

# ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP OF BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS, RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE PARISHES

## FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AND FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - YEAR A

After all the activity of the past few weeks, carol services, school concerts, choir rehearsals, church cleaning and decorating, not to mention shopping, writing Christmas cards, putting up the crib and decorating and lighting the Christmas tree, it is at last Christmas! We celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, the mystery of Incarnation: God entering human history in the life, ministry, passion and death of Jesus, and our faith in his resurrection. Today we are invited to gather at the crib and, with the shepherds, to wonder at the mystery of divine love revealed in the birth of the Christ child. In the midst of the darkness of these winter days and of conflict, homelessness, and bereavement, we welcome Christ, the light of the world. As we open our heart to receive God's love, may we reach out to share that love with others, especially those who may be feeling lonely or forgotten at this time.

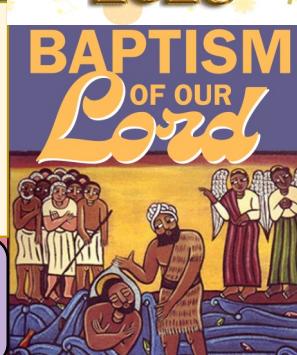
There is wisdom in the Church designating the Sunday immediately following Christmas as the Feast of the Holy Family. 'No man (or woman) is an island', as the poet John Donne wrote. Like most of us, Jesus was born into a family, a very human family. As with any family, not everything was plain sailing all the time. There were miscommunications and misunderstandings, as we know from the incident where Jesus went missing for three days in the Temple. A lot of things must have caused his mother to 'ponder these things in her heart' (Luke 2:51). Christmas is a time when families get together. With so many young people living and working abroad and many of them returning home for Christmas, it can be an occasion of great joy. For others, separated from their families and country of origin, it can be a time of sadness and loneliness. For many people, it can also be a time of tension and stress. No family is perfect, but may we appreciate those who are around us this Christmas, and may we exercise patience, understanding and compassion, not least with ourselves!

**Happy Christmas and New Year from Fr. Joseph and Fr. Richard**



There is a basket of gold stars beneath our Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Parishioners and visitors are invited to write a little prayer for peace or for hope on the (white) back of the star and to place it on the Christmas tree. It may be a prayer for peace/hope for the world in general, or in our own family or community. Some of the intentions will form part of the prayers at our Vigil of Prayer on New Year's Eve.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (Confession) will be available in the room beside the sacristy following the 10.00am Mass on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve)



On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026, **Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord**, we are inviting the families of those who were baptised in our church in the past year to join us at the 11.00am Mass. Refreshments will be provided by our hospitality team after the Mass.

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

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

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

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

**WEDNESDAY:** 6pm - 9pm

**FRIDAY:** 3pm—6pm

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

Our Christmas card, timetable of services and Christmas Offering envelope are available for collection on tables at the entrances to the church. We would appreciate your assistance in delivering the cards to parishioners who may be housebound, so that they can follow our Christmas services on the webcam. See the full schedule of Christmas services below.

## CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2025

### Church of St. Cronan, Brackenstown Parish

*St. Cronan's forms part of the Partnership of  
Swords, River Valley, Donabate & Brackenstown Parishes*

#### **Wednesday 24th December**

##### **Christmas Eve**

Mass 10:00am  
(Confessions 10:30-11:30am)  
First Mass of Christmas (Family Mass) 6.00pm  
Mass of the Nativity 9.00pm  
(Preceded by Carols at 8.45pm)

#### **Thursday 25th December**

##### **Christmas Day**

Christmas Mass 9.00am & 11.00am  
No Evening Mass

#### **Friday 26th December**

##### **St. Stephen's Day**

Mass 10.00am

#### **Saturday 27th December**

Mass 10.00am

Vigil Mass 6.00pm

#### **Sunday 28th December**

##### **Feast of the Holy Family**

Mass 9.00am, 11.00am & 5:00pm

#### **Monday 29th – Wed 31st December**

**Epiphany Gifts for Alice Leahy Trust or St. Vincent de Paul  
can be brought to all Masses from 29th December to the 6th January**  
**WISHING ALL OUR PARISHIONERS A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS  
AND BLESSED NEW YEAR!**

Please note there will be a Christmas Vigil Mass at 7.30pm on Christmas Eve in Dublin Airport Church.

