

ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP OF BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS, RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE PARISHES

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

21ST DECEMBER 2025

YEAR A

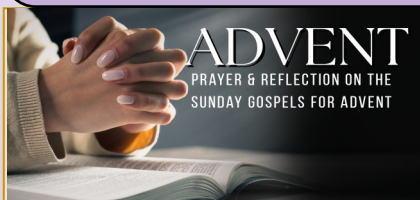
Christmas is almost upon us. For children perhaps, it can't come quick enough; for many of us it has suddenly crept up in the last few days. It seems like only yesterday that we were lighting the first candle on the Advent wreath. This Sunday we are getting ready to light the third purple (the fourth candle altogether), and after that it's only four more 'sleeps' to Christmas. There will no doubt be some panicking over the next few days, as we complete the last of the shopping, wrap presents, prepare food and remember a last minute gift or visit. But when the shops have finally closed their doors, a hush will descend on Christmas Eve as we gather here and in churches around the world to celebrate our Lord's Nativity, the mystery of incarnation, God entering human history as a child born in a stable. We are invited to simply pause and wonder at a God who could love us so much that he assumed our human condition in Jesus and redeemed it. Like the shepherds, who journeyed across fields at night to greet the Saviour, we are called to welcome the Christ child: in our hearts and in our homes, in our prayer and in our attitudes towards others. In the midst of these busy days before Christmas, let us prepare a way for the Lord.



Maranatha, come Lord Jesus!

Fr Richard

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (Confession) will be available in the room beside the sacristy following the 10.00am Mass this Saturday 20th December and again following the 10.00am Mass on Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve).



Many thanks to Alison Barker for facilitating a small Scripture sharing group over the Tuesdays of Advent to reflect on the Sunday **Scripture readings!**



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.



There is a basket of gold stars beneath our Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Parishioners and visitors are invited to write a little prayer for peace or for hope on the (white) back of the star and to place it on the Christmas tree. It may be a prayer for peace/hope for the world in general or in our own family or community.

Some of the intentions will form part of the prayers at our Vigil of Prayer on New Year's Eve. Many thanks to Ms. Farrelly's 4th class in Scoil Chronain, who have written their prayer intentions on some of the stars.

A very successful half day of recollection with Rosemary Lavelle for those exercising ministry in our parish took place last Saturday at the Carmelite Convent in Malahide. 27 people representing various ministries in our parish participated, and it was wonderful that in the midst of the busy run up to Christmas, so many could make time to nourish their own faith life.

We had a lovely **International Carol Service** in the church on Wednesday where we were treated to a feast of carols from the many national cultures in our parish community. Congrats to Gladys Marcos, Una Molloy, and our choirs and organist for making it all happen! The joy continued afterwards in the parish centre over mince pies, provided by our hospitality team. Many thanks!



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.brackenstown-parish.com

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 who may be housebound, so that they can follow our Christmas services on the webcam. (See the full schedule of Christmas services below). Our 6.00pm Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve will include a Nativity .

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2025

Church of St. Cronan, Brackenstown Parish

*St. Cronan's forms part of the Partnership of
Swords, River Valley, Donabate & Brackenstown Parishes*

Monday 22nd December

Advent Service of Reconciliation
at St. Patrick's Church, Donabate Church 7.30pm

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

Mass 10:00am
(Confessions 10:30-11:30am)
First Mass of Christmas (Family Mass) 6.00pm
Mass of the Nativity 9.00pm
(Preceded by Carols at 8.45pm)

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

Christmas Mass 9.00am & 11.00am
No Evening Mass

Friday 26th December St. Stephen's Day

Mass 10.00am

Saturday 27th December

Mass 10.00am
Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday 28th December Feast of the Holy Family

Mass 9.00am, 11.00am & 5:00pm

Monday 29th – Wed 31st December

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 31st December

Prayer vigil to welcome New Year 11.30pm

Thursday 1st January 2026 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass 10.00am

Saturday 3rd January

Mass 10.00am
Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday 4th January Second Sunday of Christmas

Mass 9.00am, 11.00am & 5.00pm

Monday 5th January

Mass 10.00am
Vigil Mass 7.30pm

Tuesday 6th January Feast of the Epiphany

Mass 10.00am

Sunday 11th January Feast of the Baptism of The Lord

Mass 9.00am, 11.00am, & 5.00pm

Please note there will be a Christmas Vigil Mass at 7.30pm on

Christmas Eve in Dublin Airport church.

**Epiphany Gifts for Alice Leahy Trust or St. Vincent de Paul
can be brought to all Masses from
29th December to the 6th January**

The parish clergy and Parish Pastoral Council would like to express our sincere appreciation for all who have cleaned and decorated our church and prepared our liturgies for Christmas. Our particular thanks to our choirs, cantors and organist, our ministers of the Word and Eucharist, our stewards, florist, crib builders, Family Mass group and parish liturgy team, and our parish office team. We wish everyone a joy filled and safe Christmas and blessings in the coming year!

Many thanks to parishioners and visitors who have already returned **Christmas Offerings** in the envelopes provided. Christmas Offerings 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.

New Year's Eve Vigil: You are invited to join us at 11.30pm on Wednesday 31st December (New Year's Eve) as we cross the threshold from this year to the next in a spirit of reflection, prayer and song.

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 will be held in St Cronan's Pastoral Centre from 7.30 to 8.50 pm on Monday nights. 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

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom shows how Jesus fulfils God's promises to Israel and establishes his kingdom on earth. This Bible study provides the key to understanding the rest of the New Testament and Christ as the fulfilment of God's plan.

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. 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.



Legion of Mary

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

Fred Devine
Patricia Brunicardi

Anniversaries

Patrick Tierney (7A)
Stephen O'Gorman (13A)
Kathleen, Marie, Aishling & Sharon Skelton
Johnny O'Sullivan
Ann Browne
Sheila O'Reilly
Ivan Reilly
Mary Naughton
Jim Thomas
Anne Slattery (nee Halligan)
Thomas, Douglas and baby Saoirse Crosbie
Pearl & Alfred Bryson
Tadhg Brosnan
Kathleen, Patrick & Hugh P. O'Reilly & Dcsd Members of O'Reilly & Lee Families
Special Intention

10 AM MASSES THIS WEEK

Mon	Anastatia Kelly (A) Jack, Margaret & Richard Spourke Special Intention
Tues	Noel Hoey (A) Peter Dunne (RD)
Wed	Patrick & Bridget Green (A) Una Greene (RD) Larry O'Donoghue Gary Gregan Michael Cawley Eugene Carroll
Thur	CHRISTMAS DAY
Fri	Jim Reid (A) Nathan, Daniel & Mary Sinead Maughan (A)
Sat	Special Intention

PARISH PRIEST
Fr. Richard Sheehy
087 2412459
richarddesheehy@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