

ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP OF BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS, RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE PARISHES

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8 FEBRUARY 2026

YEAR A

*Celebrate your marriage
this Valentine's Day!*

You are invited to a

Candlelight Dinner for Two

in St. Cronan's Parish Centre,

on Saturday 14th February at 7.30pm



Free event offered by the Teams of Our Lady
RSVP by 7th Feb to 0872412459 - places are limited!

Each year on the weekend closest to St. Valentine's Day, the annual collection for **Relationship Care** (formerly known as Accord) – the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family - takes place at all Masses and replaces the Share Collection. Hence the collection will take place at Masses next Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th February. Relationship Care offers marriage preparation courses online or in small groups; counselling for couples or individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationships (online or by phone); and a Relationship and Sexuality programme for schools. Your generous support for this very vital work is greatly appreciated. Perhaps it's coincidence, but in the past week I have met with a number of couples who are planning a church wedding in the coming year and who have participated in a marriage preparation course and found it very insightful. At a time when the majority of couples who marry do so in a secular setting, we honour the faith and openness to God's blessing of those who choose to celebrate a sacramental marriage.

For the past 12 years or so I have been involved with the work of Teams of Our Lady, an international Catholic movement which supports marriage spirituality. I meet monthly with a team of five couples – two Irish and three international – where we gather in someone's home, share a meal, read a piece of scripture, discuss a study topic, reflect together on where we have experienced God in our lives over the previous month and conclude with a moment of prayer together. This has proven of benefit to us all, as we support one another in the joys and struggles of our respective vocations. As an outreach to mark Marriage Week, Teams of Our Lady invite married couples to a St. Valentine's Day Candlelight Dinner for Two on Saturday 14th February at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. This invitation is open to the first 12 married couples who book through the parish office or through myself.

Marriage Week invites us to celebrate the mystery of love, which is always a reflection of God's unconditional love for each of us. **Happy St. Valentine's Day!**

Fr. Richard

The monthly **Taizé Prayer** will take place in the church this Thursday 12th February at 7.30pm. If you haven't yet experienced this simple reflective prayer accompanied by the Taizé chants, you are very welcome to come along.

The **Holy Cross Group**, a **missionary group from Bethlehem** will visit the parish **next** weekend of 7th/8th February to sell olive wood crafts to support Christians in the Holy Land. This is a great opportunity to show practical solidarity at a time of great suffering for Palestinians.

 A **Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi**, which includes 2 nights in Assisi and 3 nights in Rome from 14-19th 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. A non-refundable deposit of €400 per person is required.

Baptisms take place this Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th February at 12 noon, and again on Saturday 21st and Sunday 28th February. The next baptisms celebrated will be at Easter.

A *Grow in Love* preparation Mass for **First Communion** takes place this Saturday 7th at 6.00pm and Sunday 8th February at 5.00pm.

ALL WELCOME THIS SUNDAY

COFFEE MORNING

AFTER 11:00 AM MASS

**IN ST. CRONAN'S PARISH CENTRE
FOR A CUP OF TEA OR COFFEE AND A CHAT!**

A decorative graphic for a coffee morning event. It features a central cross with a small image of a church inside it. To the right of the cross is a red teacup on a saucer. Below the cross is a blue teapot. To the right of the teapot is a pink coffee cup. To the right of the coffee cup is a green coffee cup. The text 'ALL WELCOME THIS SUNDAY' is at the top, 'COFFEE MORNING' is in large blue letters, and 'AFTER 11:00 AM MASS' is in blue. At the bottom, it says 'IN ST. CRONAN'S PARISH CENTRE FOR A CUP OF TEA OR COFFEE AND A CHAT!' in red.

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

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 brackenstownparish@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 brackenstown-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 Brackenstown 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.

Retreats for Confirmation candidates for students from Gaelscoil Bhrian Boroimhe will take place in the parish centre this Wednesday 11th February and Wednesday 4th March in the parish centre. The retreats are being led by Gerard Hanley, who is the coordinator of Youth Alpha.

A meeting of our **Parish Pastoral Council** will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th February in the parish centre.

