativity, determination and teamwork. The restrictions that we have faced week after week and continue to live with, have changed the way we are as a Parish. The things that we have taken for granted now become precious and important.

There are many people who exercise their ministries in various ways in our Parish and one of the times that we usually see this is at Easter. Sadly this year Easter took place behind closed doors with a handful of people leading the Liturgy. It was hard for many people who give their time and commitment so generously to be told that for a time that they have to step aside, just because they had reached a certain age. I know that many felt this was unjust but like every family in the country we tried to do what was best to protect those who are the most vulnerable to this virus. I thank you for your sacrifice, your understanding and your support.

When the time came for us to reopen it was under the strictest of conditions. A reopening group of people who had skills in organisation, infection control and working with crowds was established. They took the guidelines and looked at how they applied to St. Cronan's Church and then set about implementing them. They asked for volunteers to help with the cleaning of the Church and the stewarding of people coming into and leaving the Church. An emphasis was also placed on the personal responsibility of everyone. Together this worked and continues to work very well. Without this leadership group and all the volunteers, our Church would not have been open for Masses when we could be. I thank them for their willingness, dedication and hard work. Also for their adaptability to turn things around at short notice and make ceremonies like First Holy Communion happen.

In the times when we couldn't gather in the Church we embraced technology in a whole new way. Our webcam which had been nice to have, became the means through which we prayed together and celebrated the Feasts and devotions that are so much part of our lives. Our Facebook Page also became a key communication tool, reaching out to families, delivering messages and keeping a wide group of people in touch with us and with one another.

We had an Easter Garden with the flowers drawn by the children and sent into us, a virtual Nativity that drew on artistic, musical and reading talents of so many. Our webcam helped us to reach out to families who had been bereaved and for whom saying goodbye was much harder having to be apart from family and friends.

Our music ministry changed and adapted and led us through beautiful liturgies, raising our thoughts and prayers to God. In trying to keep a sense of normality we kept the Church open, decorated it for the various events during the year and made it as welcoming as possible even though it was freezing cold! The Parish Office continued to offer its services both in person and online and an amazing job was done in reorganising First Holy Communion, Baptisms and providing a ticketing service for Christmas Masses.

In a year where we installed our new Sanctuary furniture, one of our parishioners was ordained as a Permanent Deacon and we look forward to our new Archbishop, it is easy to forget that amid the hardship, these and other good things continued to happen.

I have deliberately not named people whom I wish to thank as this year more than ever we have come together, supported each other and kept the Parish open and connected. To all I say thank you for the part you played. With every blessing *Fr. Paul*

Calendar, Sacraments and Restrictions

As we begin another Level 5 restriction the only ceremonies that can take place with a congregation are Wedding (with 6 guests) and Funerals (with 10 mourners). All other ceremonies will be online only.

We have families who had booked Baptisms in 2020 who have not yet been able to celebrate this Sacrament and we will be facilitating them first before we issue dates for this year. As there is so much uncertainty what we ask you to do is email the Parish Office with your request for Baptism and include what month you would like to celebrate the Baptism. There are only ten family members with each child and a max. of four baptisms at one ceremony.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation dates will not be set until we see how this year improves with the Church being open. The Sacraments will be celebrated later than usual and there will be a restriction on numbers in the Church. This means that half a class (50 people) or at max 1 full class (100 people) at each ceremony.

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. You can donate online using the button on the Parish website or drop your envelope into the white letterboxes in the Church. Thank you again for your generosity and for all your support at Christmas and throughout the year. *Fr. Paul & Fr. Bibin.*

ALL WEEKEND MASSES WILL BE OFFERED FOR INTENTIONS

Christina Walsh (A)
Olive Brennan (A)
Myles Kenny (A)
Katherine Mallin (A)
Robert Nolan (A)
Freda Nolan (Rem)
Mary Holland (RD)

PRAY FOR

Altar List of the Dead
John Cawley (RD)
Mgr. Tom Stack (RD)

10 AM MASSES NEXT WEEK

Mon: Francis McEntee-Nolan (RD)
Charlotte, Vincent & Fintan Delamere(A)
Tues: Laurence and Ann Maughan & Decd Family
Wed: Catherine White (A)
Thur: Anne & Laurence Maughan (A)
Fri: William & Lily McNamara (A)
Sat: Marian Movement of Priests

CONTACT

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



Brackenstownparish



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Declan Colgan, Permanent Deacon

01 8401188—brackenstownparish@gmail.com

Louise Donnelly, Secretary Mon to Fri. 9.30am – 1.00pm

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