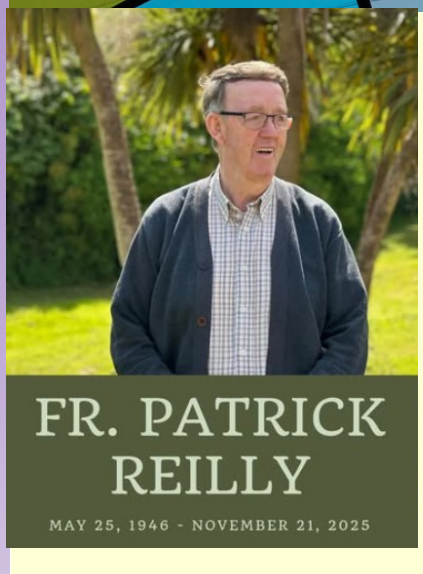
ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP OF BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS, RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE PARISHES

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 30TH NOVEMBER 2025 YEAR A



We were shocked at the sudden death of Fr. Pat Reilly, parish priest of Donabate, Portrane and Balheary last Friday week. Pat has been in Donabate parish for almost twenty years. He was a fit, energetic and active priest who ministered to the people of the parish with humanity, warmth and compassion. He nurtured the pastoral and spiritual gifts of his parishioners, preparing them for the Church of the future, mostly recently sharing with them the gift of contemplative prayer. As a colleague and member of our Partnership Pastoral Council over the past three years, we got to know Fr. Pat well, and he always brought energy, wisdom and fun to our gatherings. Our hearts go out to the pastoral team and parishioners of Donabate, Portrane and Balheary, who are devastated at the loss of their beloved pastor, and especially to Fr. Augustine, who worked closely with Fr. Pat and who is currently in Nigeria attending the funeral of his own father. They will need our support and prayers at this time. We will also send our sympathies to Fr. Pat's family: his brother, Phil, his nieces and nephews, to whom he was a much loved brother, uncle and grand-uncle. May the legacy of his ministry continue to burn brightly in the parishes where he served, and may he enter into the fullness of eternal life with God.

Fr Richard

This weekend we celebrate the **First Sunday of Advent,** marking the beginning, not just of a new season, but of a new liturgical year. It is a season of joyful anticipation, not just of the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas, but of God's kingdom of truth, justice, peace, forgiveness and love becoming a lived experience through our cooperation with the mystery of God's grace. The liturgical colour of violet, the Advent wreath and the Jesse tree invite us to a place of inner reflection which creates a sense of expectation in the God, who is always bringing something new to birth. Marantha, come Lord Jesus!

The annual **Senior Citizens Christmas Party** organised by the Order of Malta will take place next Sunday 7th December, beginning at 2pm. Please let us know if there is someone who would like to attend but who is housebound.

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 (especially neighbours) who may be housebound but who would like to receive them, so that they can follow our Advent and Christmas services on the webcam.

DERPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SURVEY: As you aware, the Department of Education is conducting a survey of parents of children currently in primary school or who will enter primary school in the coming years in relation to school patronage. It is not an abstract or general survey but is about your local school. In other words, parents of children who attend St. Cronan's Junior National School or Scoil Chrónáin Senior National School, are being asked to consider whether they wish those schools to continue under Catholic patronage, where Catholic education is taught as part of the school curriculum, and where part of the preparation for sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation takes place in collaboration with the parish, or whether they wish for a change of patronage. It should be noted that there is already in the Swords area provision for primary schools which are not under religious patronage. While it is important that those who wish for a change in patronage would have their voice heard, it is equally important that those who wish for a Catholic education for their children, and support for sacramental preparation in their school, would have their voice heard also. For those reasons and to ensure that an accurate picture emerges, **you are strongly urged to participate in this survey if you are a parent or a prospective parent of a Primary school student. Please don't leave it to someone else to decide what kind of school your child will attend. The survey can be accessed at www.gov.ie/primaryschoolsurvey and** closes on **Tuesday, December 16.**

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

Parishioners and visitors are invited to reflect together in a prayerful way on the **Scripture readings in Advent**. Each Tuesday we will gather in the church from 7.00-7.30pm to read together one of the readings for the following Sunday of Advent. Copies of the reading will be made available to participant.