We are planning a **Novena of Grace** this year around the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, which will run from **Friday 6th March through to Sunday 15th 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 opposite:



Novena of Grace

- Friday 6th March: 10:00am and 7:30pm**
What is faith? - Denis Robinson
- Saturday 7th March: 10:00am and 6:00pm**
Faith in young people - Fr. Cyril O'Dia
- Sunday 8th March: 11:00am**
God of Surprises - Sean Goan
- Monday 9th March: 7:30pm**
Faith and Migration - Ursula Mullen, Crosscare
- Tuesday 10th March: 10:00am and 7:30pm**
Faith and the Travelling Community - Geraldine McDonnell
- Wednesday 11th March: 10:00am and 7:30pm**
Care for Creation - Jane Mellett
- Thursday 12th March: 10:00am and 7:30pm**
Contemplation: our gift to the world - Fr. Jim Caffrey
- Friday 13th March: 10:00am and 7:30pm**
Faith and loss - Bryan Nolan
- Saturday 14th March: 6:00pm**
Faith and Addiction - Conor Hickey, Director Crosscare
- Sunday 15th March: 11:00am**
Outsiders - Alice Leahy, Trust

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

- Patricia O'Dwyer
- Bernard Hickey
- Paul Kieran
- Kathleen Kane
- Martin Kealy

Month's Mind

- Mary Fitzgerald

Anniversaries

- Patricia Lynch (1A)
- Breda Boylan (2A)
- Philip Hickey (5A)
- Nancy (7A) & Bartle Savage
- Maisie Fitzpatrick
- Lena Lowndes
- John Bond
- Dcsd Members McArdle Family
- Dcsd Members Carroll Family
- Bridie Hickey (BR)

10 AM MASSES THIS WEEK

Mon	Mary Bohan (A)
Tues	Des Newman (RD)
Wed	Thanksgiving Mass Special Intention
Thur	Noel O'Toole (3A) Mary Reynolds (27A)
Fri	Brendan Moran (RD) Gerry Maughan (MM) Nathan, Daniel & Mary Sinead Maughan (Rem)
Sat	Philomena Murphy (5A)

To mark **World Day of the Sick** on Wednesday 11th February, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, **Mass with Anointing of the Sick** for the Partnership will take place in St. Finian's Church, River Valley at 11.00am on Saturday 14th February.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday** 18th February. Mass with blessing and distribution of ashes will take place at 10.00am and 7.30pm. A short service with distribution of blessed ashes will also take place at 1.00pm and at 2.00pm.

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.

Baptised and Sent in Lent: a new set of weekly prayer and reflection resources for parishes, schools, and faith groups across Ireland. With Ash Wednesday on 18 February, these resources are being shared now to give communities time to plan, share, and prepare together. Rooted in the belief that baptism is the foundation of our identity, dignity, and mission, each Sunday of Lent offers:

- 🙏 Prayer
- 📖 Gospel Reflection
- 🗣️ Shared listening and conversation

⇒ Simple, concrete actions flowing from baptism

Inspired by *Baptised and Sent*, the preparatory document from our 2025 National Pre-Synodal Assembly, these reflections explore themes of belonging, healing, renewal, and mission.

Find out more and download the resources here:

<https://synod.ie/baptised-and-sent-in-lent/>

GROTTO ROSARY WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Volunteers required to recite rosary every hour commencing 9:30am—8pm. Please sign the roster back of Church or contact a member of Legion of Mary.



Legion of Mary

Pray...Reflect...Share at Frank Duff Prayer Meeting

Tuesday, 10th February 8:00pm-9:00pm in Parish Pastoral Centre, St Cronan's Church. You'll be most welcome. Please invite a friend. The Rosary, reading & reflection on next Sunday's Gospel and a little background information about Frank Duff will be included.

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

PARISH PRIEST
Fr. Richard Sheehy
087 2412459
richardesheehy@gmail.com

PARISH CHAPLAIN
Fr. Joseph Hao P.C.
01 8401188
brackenstownparish@gmail.com

PERMANENT DEACON
Declan Colgan
01 8401188
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PARISH SECRETARY
Louise Donnelly
Mon to Fri. 9:30am – 1:00pm
01 8401188
brackenstownparish@gmail.com

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

Registered Charity Number
20016166