

# ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP OF BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS, RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE PARISHES

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

22 FEBRUARY 2026

YEAR A

It is perhaps significant that Ash Wednesday this year, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent, occurred just a day before the beginning of Ramadan, the 9<sup>th</sup> month in the Islamic lunar calendar. During Ramadan, Muslims observe a strict fast from food and liquids each day from sunrise to sunset. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam and is an invitation to a renewal of faith. It must be very difficult to observe, especially in the summer months when the days are longer. On the other hand, there must be a great sense of solidarity in knowing that every other Muslim is fasting too. Christians are also encouraged to fast during Lent, though it is left up to each individual to decide what form our fast will take.



In his first Lenten address, Pope Leo extols the virtue of fasting from food so that we hunger instead for God and for justice, but he also encourages Christians to begin by *'disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. He encourages us instead to cultivate kindness 'in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities.'* Whether we give up sweets, chocolate or alcohol, cut down our screen time or quit the cigarettes or vapes, as Pope Leo reminds us, fasting is not an end in itself. Together with prayer and almsgiving, it's an invitation to embark on a journey of inner transformation which leads to a deeper relationship with God and solidarity with those who are suffering.

**Fr. Richard**

**New envelope boxes** for the coming year will be available for collection on the finance table at the back of the church Sat 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. We appreciate it of parishioners, as well as collecting their own box, might deliver a box to a neighbour who is housebound. As well as Family Offering envelopes, parishioners can now take a box of envelopes to contribute to the weekly Mass collections. Paddy O' Byrne, chairperson of the **Parish Finance Committee** will address parishioners at each Mass this weekend.

**Baptisms** will be celebrated exceptionally this weekend. However, Baptisms will not be celebrated during the rest of Lent, and the next celebration of Baptism will be at Easter.

During the weekdays of Lent the partnership of parishes are putting on an **extra Mass at 8.00am** in St. Colmcille's church. The Mass will be celebrated by different priests from the partnership of parishes each day.

A **Novena of Grace** will take place around the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, which will run from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March through to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March. As well as the regular Mass at 10.00am, there will be an extra weekday Mass at 7.30pm, at which a guest speaker will lead a reflection. Please see the full programme below:



A **Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi**, which includes 2 nights in Assisi and 3 nights in Rome from 14-19<sup>th</sup> September, is open to parishioners and friends from the parishes of Swords, River Valley, Donabate and Brackenstown. The cost of €1,495 per person sharing includes return flights to Rome with

Aer Lingus, half board accommodation in Rome and Assisi, air conditioned coach throughout the pilgrimage and assistance of a Marian Pilgrimages representative. For more details, look out for the posters and flyers. Booking is now open directly with Marian pilgrimages, but first **contact the parish office to get the link** so that you can book for the pilgrimage directly online. A non-refundable deposit of €400 per person is required at the time of booking.



## Novena of Grace

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March: 10:00am and 7:30pm**

What is faith? - Denis Robinson

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March: 10:00am and 6:00pm**

Faith in young people - Fr. Cyril O'Dia

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March: 11:00am**

God of Surprises - Sean Goan

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March: 7:30pm**

Faith and Migration - Ursula Mullen, Crosscare

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March: 10:00am and 7:30pm**

Faith and the Travelling Community - Geraldine McDonnell

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March: 10:00am and 7:30pm**

Care for Creation - Jane Mellett

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March: 10:00am and 7:30pm**

Contemplation: our gift to the world - Fr. Jim Caffrey

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March: 10:00am and 7:30pm**

Faith and loss - Bryan Nolan

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March: 6:00pm**

Faith and Addiction - Conor Hickey, Director Crosscare

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March: 11:00am**

Outsiders - Alice Leahy, Trust

**SUNDAY MASSES:** (Sat Vigil) 6pm; 9am; 11am & 5pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** MONDAY to SATURDAY 10:00am

**CONFESSIONS:** SATURDAY 10:45am to 11:30am in the Sacristy

**ADORATION:** MON, TUES, THURS & SAT: 10:30AM—11:30AM

**WEDNESDAY:** 6pm - 9pm

**FRIDAY:** 3pm—6pm

All our ceremonies are broadcast online at [www.brackenstown-parish.com](http://www.brackenstown-parish.com)

### Can you help us to reduce postage costs?

On 3rd of February the cost of a standard stamp increased to €1.85. This has led us to ask you if you can help us to reduce our postage overheads? The posting of the annual letters of thanks and acknowledgement for contributions received is a considerable expense for the parish. Do you have an email address? If so, you might consider giving us permission to send your annual acknowledgement letter by email rather than by post. You can do this by emailing [brackentownparish@gmail.com](mailto:brackentownparish@gmail.com). Please say that you are giving permission for your letter of acknowledgement to be sent by email and give your name, address, and email address.

Another possibility is to visit the parish website at [brackentown-parish.com](http://brackentown-parish.com) and then tick the box to receive your acknowledgement letter by email.

