

ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP OF BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS, RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE PARISHES

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

15 FEBRUARY 2026

YEAR A



Earlier this week, on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, 11th February, we celebrated **World Day of the Sick**. Many of our parishioners braved the elements to organise a continuous praying of the rosary at our own grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes next to the Church. It is a time when we think especially of those who are living with illness, whether acute or chronic, and those undergoing treatment or invasive surgery, whether at home or in hospital. We remember especially those who struggle with their mental health and we pray that in the dark days they may be enabled to glimpse the light through the love, understanding and care of those around them. We think, too, of the many wonderful people who care for the sick, whether in a professional capacity or looking after a loved one, and who do so without the recognition they deserve. Visiting a hospital or nursing home, I am continually reminded of how much we owe to the nurses and carers from overseas, without whom our health services would collapse. To mark World Day of the Sick, **Mass with Anointing of the Sick** for the Partnership will take place in St. Finian's Church, River Valley at 11.00am this Saturday 14th February.

Next Wednesday 18th February, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It seems as if we have hardly emerged from the season of Christmas, and we are beginning our Lenten journey. In our culture of instant gratification and excess, perhaps we have lost the habit of doing without, or what Scott Peck in *The Road less Travelled* refers to as, 'delayed gratification'. However, the ancient Christian tradition of 'prayer, fasting and almsgiving' has its roots in the Old Testament, and Jesus himself only began his public ministry after spending a considerable period of time in the desert fasting and praying. For him, it was a means of focussing on where God was drawing him. Perhaps, we can see Lent as marking a new beginning in our own faith journey and particularly in our relationship with God and try to clear some of the obstacles that sometimes get in the way. *'Turn away from sin, and believe the Good News!'*

Fr. Richard



ASH WEDNESDAY

18th February 2026

Masses with distribution of Ashes
at 10:00am & 7:30pm

1:00pm Service with Distribution of Ashes
2:00pm Service with Distribution of Ashes
led by ministers of the Word and of the Eucharist

*Turn away from sin
and believe the
Good News*



ST. CRONAN' CHURCH
BRACKENSTOWN PARISH

To mark **World Day of the Sick** on the 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 this Saturday 14th February.

Lent begins this **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.

The Trocaire Lenten campaign also begins on Ash Wednesday. Trocaire packs, including the annual Lenten box are available around the church from this weekend.



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, 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.

Relationship Care

The annual collection for **Relationship Care** (formerly known as Accord) – the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family - takes place at all Masses this weekend and replaces the Share Collection. 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.

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

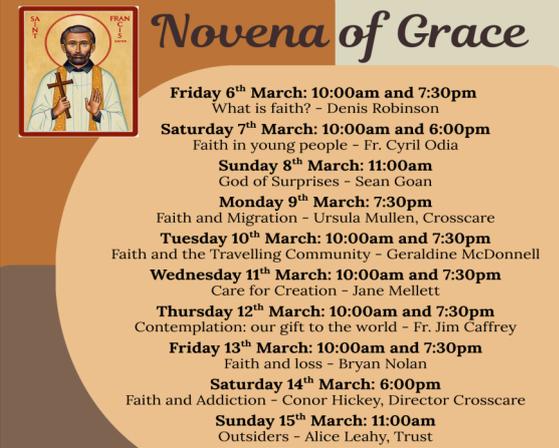
All our ceremonies are broadcast online at www.brackenstown-parish.com

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 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 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.

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'Leary

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

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. (It is similar to Lectio Devina).** This year we are delighted to be able to facilitate two discussion sessions **one at 2pm (Colette and Betty) and another at 6.30pm (Anthony) in the Parochial House, Seatown Road from Wednesday 25th February to Wednesday 25th March inclusive** Each session will be approximately 30-40 minutes duration. All materials will be provided.

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 Chairperson plays a valuable and vital role in the day-to-day operation and growth of the service. The role requires: • An individual with strong leadership skills and experience • The ability to commit to the time necessary to carry out the role effectively. (This is likely to be on average 12 hours a month, including meetings with the management committee and the other duties of the role. Some flexibility may be needed at certain times in response to requirements) • Working knowledge of Office applications like Microsoft Word and Excel 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 on or before 27th February 2026. For full details please contact FCS on 01- 8902596 or email fingalcounsellingrecruit@gmail.com

Patrician Meeting: Who is Mary? Why does she matter?

There will be insights on 4 key roles of Mary revealed in Scripture (Daughter of Zion, Mother of Jesus, Mother of the Church and Queen of Heaven). All most welcome. **Thursday 19th February at 7:30pm in Brackenstown Parish Pastoral Centre.** Refreshments offered during interval.



Religious Goods- Suitable for families.

St Brigid statues, pictures, prayer cards & medals available. Children's books, Baptism cards & candles, motorist prayers, key rings and more at repository Saturday evenings & Sunday mornings.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

- Recently Deceased**
Brieger McGuinness
Lilly Crawley
- Month's Mind**
Gerry Maughan
- Anniversaries**
Mary O'Keeffe (1A)
Rita Dempsey (5A)
Philomena Murphy (5A)
Larry Graves
Special Intention

10 AM MASSES THIS WEEK

Mon	Mai Gargan (RD) Martin Snr & Martin Jnr Lawrence (Rem) Special Intention
Tues	Sandra Murphy (RD)
Wed	Joseph Savage (RD) Special Intention
Thur	Daniel (22A), Nathan, Mary Sinead & Gerry Maughan May Shinnors (A)
Fri	Patrick & Ann Mongan & Dcsd Family Members
Sat	Harry & Joan Mills (A)

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
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PARISH SECRETARY
Louise Donnelly
Mon to Fri. 9:30am – 1:00pm
01 8401188
brackentownparish@gmail.com

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

Registered Charity Number
20016166