

# ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP OF BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS, RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE PARISHES

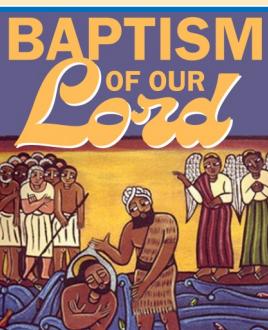
SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 3rd JANUARY 2026 - YEAR A



Our Christmas season concludes in the coming week with the feast of Epiphany (6<sup>th</sup> January) and the feast of the Baptism of our Lord (Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January). Known as Little Christmas or Nollaig na mBan, Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the magi or wise men from the east. It highlights the idea that the revelation of Christ is not for people of Jewish faith alone (such as the apostles) but is intended for all humanity. This insight will lead St. Paul to become the great apostle to the gentiles (or pagans). It marks a radical development in the life of the early Church, leading to the first Church Council, the Council of Jerusalem, at which the apostles endorse Paul and Barnabas's mission to the gentiles at Antioch, which will become one of the five great centres of Christianity. Our Epiphany is also the time at which many of the eastern churches celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord, so

we wish them a happy Christmas. The feast of the Baptism of Our Lord marks the liturgical transition to Ordinary Time and propels us forward to the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, which follows his baptism by John. It also introduces us to John, whose role is to encourage people to prepare a way for Christ. As we will hear in the coming weeks, the arrest of John is the key for Jesus to leave his hidden life at Nazareth and begin to proclaim the coming of the kingdom of God (a central theme in Matthew's Gospel). His ministry will be characterised by the calling of disciples and by encounters with people which bring healing. For Matthew, this is not simply history. What he is describing is the shape discipleship and Christian ministry should take today. At a time when people make resolutions for the coming year, perhaps the most significant resolution we could make is to renew our faith in the one whose birth we have just celebrated, so that it becomes a key driving force in our lives. If our faith has weakened through neglect in recent times, then maybe today can be the first step forward in starting anew. God believes in us far more than we believe in him!

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



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.



Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, **Feast of the Epiphany**, is a Holy Day. There will be a vigil Mass on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm. Mass on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> will be at 10am.



The annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** runs this year from 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January. The theme "THERE IS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO THE ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING" (Ephesians 4:4) has been prepared by the Armenian churches and finalised by the Vatican Dicastery for promoting Christian Unity together with the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches.

**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](http://www.brackenstown-parish.com)

<p>As schools reopen next week, our <b>Sacramental classes</b> for children attending non-Catholic schools resume on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January in the parish centre.</p>	<p><b>Catholic Schools Week</b> also runs from 18<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> January, and the theme this year is: <i>Normal Lives, called to Holiness.</i></p>	 <p><b>SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS</b></p> <p><b>Recently Deceased</b></p> <p>Des Newman Anthony Kelly Larry Kinsella Jimmy Hoey John Dolan</p>														
<p>Our next <i>Grow in Love</i> Mass in preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion takes place next Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 5.00pm.</p>		<p><b>Month's Mind</b> Patricia Foley</p>														
<p>Our <b>Parish Pastoral Council</b> will have a morning of reflection next Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 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.</p>		<p><b>Anniversaries</b> Bill Craig (1A) Colm Brosnan (1A) Mary Fitzsimons (1A) David Kelly (2A) Catherine Mallin Sally Piper</p>														
<p>Many thanks to parishioners and visitors who have returned <b>Christmas Offerings</b> in the envelopes provided. Christmas Offerings form part of the annual remuneration of the priests of the parish and of the diocese, and envelopes are available on tables around the church. We are very grateful for your generous support at this time and throughout the year.</p>		<p><b>10 AM MASSES THIS WEEK</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Mon</td><td>Special Intention</td></tr> <tr> <td>7:30pm</td><td>Patrick O'Donovan (A)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tues</td><td>Marian Movement for Priests Special Intention Eamonn Kearns (RD)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Wed</td><td>Laurence &amp; Ann Maughan (A) &amp; Dcsd Family Members</td></tr> <tr> <td>Thur</td><td>Declan McCarthy (A) M. J. Thomas Mannala (8A)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fri</td><td>Freida Heaslip (A) Shane Behan (5A) Michael Hoare (14A)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sat</td><td>Kay Nugent (A)</td></tr> </table>	Mon	Special Intention	7:30pm	Patrick O'Donovan (A)	Tues	Marian Movement for Priests Special Intention Eamonn Kearns (RD)	Wed	Laurence & Ann Maughan (A) & Dcsd Family Members	Thur	Declan McCarthy (A) M. J. Thomas Mannala (8A)	Fri	Freida Heaslip (A) Shane Behan (5A) Michael Hoare (14A)	Sat	Kay Nugent (A)
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<p>Many thanks to those who have left gifts at the Christmas tree. <b>Christmas gifts</b> of non-perishable food items or toiletries can be left at the foot of the tree up to January 6<sup>th</sup>, after which they will be delivered to Alice Leahy's organisation for the homeless, Trust.</p>		<p><b>Bethany Bereavement Support Group</b> offer a free and confidential telephone support to any bereaved parishioners who wish to avail of it</p>														
<p>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!</p>		<p><b>Please phone Terri on 01 8403243</b> <i>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"</i></p>														
<p><b>How about reading one Gospel in 2026?</b> 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.</p>		<p><b>PARISH PRIEST</b> Fr. Richard Sheehy 087 2412459 richardsheehy@gmail.com</p>														
<p><b>Matthew: The King and His Kingdom</b> 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 &amp; 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</p>		<p><b>PARISH CHAPLAIN</b> Fr. Joseph Hao P.C. 01 8401188 brackenstownparish@gmail.com</p>														
<p>Registration is now open for the second intake of the <b>Diocesan Certificate in Young Adult Ministry – #YML</b>. 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 contact Natalie at <a href="mailto:natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie">natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie</a> ASAP. Registration is open at: <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/Et8sXCxNtc">https://forms.office.com/e/Et8sXCxNtc</a></p>		<p><b>PERMANENT DEACON</b> Declan Colgan 01 8401188 brackenstownparish@gmail.com</p>														
<p><b>Silent Christian Meditation</b> starts back on Monday 12th January at 11:00am For more information contact Marian Burke 0879703640. The fruits/ benefits of Mediation: <b>Peace, love, joy, patience, understanding, kindness, goodness, freedom and self-control.</b> <i>Galatians:5:22</i></p>		<p><b>PARISH SECRETARY</b> Louise Donnelly Mon to Fri. 9:30am – 1:00pm 01 8401188 brackenstownparish@gmail.com</p>														
<p><b>Calmness Within—Gentle Yoga with Caroline</b> starting back on Tuesday 6th January in St Cronan's Parish Centre. Class starts at 9:30am—10:45am. Chair Yoga will follow at 11:15am. Also on Thursday 8th January starting at 7pm. Wear comfortable clothing. Contact Caroline for more information and to register on 0876913028.</p>		<p><b>PARISH OFFICE HOURS</b> Monday - Friday 9:30am - 1:00pm</p>														
<p><b>Religious Goods - Suitable for families</b> 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.</p>	 <p>Legion of Mary</p>	<p><b>Registered Charity Number</b> 20016166</p>														