We are of course aware that not everyone uses email or perhaps just prefers to receive a letter by post. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes to the running costs of the parish and to the support of our priests. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

*The Parish Finance Committee*

The second of three sessions of **Confirmation Connect**, the parish programme of preparation for candidates and their parents, takes place this Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm in the church.

A meeting of the **Parish Liturgy Group** to prepare for Holy Week and Easter will take place on at 7pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February in the room beside the sacristy.

The Brackentown Bible study group is doing a study of **St. Matthew's Gospel. Matthew: The King and His Kingdom** shows how Jesus fulfils God's promises to Israel and establishes his kingdom on earth. The sessions continue in St Cronan's Pastoral Centre from 7.30 to 8.50pm on Monday nights.

A meeting of the full **Pastoral Councils** of the **Partnership Parishes** of Swords and Drynam, River Valley, Donabate and Balheary, and Brackentown to set goals and timelines for implementing the Building Hope recommendations in our parishes, will take place in St. Cronan's parish centre on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February beginning with 10.00am Mass and concluding at 12.30pm.

Trocaire is an arm of the Irish Episcopal Conference concerned with tackling poverty and promoting awareness of justice issues for developing countries. This year's Lenten campaign focuses on a young mother in rural Rwanda supporting three generations, highlighting themes of resilience, climate injustice, and dignity. **Trocaire packs**, including the annual **Lenten box**, are available around the church.

Our next *Grow in Love* Mass in preparation for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion will take place next Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. at 6.00pm and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 5.00pm.

### St Colmcille's Parish 2026 – Lenten Discussions

This Lent the Diocese is inviting Parishes to journey together through a set of reflective resources inspired by *'Baptised and Sent.'* (The preparatory document from our National Pre-Synodal Assembly). **The format involves meeting as a group, reading a Gospel passage which will be followed by reflection and discussion.** Two discussion sessions **will be held in the Parochial House, Seatown Road: the first at 2pm and another at 7pm** Each session will be approximately 30-40 minutes duration. All materials will be provided.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** will be celebrated on Friday 6th March in St. Columba's Church. Time to be decided. The theme this year is *"I will give you rest: Come"* and is prepared by the Nigerian WDP Committee.

**East Coast Toastmasters meets in the Parish Centre on the first Thursday of each month from 7:45pm to 9:45pm.** The aim of the club is to help members improve their public speaking and leadership skills in a fun, supportive and friendly environment. Our members range in age and experience and we warmly welcome guests who would like to come along and experience the club atmosphere. For further details, please contact the President of East Coast Toastmasters, Anne Marie Connor, on 087 9964054 or come along to our next meeting on March 5th at 7.45 pm.

### Are you interested in serving your community?

Fingal Counselling Service (FCS) is a community-based service based in Swords providing counselling to the people of the greater Fingal area for over 30 years.

FCS is looking to recruit a person to work as Chairperson for its voluntary Management Committee for a minimum of 2 years. The appointment would be subject to Garda Vetting and receipt of satisfactory references. Please send us a copy of your CV and a cover letter to [fingalcounsellingrecruit@gmail.com](mailto:fingalcounsellingrecruit@gmail.com) on or before 27th February 2026. For full details please contact FCS on 01- 8902596 or email [fingalcounsellingrecruit@gmail.com](mailto:fingalcounsellingrecruit@gmail.com)

### Grotto Rosary

The Legion of Mary would like to thank all who recited the rosary for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes 11th February, the numbers attending made it a great success.



*Legion of Mary*

### SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

#### Recently Deceased

Frank Moran  
Michael Gavin

#### Anniversaries

Sheila Howard (1A)  
Michael John Canning (2A)  
Michael Canning (2A)  
Terry Culbert (5A)  
Fr Anselm Kellaghan (10A)  
Dolly Keane (11A)  
Harry & Joan Mills  
John & Margaret Murtagh  
Margarette Morendeire  
Christy McNally  
Paddy McManus  
Matthew, Hannah & Martin Gormley  
Rustica & Ediberto Paza  
Special Intention

### 10 AM MASSES THIS WEEK

Mon	Gerry Maughan (RD) Special Intention
Tues	Patrick & Mary Gallagher (A)
Wed	Daire McFadden (RD) Rustica Paza (2A)
Thur	Edward Duggan (RD)
Fri	Briege McGuinness (RD)
Sat	James Hoey (RD) Deirdre Walsh (A) Sean McKenna (5A)

### BEGINNERS YOGA WITH CAROLINE

Mat Yoga: Tuesdays 9:30am-11am  
Thursdays 7-8:15pm  
Chair Yoga for Arthritis and Mobility issues  
Tuesdays 11:15am-12 noon  
4 Week Block €50 or €14 per class  
Contact Caroline 087 691 3028

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**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday - Friday  
9:30am - 1:00pm

**Registered Charity Number**  
20016166