Our **Parish Pastoral Council** will have a morning of reflection on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan from 10.30am-12.30pm to plan a response to the recent feedback we received from parishioners on priorities for the Building Hope initiative. We welcome a number of new members who have recently joined the PPC.

The parish clergy and Parish Pastoral Council would like to express our sincere appreciation for all who have cleaned and decorated our church and prepared our liturgies for Christmas. Our particular thanks to our choirs, cantors and organist, our ministers of the Word and Eucharist, our stewards, florist, crib builders, Family Mass group and parish liturgy team, and our parish office team. We wish everyone a joy filled and safe Christmas and blessings in the coming year!

Many thanks to parishioners and visitors who have already returned **Christmas Offerings** in the envelopes provided. Christmas Offerings form part of the annual remuneration of the priests of the parish and of the diocese. We are very grateful for your generous support at this time and throughout the year.

Gifts of non perishable food items or toiletries may be left at the foot of the altar between Christmas and the feast of the Epiphany (6th Jan 2026). These will be delivered to Alice Leahy's Trust in Dublin City centre afterwards. Please do not include children's toys!

#### **How about reading one Gospel in 2026?**

Are you looking for a challenge in 2026? How about deepening your relationship with Jesus by studying one Gospel from beginning to end? The Gospel readings at Mass for 2026 will be taken from the Gospel of Matthew. The Brackenstown Bible study group will commence a study of St. Matthew's Gospel on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January and you are invited to take part.

**Matthew: The King and His Kingdom** shows how Jesus fulfils God's promises to Israel and establishes his kingdom on earth. Through references to the Old Testament promises of God to his people and the messages God sent them through the prophets, this Bible study provides the key to understanding the rest of the New Testament and Christ as the fulfilment of God's plan. The classes will be held in St Cronan's Pastoral Centre from 7.30 to 8.50 pm on Monday nights. There will be a 50 minute DVD presentation by biblical scholar Jeff Cavins 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](mailto:brackenstownparish@gmail.com)

Registration is now open for the second intake of the **Diocesan Certificate in Young Adult Ministry – #YML**. Running over six Saturdays, the aim of this Diocesan Certificate is to build up the capacity of Youth Ministry and Youth Ministry Leadership throughout the Archdiocese of Dublin. It is a highly practical course where participants are given new experiences and key resources, including gaining vital skills to put into practice in their local context, while also being grounded in key church documents such as *Christus Vivit*. For more information please contact [natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie). Registration is open at: <https://forms.office.com/e/Et8sXCxNtC>

#### **Religious Goods - Suitable for families**

Christmas Nativity sets, Christmas items, Christmas cards, Advent Calendars, Baptism gifts/items, Statues, ornaments, children's colouring books and lots more available at Repository on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings.



#### **SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS**

##### **Recently Deceased**

Mary (Dot) Roche  
Patricia Foley  
Martin Godfrey

##### **Anniversaries**

Bridget Nugent (1A)  
Patricia Coombes (1A)  
Paul Ledwidge (4A)  
John Cawley (5A) & Dcsd Family Members  
Thomas Lawless  
Eddie Farrell  
Thomas Lawless  
Pat Lawless  
Katrina Harford  
Joe, Breda & Brian O'Toole

#### **10 AM MASSES THIS WEEK**

<b>Mon</b>	Thanksgiving Mass Irene & Vincent Healy (A) Willie, Eileen & Maria Adams (A) Gary Gregan (BR)
<b>Tues</b>	Jim Rogers (A) Kathleen & Christopher Troy & Dcsd Family Members Patrick McCabe (A) Ann Cowal (A) Alicia Farrelly (A) Bernard Oldham (A) John Martin (A) Special Intention
<b>Wed</b>	Mick Morris (A)
<b>Thur</b>	John & Ellen Ryan & Dcsd Family Members
<b>Fri</b>	Susan Teresa Collins (A) Health Intention
<b>Sat</b>	Mary Lalor (RD)

#### **Bethany Bereavement Support Group**

offer a free and confidential telephone support to any bereaved parishioners who wish to avail of it

**Please phone Terri on  
01 8403243**

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"*

**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**  
**brackenstownparish@gmail.com**

**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**