

ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP OF BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS, RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE PARISHES

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17TH DECEMBER 2023

YEAR B

Rejoice!
Gaudete
Sunday



With the lighting of the third candle on the Advent wreath this Sunday, we move into the second half of our Advent season. The pink candle represents joy on this third (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent. If the first half of Advent anticipates Christ's future coming in glory, the second half focuses on Jesus' coming in history with his birth at Bethlehem. The real invitation of Advent, as John the Baptist reminds us in this Sunday's Gospel, is to 'prepare a way' in the wilderness of the busy days ahead for Christ to come

anew into our lives. Let us try to create some space each day for a few moments of quiet reflection and prayer, so that the mystery of God's love for us revealed in Christ may touch us anew. If you are near the church, pop in for a moment and enjoy the silence or light a candle for someone you care about. Parishioners and visitors to the church will find a basket of gold and silver coloured stars under the Christmas tree. On the back of each star you are invited to write a message or prayer for hope or peace for an individual or for a particular group of people. Alternatively, you can write a promise of something you intend to do in the coming weeks to spread hope in your family or community. In this way our Christmas tree, can become a symbol of hope and light.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Fr. Richard



Parents whose children would like to participate in the nativity play at the Family Mass on Christmas Eve are invited to come to a rehearsal at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve.



Students from Colaiste Choilm will present gifts of food items at 11.00am Mass next Sunday. They will also assist our

St. Vincent de Paul Society in making up hampers to be distributed to families in need in the coming days.



St Cronan's Church Brackentown, Swords
ADVENT TALKS
by Sr. Therese Fitzgerald

ANNOUNCING HOPE IN A TIME OF CHALLENGE

Wednesday
20th December

Mary

at 7:00pm

in St. Cronan's Pastoral Centre

a series of talks on the key biblical figures in Advent:
Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mary

Announcing Hope in Time of Challenge, a series of talks on key biblical figures in Advent, presented by Sr. Therese Fitzgerald (Sisters of Sion) concludes on Wednesday 20th December at 7.00pm in the Pastoral Centre. This week the focus will be on **Mary**.

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.brackentown-parish.com

The Parish Christmas Card, Timetable of Services & Envelope are available for collection on the tables at the entrances to the church. As the cards are no longer being delivered to every home in the parish, we invite parishioners to take one for themselves and for any neighbour who may be glad to get one.

Timetable of Christmas Services

Tuesday 19th December
Service of Reconciliation
at River Valley Church 7.30pm

Saturday 23rd December
Mass 10:00am
(Confessions 10:30am-11:30am)
Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve)
Mass 9.00am and 11.00am
(Confessions after each Mass)

First Mass of Christmas 6.00pm
(Family Mass)
Mass of the Nativity 9.00pm
(Preceded by Carols at 8.45pm)

Monday 25th December (Christmas Day)
Christmas Mass 9.00am & 11.00am
No Evening Mass

All parish Christmas services will be broadcast on the webcam

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

Liam McDonnell
Leo Levins
Cillian Murray
Helen Liffey

Anniversaries

Melencia Mande (1A)
Noel O'Toole (BR)
Kevin Donnelly (BR)
Johno Mande
Patrick Green
Kathleen, Marie & Aishling Skelton
Tom & Ita McArdle
Donal Cronin
Larry & Brigid Kane
Mary & Peter Mulkearns & Dcsd Family Members
Kathleen, Valerie, Jack, James & John English & Dcsd Members of English Family

10 AM MASSES NEXT WEEK

Mon Dcsd Members of Stones & McGonigle Families
Tues John & Kathleen O'Connor (A)
Kathleen, Marie & Aisling Skelton (A)
Tom Stacey (A)
Wed Kathleen, Patrick & Hugh P. O'Reilly & Dcsd Family Members O'Reilly & Lee Families
Thur Gerry Macken (A)
Fri Noel Hoey (A)
Sat Special Intention

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.



Bethany Bereavement Support Group

offer a free and confidential telephone support to any bereaved parishioners who wish to avail of it
Sr. Mary - 8404323 Sunday 17th to Thursday 21st December
Please phone from 6-9.30pm

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

CO 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



Scripture study classes have finished for Christmas and will resume in January

There is a new **Parish Child Safeguarding Policy**, a copy of which is on our website. Hard copies are also available for parishioners upon request.



Anam Cara North Dublin, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 20th December at 7:15pm in the Hilton Hotel, Malahide Rd, Northern Cross, Dublin, D17 Y924. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. Please contact us on info@anamcara.ie or 085 2888 888 for any queries.



Legion of Mary

Religious Goods & Literature

Suitable Gifts for Families during these Changing Times

Books including **Blessed Carlo Acutis 5 steps to being a saint**, The Order of Mass Congregational Cards, Church art calendars,

Nativity sets, Candles, Statues, Christmas tree decorations, Children's books, Bibles etc. all available in main porch after Saturday evening & Sunday morning Masses.