

ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP OF BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS, RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE PARISHES

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 FEBRUARY 2026

YEAR A

St. Brigid is fast becoming the most popular saint in Ireland, if for no other reason than her being the occasion for our having a public holiday this Monday! Joking aside, the weekend offers us an opportunity to reflect on the significance for today of St. Brigid, whose feast day falls on the 1st February. While it is sometimes difficult to separate fact from legend, Brigid the Christian from the pagan goddess, she holds a special place in our imagination and is today associated with the struggle for peace and justice, Celtic spirituality and the care of our precious planet. Afri (Action from Ireland) have for many years hosted a Feile Brid conference in the Solas Bhride centre in Kildare, which seeks to explore many of these themes. February also signals the beginning of Spring, and, as if on cue, it is great to see the crocuses and snowdrops displaying their colour and daffodil stems pushing up through the soil. The lengthening days are also cause for cheer and hope...



As I pen these lines on the feast of another Irish saint, St. Aidan, whose beautiful cathedral at Enniscorthy was designed by Pugin, our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Enniscorthy, and other places in the south-east of the country and indeed in our own county, which have been badly flooded in recent days by excessive rainfall. It must be devastating to see homes and businesses destroyed by the ingress of water and mud. We can only hope that lessons will be learnt, vital flood defences speedily put in place and people compensated for their loss.

Fr. Richard

Celebrate your marriage
this Valentine!
in St Cronan's Parish Centre
on Saturday
14th February
at 7.30pm

This weekend, 31st January/1st February, Ilaria and Pierpaolo Dondio from Teams of Our Lady will speak after Communion at the 6.00pm vigil Mass and 11.00am Sunday Mass to 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 Fr. Richard, and you can chat to Ilaria and Pierpaolo about it at the end of Mass.



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.



The monthly church gate collection for our parish conference of the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** takes place after all Masses this weekend. Your generous support for the great work they do in the parish is greatly appreciated. New volunteers are always welcome. If interested in helping out, talk to any of the volunteers who are organising the collection this weekend.

Our local scouts are having their **annual bake sale and book fair** this Sunday on St. Brigid's Day in aid of the Scout Group from 11am to 1pm in the scout den. They will be offering St Brigid's Crosses in return for a small donation.



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

WEEKDAY MASSES: MONDAY to SATURDAY 10:00am

CONFESIONS: 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

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. There will be a 50 minute DVD presentation followed by a Q & A and discussion. There is no charge, and all are welcome. To register please contact Louise in the parish office, tel. 01 8401188 or email: brackenstownparish@gmail.com



Members of our parish Care for Creation Committee will be hosting a meeting with the **Dublin Diocesan Sustainable Energy Committee** on Wednesday 4th February at 2.00pm in the parish centre. The Committee is keen to see the great strides the parish has made over the past few years to reduce our carbon footprint by increasing our use of green energy and reducing our energy costs.

A preparation meeting for Baptism will take place this Sunday immediately after 11.00am Mass in the parish centre. **Baptisms** will take place next Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th February at 12 noon and on Saturday 21st and Sunday 28th February. The next baptisms celebrated will be at Easter.

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

The parish has devised a programme for **Baptism for children of the parish who are 5+ years of age**. This is of particular relevance to children who may wish to receive First Communion next year. If you are interested in having your child baptised, please contact the parish office.



Retreats for Confirmation candidates for students from Gaelscoil Bhrian Boroimhe will take place in the parish centre on 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.

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

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. A full programme will be published next weekend.

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
- A 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/>
#BaptisedAndSent #Lent #SynodalJourney #FaithInAction #Baptism

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.

Religious Goods - Suitable for families

Church Art calendars, children's books, Baptism cards and candles, motorist prayers and key rings, and lots more available at repository on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings.



SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

Margaret (Maggie) Hamilton
Fr Patsy Fagan
Canon John Piert

Month's Mind

Des Newman
William Kenny
Bridget Smyth

Anniversaries

Maria Quill (1A)
Frank Walsh (2A)
Marie Ryan (2A)
Cora Beveridge (2A)
Anne Hopkins (4A)
Mona MacGearailt (20A)
Padraig Keane
Seamus Doherty
Angeline Grant
Special Intention

10 AM MASSES THIS WEEK

Mon	Gavin Taggart (A) Francis Gallagher (A) Special Intention
Tues	Dcsd Members of O'Connor Family
Wed	Sr. Patricia Hughes (A) Marian Movement for Priests
Thur	May Carmody (RD)
Fri	Ciaran Meany (A) Brendan O'Reilly (BR) Patrick Byrne (11A)
Sat	Fr Liam Pentony (A)

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.

PARISH PRIEST
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PERMANENT DEACON
Declan Colgan
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PARISH SECRETARY
Louise Donnelly
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01 8401188
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PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday
9:30am - 1:00pm

Registered Charity Number
20016166