

# ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP OF BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS, RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE PARISHES

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT      7TH DECEMBER 2025      YEAR A

This weekend we move into the Second week of our Advent journey. Like many people, I love the season of Advent: the beautiful readings from Isaiah, the colour in the church, the Advent wreath and candles, the Jesse tree, each in their own way contributing to the biblical narrative of the journey from darkness into light. The invitation to a place of quiet recollection and growing but gentle anticipation runs totally contrary to the frenetic activity of preparations for Christmas.



Advent encourages us, urges us even, to create space for quiet contemplation of the mystery of a God who is continually seeking to come into our lives, to bring peace, hope and joy in the midst of our busyness. Pope Francis writes that '*we are not built for rushing madly about all the time...meditating is like stopping to breathe*'. And he adds: '*The capacity to live and carry forth the love of God, to share his mercy and tenderness with others, is born from contemplation, from a solid friendship with the Lord*.' Next Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December we are inviting all those exercising ministry in our parish to a morning of reflection and nourishment for ourselves from 10.00am -1.00pm with Rosemary Lavelle at the Carmelite Convent, Seapark, Malahide. Don't let the opportunity pass. We owe it to ourselves and those to whom we minister!

**Fr Richard**

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.

The annual diocesan collection for the Dublin Council of the Society of St Vincent de Paul will take place **this weekend 7th & 8th December** and replaces the Share collection. A representative of our local conference of St. Vincent de Paul will speak at all Masses.

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

**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 Scóil 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.

The key question you will be asked in the survey is whether you wish for your school to be 'denominational or multi-denominational'. Those who wish for their school to continue to be a Catholic school need to tick 'denominational'. For all the above 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](http://www.gov.ie/primaryschoolsurvey) and closes on Tuesday, December 16.**

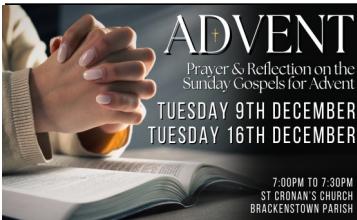
**SUNDAY MASSES:** (Sat Vigil) 6pm; 9am; 11am & 5pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** MONDAY to SATURDAY 10:00am

**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)



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 participants.

### **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Feast Day**

**Monday 8th December: Mass on the Feast Day will be in St. Cronan's Church at 10am & 7:30pm.**

Copies of our Advent Calendar for children are available at the back of the Church. All children are invited to take one and follow the suggestions each day to help them engage in the Advent season and countdown the days to Christmas!

• **Scóil Chrónáin Senior School** are organising a Christmas Carol Concert on **Wednesday 10th December** at 7.30pm in the church. Come along and join in the Christmas spirit!

• An **Advent Taizé Prayer** will take place on **Thursday 11th December**, the second Thursday of the month, at 7.30pm. All are welcome!

• Our annual **Christmas Coffee Morning** will be on **Wednesday 17th December** after the 10am Mass. Everybody welcome!

• The parish will host an **International Carol Service** in the church on **Wednesday 17th December at 7.30pm**, drawing on carols from the many national cultures and traditions in our parish community. Join us for mince pies afterwards in the parish centre!



#### **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](mailto:brackenstownparish@gmail.com) or tel. 01 8401188. The Parish Finance committee wish to thank you most sincerely for your continued generous support.

**Teams of Our Lady Annual Mass:** This Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30pm, in St. Vincent de Paul Church, Marino, Dublin D09 KN83. Teams of Our Lady is a Catholic movement which offers support in spirituality and faith development for married or engaged couples. After Mass there will be tea & coffee and a social gathering. All are welcome.

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly **Parent Support Evening** on Wednesday 17th December at 7.30pm in the Hilton Hotel, Malahide Rd, 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 how recent their death was. We also offer an online support group meeting. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.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](mailto:natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie). Registration is open at: <https://forms.office.com/e/Et8sXCxNtC>

#### **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.



#### **SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS**

##### **Recently Deceased**

Patricia Foley  
Patrick McEvoy

##### **Anniversaries**

Leo Levins (2A)  
Mai Logan  
Michael Rothwell  
Bridget Darcy  
Brian Lally  
Laurence & Lillie Wolohan  
Mary Redmond  
Gertrude & Dan Connair  
Bridget Darcy  
Kathleen Molloy

#### **10 AM MASSES THIS WEEK**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>Mon</b>  | Bridget Nugent (BR)<br>Special Intention              |
| <b>Tues</b> | Fr. Drummey (A)                                       |
| <b>Wed</b>  | Marian Movement for Priests<br>Anne McCorkell (4A)    |
| <b>Thur</b> | Liam McDonnell (2A)                                   |
| <b>Fri</b>  | Jack & Teresa Goulding (A) &<br>Dcsd Family & Friends |
| <b>Sat</b>  | Leo Fernando (R)<br>Liam Nolan (A)                    |

#### **Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are now available from the Parish Office.**

They are €5 each and the intentions of these cards will be remembered at all our Christmas Masses

An engagement ring has been handed into the Parish Office. Please contact the Sacristan or the Parish Office.

**PARISH PRIEST**  
**Fr. Richard Sheehy**  
**087 2412459**

[richardesheehy@gmail.com](mailto:richardesheehy@gmail.com)

**PARISH CHAPLAIN**  
**Fr. Joseph Hao P.C.**  
**01 8401188**

[brackenstownparish@gmail.com](mailto:brackenstownparish@gmail.com)

**PERMANENT DEACON**  
**Declan Colgan**  
**01 8401188**

[brackenstownparish@gmail.com](mailto:brackenstownparish@gmail.com)

**PARISH SECRETARY**  
**Louise Donnelly**  
**Mon to Fri. 9:30am - 1:00pm**  
**01 8401188**

[brackenstownparish@gmail.com](mailto:brackenstownparish@gmail.com)

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

**Registered Charity Number**  
**20016166**