

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

18 JANUARY 2026

YEAR A



Is it the milder temperatures, the slight stretch in the evening, or the sight of daffodil stems pushing up through the soil that are luring me into a (perhaps premature) sense that Spring is only round the corner? Whatever the case, we have moved liturgically from the Christmas season, which concluded last Sunday, into the period which we refer to as Ordinary Time, which covers most of the year, apart from the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. We have moved into Year A of the three year Sunday liturgical cycle, which means that our Gospel readings will normally be from Matthew's Gospel, which we will read during the year in a semi-continuous way. It is timely then that the study of Matthew's

Gospel begins this Monday evening at 7.30pm in the parish centre and will run for the next twelve weeks, bringing us up to and into Holy Week.

While Ordinary time is perhaps less dramatic than the events which are commemorated during the seasons of Christmas, Lent and Easter, this time of year is the time when preparation for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation come into sharp focus. As will be clear from the notices below, our Confirmation candidates from the different schools are attending a one day retreat on Wednesdays in the parish centre in the coming weeks, which will have the effect of making our Wednesday hospitality after Mass a bit cosier, as the Transition Year students from Colaiste Choilm also join us on those mornings! Confirmation candidates and their families join us for Mass this weekend, while the Parish programme of preparation for candidates and their parents, Confirmation Connect, also starts in the coming week, with further sessions in February and March.



Fr. Richard

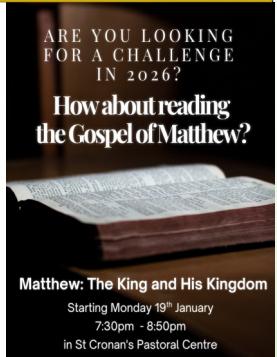
A preparation Mass for Confirmation will take place this Saturday 17th January at 6.00pm and Sunday 18th January at 5.00pm.

Retreats for Confirmation candidates for students from Scóil Chrónáin and Gaelscoil Bhrian Boroimhe will take place in the parish centre over the next four Wednesdays in the parish centre. The retreats are being led again this year by Gerard Hanley, who is the coordinator of Youth Alpha.



January is a good time to announce plans for a **Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi**. The pilgrimage, which includes 3 nights in Rome and 2 nights in Assisi from 14-19th September, is open to parishioners and friends from the parishes of Swords, River Valley, Donabate and Brackenstown. The cost of €1,495 per person sharing includes return flights to Rome with Aer Lingus, half board accommodation in Rome and Assisi, air conditioned coach throughout the pilgrimage and assistance of a Marian Pilgrimages representative. For more details, look out for the posters and flyers. Booking is made directly with Marian pilgrimages, and a non-refundable deposit of €400 per person is required.

How about reading one Gospel in 2026? Are you looking for a challenge in 2026? How about deepening your relationship with Jesus by studying one Gospel from beginning to end? The Gospel readings at Mass for 2026 will be taken from the Gospel of Matthew. The Brackenstown Bible study group will commence a study of St. Matthew's Gospel on Monday 19th January and you are invited to take part.



Matthew: The King and His Kingdom shows how Jesus fulfils God's promises to Israel and establishes his kingdom on earth. Through references to the Old Testament promises of God to his people and the messages God sent them through the prophets, this Bible study provides the key to understanding the rest of the New Testament and Christ as the fulfilment of God's plan. The classes will be held in St Cronan's Pastoral Centre from 7.30 to 8.50 pm on Monday nights. There will be a 50 minute DVD presentation by biblical scholar Jeff Cavins followed by a Q & A and discussion. There is no charge, and all are welcome. To register please contact Louise in the parish office, tel. 01 8401188 or email: brackenstownparish@gmail.com

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

CONFESIONS: SATURDAY 10:45am to 11:30am in the Sacristy

ADORATION: MON, TUES, THURS & SAT:10:30AM—11:30AM

WEEKDAY MASSES: MONDAY to SATURDAY 10:00am

WEDNESDAY: 6pm - 9pm

FRIDAY: 3pm—6pm

All our ceremonies are broadcast online at www.brackenstown-parish.com

Sacramental classes for children, who do not attend a Catholic school, continue on Tuesdays in the parish centre from 3.00-4.00pm.

Our Parish programme of preparation for Confirmation candidates and their parents, *Confirmation Connect*, begins this week on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st January. The programme consists of 3 sessions, one each month in the church from 7.00-8.00pm. Each session is based around a short video focussing on a particular aspect of Confirmation, followed by small group discussion. It is essential that at least one parent accompany their child to the programme.

Coffee Morning in aid of St Francis' Hospice, next Thursday 22nd January in Teresa's house, 20 Pine Grove Park, Swords. All welcome in support of this great cause.

A meeting of the parish **Liturgy Group** will take place this Thursday 22nd January at 7.00pm in the room beside the sacristy.



Catholic Schools Week will run from 18th- 25th January, and the theme this year is: *Normal Lives, called to Holiness*. This is a week to celebrate and acknowledge the wonderful contribution that our Primary Catholic schools, both primary and post-primary, make to the mission of the Church in our local faith communities and throughout the wider Church. Catholic Schools Week Resources are available at www.catholicschools.ie.

The annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** runs this year from 18th-25th January. The inaugural service will be held on Sunday at 8pm in St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church, Palmerstown, Dublin 20, D20 VP97. The theme "THERE IS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO THE ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING" (Ephesians 4:4) has been prepared by the Armenian churches and finalised by the Vatican Dicastery for promoting Christian Unity, together with the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. Resources unpacking the theme can be downloaded from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) at ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer and found on [@Twitter/X](https://twitter.com/CTBI). The material has been designed so that it can be used throughout the year in other ecumenical settings. The Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity offers similar resources through its website at christianunity.va.

The Holy Cross Group, a missionary group from Bethlehem will visit the parish on the weekend of 7th/8th February to sell olive wood crafts to support Christians in the Holy Land.

Many thanks to parishioners and visitors who have returned **Christmas Offerings** which form part of the annual remuneration of the priests of the parish and of the diocese. We are very grateful for your generous support at this time and throughout the year.

Registration is 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. For more information contact Natalie at natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie ASAP. Registration is open at: <https://forms.office.com/e/Et8sXCxNtc>

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on **Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7.30pm 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 how recent their death was. You do not need to register in advance. We also offer an online support group meeting. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email info@anamcara.ie

Religious Goods - Suitable for families

Church Art calendars, children's books, Baptism cards and candles, motorist prayers and key rings, and lots more available at repository on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings.



SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

Gerard Maughan
Sheila Coll

Anniversaries

Amanda Harford (1A)

Eugene Carroll (1A)

Gerry O'Malley (10A)

Margaret & Harry Donnelly

John Sweeney

Marie & Michael Reynolds &
Dcsd Family Members

Rhea Kinsella

Dcsd Members of Daly Family

Billy Curtis

Carmel Kieran

Joan Cowan (BR)

2 Special Intentions

10 AM MASSES THIS WEEK

Mon Special Intention

Tues Special Intention

Wed James Tobin (A)

Thur Phil & Nuala Ryan (A)

Fri Flora Moran (5A)

Special Intention

Sat James Tobin (A)

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

offer a free and confidential telephone support to any bereaved parishioners who wish to avail of it

**Please phone Terri on
01 8403243**

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

PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Richard Sheehy
087 2412459

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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**