



# CHURCH OF ST. CRONAN BRACKENSTOWN PARISH

*May the peace and love  
of the Infant Jesus find a home  
in your heart this Christmas &  
throughout 2016*

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

*Christmas Edition 2015 - 20th December*

# Wishing you a Peaceful Christmas

On the 8th December at Pope Francis' invitation we began an extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. At a time when our peace has been shaken by tragic events around the world and relations between peoples have been strained, this time of focusing on God's love for us is very important. At the heart of the year is the invitation to find personal peace through rediscovering the sacrament of Reconciliation. Through this sacrament we come to meet the Father's concern for his sons and daughters and like the model of the Father who welcomes home the prodigal son, we too are invited to feel the comfort of the Father's embrace.

At the heart of this year is the symbol of the Jubilee Door. As we pass through it we are asked to be open to the peace that the Church offers.

In this season where we welcome the Prince of Peace among us, we pray that you and those closest to you may experience the care and mercy of our loving Father. As we celebrate together let us encourage and strengthen one another, that whatever plans and dreams we have entering another year, may be realised. May the blessing of the Christ child guide you and hold you through these months and may his peace reign in our hearts.

*Happy Christmas.*

*Fr. Paul & Fr. Joseph*



**Please take this Newsletter home with you**



# YEAR OF MERCY PILGRIMAGE TO ROME



**26th September—1st October 2016**

Booking is now open for this Pilgrimage. Booking forms are available from the Parish Office either by calling in or by email. Deposits of €150.00 need to be paid by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Cheques made payable to St. Cronan's Church. Please note total cost is €795. The dates are the 26<sup>th</sup> September to the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016. Full details on the Notice Board and on the Parish Website.

## THE PARISH PASTORAL CENTRE

In August James Ahern Architects and Duke Construction handed over our beautiful Parish Pastoral Centre and very quickly it has become a great asset for us. For many years the dream of having a facility like this has been discussed and thanks to our Pastoral Centre Development Group that dream has become a reality. There are a wide variety of things taking place in the Centre and in the year ahead we hope to develop more activities to build up our community.

What's available in the Pastoral Centre?

**The Parish Office:** is now located in the heart of the Centre. Opening hours Monday – Friday 9:30am – 1:00pm.

**Coffee/Tea After Mass:** on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday our Hospitality Team offer refreshments after the 10:00am Mass. We will expand this as we get more volunteers.

**Bible Study:** every Monday evening from 7:30 – 8:30pm.

**Swords Unit of the Order of Malta:** meet on a Wednesday evening from 8:30pm.

**Mother and Baby Group:** meet on a Thursday morning from 10:45 – 12:00noon.

**St. Vincent de Paul Conference:** meet every second Wednesday.

**Scoil Rince Naomh Bríd:** Irish Dancing for children meet on Monday afternoon at 2:30pm

**The Parish Pastoral Council:** hold their monthly meetings.

**CASA (Caring and Sharing Association):** have their monthly social for teenagers.

We have also hosted Prayer Workshops, Sacramental Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation Parents, Hospitality after events and general meetings.

## EPIPHANY GIFTS APPEAL

On the Feast of the Epiphany (Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January) when we celebrate the visit of the Magi bearing gifts to the infant Jesus, we invite you to bring an extra gifts you have received for Christmas that you would like to pass on to someone else.

We give these gifts to Alice Leahy's Trust, a day-care facility for the homeless based in the Iveagh Trust Buildings. The kind of things that are useful are: chocolates, sweets, scented candles, toiletries, scarves, gloves etc. Bring them to the crib in the Church and the Pastoral Council will pass them on.



**Epiphany Gifts can be brought to all Masses**

## MASS AND CHURCH SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

**Saturday 26th December**

**St. Stephen's Day**

Mass at 10.00am & Sunday Vigil Mass at 6.30pm  
(No Confessions or Adoration)

**Sunday 27th December**

9.00am, 11am, 12.30pm & 5.30pm

**Monday to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December**

Mass at 10am

The Church will close each day at 3pm.

**Friday 1st January 2016**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

Mass at 11:00am

**Church will close at 12 noon**

**Saturday 2nd January:**

Normal Schedule Resumes

**Wednesday 6th January 2016 (Feast of the Epiphany)**

Vigil Mass (Tuesday) 7:30pm and Mass (Wednesday) 10:00am & 7:30pm





## EXTRACT FROM *MISERICORDIAE VULTUS* (THE YEAR OF MERCY DOCUMENT)

BY POPE FRANCIS

At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.

The Holy Year will open on 8 December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This liturgical feast day recalls God's action from the very beginning of the history of mankind. After the sin of Adam and Eve, God did not wish to leave humanity alone in the throes of evil. And so he turned his gaze to Mary, holy and immaculate in love (cf. Eph 1:4), choosing her to be the Mother of man's Redeemer. When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive. I will have the joy of opening the Holy Door on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On that day, the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instils hope. (Paragraph 3)



## THE GREAT ADVENTURE AN 8 WEEK BIBLE STUDY COURSE

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January you are invited to come to the Parish Centre after any of the Masses for a short presentation on next years Bible Study Programme. The Great Adventure brings you through the main sections of the Old and New Testaments and helps you see the development of God's relationship with his people.

The eight week course will be run on Monday evenings in the Parish Centre. We are also willing to offer it on Tuesday mornings if there is sufficient interest.

## PARISH PASTORAL CENTRE FUNDRAISING

The following are weekly totals:

**Buy-A-Brick Appeal € 20,258.28**

**Pastoral Centre Donations; €25,776**

**Parish Centre Appeal Total €46,034.28**

The Certificates for all who contributed are now ready to be collected at the Parish Office.

Many thanks to all who have kindly contributed.

## MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

**6:30pm** Patricia Hayes (A)

**9:00am** Altar List of the Dead

**11:00am** Eddie Farrell (A)

**12:30pm** Nora & Michael Ward (A)

**5:30pm** Thomas Lawless (A)

## PRAY FOR

Patrick (Pat) Lawless (A)

Patrick & Kathleen Boylan (A)

Gabriel Murphy & Madge Hickey (A)

## MASSES NEXT WEEK AT 10AM

**Mon:** Gerard & James McGrath (A)

**Pray for:** Sandra Brophy (A)

**Tues:** Maria & Renne Lapinig (Wedding A)

**Wed:** Special Intention

**Thurs:** Laura Sayers (A)

**Fri:** Paul & Tony O'Donoghue (A)

**Sat:** Thomas Hatch (MM)

## PARISH INFORMATION

**Mass Times:**

**Weekday Mass:**

**Holyday Mass:**

**Confession:**

Sunday: 6:30pm (Sat. Vigil); 9:00am, 11:00am, 12:30pm & 5:30pm

Monday to Saturday 10:00am

Vigil 7:30pm; 10:00am

Saturday 10:30am to 11:00am and 6:00pm to 6:20pm

After 10:00am Mass on the Thursday before the First Friday

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