

CHURCH OF ST. CRONAN ✠ BRACKENSTOWN PARISH

26th April 2020

3rd SUNDAY of EASTER

Year A

Easter

This year for us all was an unusual celebration of Easter. It is the highpoint

of the Church's year and so much work goes into the ceremonies by so many in the Parish that I know many felt a gap in their lives, not being able to participate and minister in the normal way.

I would like to thank Fr. Bibin, Niamh, Louise and Gretta for helping us to celebrate Easter through their ministries for the various ceremonies. In the limitations that we worked under, I think we had a very prayerful and uplifting Holy Week and Easter.

We are trying to keep the Church and grounds looking well so that when you are out for your walks that you can visit and take some time to reflect. I would like to thank Maura for creating the beautiful flower arrangements and enhancing our new Sanctuary. The children of the Parish did such a great job with their beautiful flowers for the Easter Garden. Colm and Jenny made sure every corner was hoovered. And thanks to Willie, the Easter waters flowed and so many were able to bring the water home and to their neighbours. We are waiting on a new supply of bottles to make more Easter Water available.

Christie, Aaron and Chris have been a crucial part in our being able to keep the Church open. They make sure that the open areas are washed down on a regular basis and that rubbish is removed.

The Church building could only stay open because those who visit are keeping the social distancing and wiping down any surface that they touch. I call over on a regular basis to make sure this is happening.

A phrase that I came across recently is very apt for this time "The Church isn't closed, the Church has been deployed." It is great to see Church being lived by people in their homes, creating prayer spaces, decorating their windows, going on watch party for the times of prayer, looking out for one another and praying to each other. Niamh has done an extraordinary job in using our Facebook page to actively engage with families, by making the webcam available on it and creating the Family Prayer section on the Parish Website.

Louise has created two interactive prayer spaces on the Parish Website where you can pray our Stations of the Cross and Pray with the Saints whose statues are in our Church. Another link Louise has set up is to be able to send in prayer requests which are remembered at our Masses and especially at the Prayer Around the Cross on Fridays.



A difficult aspect of Ministry is Funerals. Brackenstown is a great Parish for people to support one another at the time when a family is coping with saying goodbye. Each of the families who have had funerals at this time have been so co-operative with the restrictions even though it caused them great pain. This is where we need to minister to each other. It is never too late to contact someone to support them in their grief - texts, calls or a letter mean so much. So if a neighbour or someone you know has lost someone, make a point of getting in touch with them. If you want a Mass card you can send an email to the Parish Office and we will get it sent out to you. Don't forget about those who are grieving and reach out to them in whatever you can.

I would like to thank you all for your support in these times. The feedback through texts and emails, make a huge difference to us. I am overwhelmed with the number of people who have supported the collection and the Easter Dues. I am very aware of the financial strain and uncertainty that families are under and the decisions around support have to be carefully weighed up.

It is going to take some time for things to get back to normal and whatever normal is going to mean. From listening to the advice from Prof. Holohan and An Taoiseach, that social distancing will remain for many months. When the 2 metre social distancing is applied to our Church the maximum that we can hold is 100. So as restrictions ease there will be other challenges but as we have worked through this so creatively to date I am confident that we will be able to cope with the new situations ahead. It will mean that First Communions, Masses, Funerals, Weddings will be celebrated differently and the big crowds at these events will be limited.

At the beginning of the Pandemic, the country was placed under the care of Our Lady, so in these times we pray to her, to watch over our families and communities, our frontline workers and healthcare professionals, to help us in our grieving and guide us to safety. Through her prayers let us grow in trust to her Son's words "Do not be afraid, I am with you." Stay home, Stay safe, Stay in touch!

Fr. Paul

ALL WEEKEND MASSES WILL BE OFFERED FOR INTENTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN BOOKED

Enda Rogers (BR)
Sam Clarkin (1A)
Eileen Brown (8A)
Muriel Harford (A)

PRAY FOR

Noreen McKittrick (RD)
Phyllis Maguire (RD)
Emmet Kelly (RD)
Birdie Murphy (RD)
Patrick O'Reilly (MM)
Frank McCarthy (A)

10 AM MASSES NEXT WEEK

Mon: Patrick O'Reilly (MM)
Tues: Peter (Sonny) & Maisie Blanche (A)
Wed: Brendan O'Keeffe (A)
Thur: Bridget Coyle (RD)
Fri: Special Intention
Pray for: May Shinnors (A)
Sat: Emmet Kelly (RD)

A virtual pilgrimage to Knock will now take place this Sunday 26th April. The programme is as follows:



- 2.30pm: Rosary**
3.00pm: Pilgrimage mass celebrated by the Rector of Knock Shrine, Father Richard Gibbons
3.45pm: Benediction
4.00pm: Virtual visit to the Apparition Chapel
4.15pm: Opportunity to place a petition, light a candle or have a mass said online.

