

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



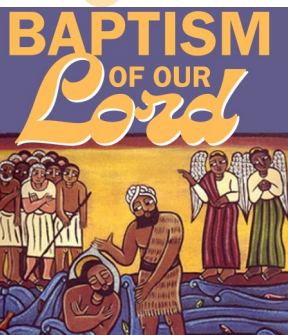
Parishioners and visitors to the church are invited to write a message or prayer for hope or peace on the back of one of the gold and silver stars in the basket at the foot of the Christmas tree.

Alternatively, you can write a promise of something you intend to do in the coming weeks to spread hope in your family or community. You can then place the star on the Christmas tree.

In this way, as Advent progresses, our Christmas tree becomes a symbol of hope and light.

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 24th December (Christmas Eve)



On Sunday 11th 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

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

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

Wednesday 31st December

Prayer vigil to welcome New Year 11.30pm

Thursday 1st January 2026 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass 10.00am

Saturday 3rd January

Mass 10.00am
Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday 4th January Second Sunday of Christmas

Mass 9.00am, 11:00am & 5.00pm

Monday 5th January

Mass 10.00am
Vigil Mass 7.30pm

Tuesday 6th January Feast of the Epiphany

Mass 10.00am

Sunday 11th January Feast of the Baptism of The Lord

Mass 9.00am, 11:00am, & 5.00pm

**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 10th 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 19th 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

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. 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.



Legion of Mary

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

Mon	Thanksgiving Mass Irene & Vincent Healy (A) Willie, Eileen & Maria Adams (A) Gary Gregan (BR)
Tues	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
Wed	Mick Morris (A)
Thur	John & Ellen Ryan & Dcsd Family Members
Fri	Susan Teresa Collins (A) Health Intention
Sat	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
richarddesheehy@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