Donations to the Tap to Donate device can now be included in the CHY tax refund scheme: When you 'Tap' you now get the opportunity to put in your name, telephone number or email address. This in turn allows the parish to accumulate all donations from the tap device, and from family offering/share/common fund or dues collections. Therefore, for all combined donations over €250.00 the parish can claim the tax back. Your information is only required once; all of your data is handled in strict compliance with data protection laws.

The Tap to Donate device is located to the left of the main doors as you enter the church. Donations to this device go towards the Mass collections. They are split between the Common Fund (1st collection) which supports the priests in the Archdiocese and Share (2nd collection) which provides essential pastoral services for all parishes and particular supports for disadvantaged parishes.

Any tax reclaimed from Revenue goes directly to St. Cronan's parish and is a very important source of income. You can also donate directly to our parish online. Standing Order forms and family offering envelopes as well as Mass collection envelopes can be obtained from the parish office. Contact details are email brackenstownparish@gmail.com or tel. 01 8401188. The Parish Finance committee wish to thank you most sincerely for your continued generous support.

A Mass for **Confirmation** candidates and their families will take place this Saturday 29th November at 6.00pm and Sunday 30th November at 5.00pm.

A similar preparation Mass for children and their families preparing for **First Communion** will take place next weekend, Saturday 6th December at 6.00pm and Sunday 7th December at 5.00pm.

- An **Advent Taize Prayer** will take place on Thursday 11th December, the second Thursday of the month, at 7.30pm. All are welcome.
- Scoil Chrónáin Senior School are organising a Christmas Carol Concert on Wednesday 10th December at 7.30pm in the church.
- An **International Carol Concert** with the participation of our Senior, Young adult and Children's choirs is taking place on Wednesday 17th December at 7.30pm. A date for your diary!

Teams of Our Lady Annual Mass: Sunday, December 7th, at 12:30pm, in St. Vincent de Paul Church, Marino, Dublin D09 KN83. After Mass there will be tea & coffee and a social gathering. All are welcome. For more info., contact Paola & Paolo (dublin.tol.ie@gmail.com) or visit www.teamsofourlady.ie.

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

All Night Vigil to Knock Shrine: Sunday 7th December
Bus Departs St. Cronan's Church at 6:15pm and Council Offices, Swords at 6:30pm. Contact Nora for further details on 8404247or 086 3292329.

Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards available from the Parish Office.
They are €5 each and the intentions of these cards will be remembered at our Christmas Masses

Frank Duff Prayer Meeting

Pray…Reflect..Share Tuesday, 2nd December 8:00pm-9:00pm in Parish Pastoral Centre, St Cronan's Church. You'll be most welcome. Please invite a friend. The Rosary, reading & reflection on next Sunday's Gospel and a little background information about Frank Duff will be included. Prayer Group promotes devotion to the Servant of God, Frank Duff.

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
Fr Pat Reilly
Monica Klement

Month's Mind
Anne Kelly
Ambrose Crotty

Anniversaries
Mark Ennis (1A)
Robbie Grimes (2A)
Noel Kiernan (9A)
Thomas Hatch (10A)
Patricia Lacey (15A)
Niall Boles
Gustavo Cafolla & Gemma O'Toole
Agnes & James Sammon
Eamonn & Maureen Lawless
Caitriona Dixon
Elizabeth & Mary Punch
Philip Hickey (BR)

10 AM MASSES THIS WEEK

Mon	Tom Bergin (RD) Elizabeth & Mary Punch (A)
Tues	Mary O'Grady (BR) Special Intention
Wed	Pat Kearns (A) Irene Kirwan (A)
Thur	Kathleen & John Kelly (A) & Dcsd Members of Halton & Kelly Families
Fri	Margaret Fitzpatrick (33A)
Sat	Special Intention

The annual **diocesan collection for the Dublin Council of the Society of St Vincent de Paul** will take place on the weekend of Sat/ Sun December 7/8th.

PARISH PRIEST
Fr. Richard Sheehy
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PARISH CHAPLAIN
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Declan Colgan
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PARISH SECRETARY
Louise Donnelly
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01 8401188
brackenstownparish@gmail.com

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

Registered Charity Number 20016166