You can join the pilgrimage from this link:

www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live.html

There will also be a specific virtual youth pilgrimage for teens taking place over Facebook live. For more details and parental consent form etc, please email: st.pauls@dublindiocese.ie

Do you need someone to talk to during Covid 19 crisis?

Fingal Counselling Service has initiated a telephone support helpline to offer assistance to members of our community who are in distress. The service will run for the duration of the Covid 19 crisis.

Should you need support, you can call us on **01 8902596**

Leave your name and contact number and one of our counsellors will return your call the answer service is checked daily.

Alternatively you can email us at info@counsellingatfingal.com

Age Action and the Irish Red Cross

Have raised funds to provide additional assistance to older and vulnerable people around Ireland who are experiencing hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic by making once-off grants, up to a maximum of €500, per person/household affected.

Who Can Apply: Older people in need of assistance, family members supporting an older person and carers of older people, social workers and local voluntary organisations or community groups providing direct assistance to individuals within this target group.

How Do I Apply: The COVID-19 Hardship Fund Application Form is available <https://www.ageaction.ie/file/2020-covid-19-hardship-fund-form-finaldocx> or you can contact our offices to request a form by contacting us at;

Email: hardship2020@redcross.ie

Phone: Irish Red Cross at 01 6424600 or Age Action at 01 475 6989

If you are unable to connect with us via the webcam, Mass is available on EWTN (Sky Channel 588) & daily at 10:30am RTENEWSNOW, Saorview (channel 21), Sky (521), Virgin Media (200), Eir (517) as well as via the RTÉ Player, the RTÉ News Now app and via RTÉ.ie/news.

The Parish Office remains closed, but you can contact us by email to book Masses or have someone prayed for etc.

Email: brackenstownparish@gmail.com

Fr. Paul can be contacted on 087 7404729 or pauljthornton@gmail.com

Fr. Bibin can be contacted on 089 4238775

All our Masses and prayer times will be broadcast on the webcam:

www.brackenstown-parish.com

VOLUNTEERS

We have a group of volunteers in the parish who are assisting parishioners who need an extra helping hand at this time. This could be with grocery shopping, pharmacy or similar tasks. If you would like some support, please contact Fr. Paul at 0877404029 or by private message on Facebook.

READINGS FOR 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

PSALM: 16:1-2, 5, 7-11

2nd Reading: 1 Pt 1:17-21

Gospel: Lk 24:13-35

*Praying with
God's Word*

Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

New Sanctuary Furniture

So far €22,623 has been donated to our fundraising appeal, this includes a donation to cover the cost of the Ambo from the Bible Study Group and a gift from the Marie Reparatrice Sisters to cover the cost of the Sanctuary Lamp. If you wish to make a donation there are envelopes at the display at the Main Door.

Easter Dues

Easter Dues Envelopes are available at the back of the Church and can be returned by placing in one of the White Boxes at the back of the Church.

Easter Dues can now also be donated using the Parish online payments facility. Simply go to the Parish website. www.brackenstown-parish.com and then click on the "Donate" button at the top of the page. Then select "Easter Dues Once" and enter the amount of your donation. You will need to have both your credit card/debit card and your mobile phone to hand. Your mobile phone is needed because a confirmation pin number will be texted to it. Please also consider using the online payment facility to set up a regular contribution to the first and second collections. These collections are the primary sources of financial support for our priests and for Share. As you are aware we do not currently have the opportunity to support these collections in the traditional way, yet our priests and Share are still depending on your support. You may also use the online facility to support the Parish Family offering and/or make a donation towards the new church furniture. For more detailed instructions or further information regarding the purpose of different collections please refer to the Parish website. Click on "Our Parish" at the top of the page and then click on "Finances"

Thank you for your support, it is very much appreciated. Wishing you all a very happy & holy Easter.

Paddy O'Byrne, Parish Finance Committee



Catholic Papers & Magazines

Are available as usual in the new bookrack at the back of the Church. All other items can be obtained by contacting a member of Legion of Mary or emailing the Parish Office.

'LIKE' Legion of Mary Brackenstown Swords



View our Parish Webcam via the Parish Website www.brackenstown-parish.com

[brackenstownparish](https://www.facebook.com/brackenstownparish)

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