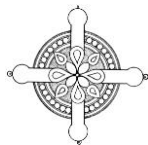


Fourth Sunday of Year B



1st February 2015

MASS INTENTIONS

6:30pm Paddy Kelly (A)
9.00am Altar List of the Dead
11.00am Barney McCann (A)
12.30pm Kathleen Kearns (A)
5.30pm William Bourke (2nd A)

PRAY FOR

Betty Daly (22nd A)
Christina Lynch (RD)

MASSES NEXT WEEK 10.00 AM

Mon: Alberto Lapinig Snr. (A)
Tues: James & Delia Maloney (R)
Wed: James & Margart McEvaddy (R)
Thurs: James & Winifred Kirwan (A)
Fri: Special Intention
Sat: Jerry O'Rourke (MM)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Times of Adoration are:

Mon: 10.30 am – 11.30 am
Wed: 6.00 pm – 11.00 pm
Fri: 10.30am – 5.45 pm
Sat: 10.30am – 11.30am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on the last Sunday of the month from 4 - 5 pm.

POLISH MASS

Msze Swieta w Jeryku Polskim w Niedziele 8 Luty o godz 18:45. (Spowiedz 18:15 – 18:40).

BAPTISMS

Dates for Baptisms in February:

Saturday 7th February at 4:00pm
Sunday 8th February at 1:45pm
Saturday 21st February at 4:00pm
Sunday 22nd February at 2:00pm

Parent/Guardian Meeting is **Thursday 5th February at 8:00pm.**

Please contact the Parish Office for details.

FAMILY OFFERING

We thank all those parishioners who support the running of the parish through the Parish Family Offering fund. The December standing order figure is €3,131.00. The Weekly Outdoor collection for last week amounted to €812.68. The Family Offering Envelope Collection is the ONLY one which supports the daily running costs of the Parish and the upkeep of the Church. Thank you for your commitment to this collection.

PRAYER MEETING

Prayer Meeting on **Tuesday next, 3rd February** from 8 – 9pm in Sister's House, 29 Brackenstown Village (opposite School). This Prayer Group promotes devotion to Servant of God, Frank Duff, Founder of Legion of Mary. Everybody most welcome.

LOCAL CHOIR

Start 2015 on High Note. Join our Choir in Swords. All voice types and all choral backgrounds welcome. Contact Stuart at 087 2140126 or email: stuart.purcell99@gmail.com

LEGION OF MARY

Legion of Mary **urgently** needs new members to continue it's apostolate – over 18's – Wednesdays 7:30pm in Sacristy and Tuesdays 10:30am in Sister's House. Junior members Fridays 5:00pm in Sacristy. Come and see, you'll be most welcome.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Cards, Prayer Books and other gifts available main porch after Saturday evening & Sunday morning Masses.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Are you wondering what to do this Lent? Why not join us here in St Cronan's for a seven week Lenten Bible study of the Gospels of Matthew & Mark? The reading plan will run from Monday 09/02/15 and end on 30/03/15, which is the Monday of Holy Week. There will be meetings each Monday at 7.30-8.30 pm to review and discuss the previous week's reading, and you will be provided with a reading guide for the following week. To register your interest please email phone 8401188 or email brackenstownparish@gmail.com.

A talk on the Gospels of Matthew and Mark will take place on Monday 9th February at 8.00 pm in St Cronan's church. Guest speaker Fr. Paddy Boyle. All are welcome!

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

B.E. is a support group for those coping with the pain of loss of their life partner, through Death, Separation or Divorce. Few people are able to cope alone with the pain of loss. Next Coping Programme will commence on Wednesday 4th February for 7 Wednesday evenings, at 7.15pm in White Friars Community Centre, Aungier St. ,Dublin 2 For further information phone 086 0877379 or email bedublin@gmail.com

FEASTS OF THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS AND ST. BLAISE

Monday 2nd February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Candles will be blessed at the 10:00am Mass. It is also a day of prayer for all those men and women religious who live a Consecrated life.

Tuesday 3rd February is the Feast of St. Blaise. Throats will be blessed after the 10:00am Mass.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Drivers needed – Do you have an hour to spare each week.

We are looking for drivers to deliver meals to people in the Swords area around mid-day. The role is purely voluntary, unpaid. Please contact Paul McCormack on Ph: 0857232825

CHY3 TAX REFUND SCHEME

The Parish has received almost €25,473 as a very welcome refund of PAYE tax paid by parishioners in 2013. CHY3 forms for 2014 have now been posted to parishioners who meet the qualifying criteria; we ask that parishioners please return these forms to the parish at your earliest convenience. We wish to express our sincere thanks to all those parishioners who help fund the running costs of the parish. Your support is very much appreciated.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION ARRANGEMENTS

This year we have three days of the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Wednesday 11th February Gaelscoil Bhrian Boroimhe at 11:00am

Thursday 12th February St. Cronan's S.N.S. (Ms, Manton, Ms. Bolster, Ms. Finn) at 11:00am

Friday 13th February St. Cronan's S.N.S. (Ms. Mahon & Ms. Heffernan); Swords E.T.N.S.; Thornleigh E.T.N.S. Holywell E.T.N.S. at 11:00am.

On these three mornings the daily Mass will be at 9:30am not 10:00am. There will be no car parking available from 10:00am as all spaces will be allocated for the Confirmation families.

Funerals will take place at 2:00pm or they will have the option of having their Mass that morning in St. Colmcille's Church.

We thank you in advance for your co-operation and understanding.

PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME WITH YOU

We ask you to take home this Newsletter, but to leave the Mass Leaflet with the reading in the Church. Taking the newsletter home will remind you of the upcoming events, but also leaving it on the table others at home can read it and keep in touch with what is happening in the Parish. It's sharing the Good News!

PARISH RETREAT

This year the theme of our Retreat is Family. As the Synod on the Family has reflected an many of the challenges that face Catholic families today and will again discuss them in October, our Retreat is a time to nourish and support our families and appreciate their vital role in the life of the Church.

The Retreat begins with the Blessing of Children, Babies and Expectant Parents on Sunday 1st March at 3pm. Each morning there will be Mass at 7:30am and 10:00am and each evening our Retreat Session will take place.

Monday 2nd March led by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin; Tuesday 3rd March led by the Catholic Grandparents Association; Wednesday 4th March led by Fr. John Harris OP, Thursday 5th March Mass of Healing with Anointing of the Sick at 1:00pm and the evening session led by Mrs. Elva Walsh (mother of the late Donal Walsh) and Friday 6th Taizé Prayer during which the Sacrament of Confession will be available.

CONFIRMATION NOVENA

From Sunday 1st February to Tuesday 10th February, Parishioners will be invited to share in a Novena of Prayer for our young people who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on the 11th, 12th and 13th February. The prayer will be said at all Masses and cards with the names of the candidates will be available at the Masses on the Sunday for you to take and pray for a particular young person.

PARISH SOCIAL

On Friday 6th February at 7:30pm there will be a Mass to give thanks for the work of so many people in the life of the Parish. During the Mass the new Parish Pastoral Council will be commissioned. After the Mass our Parish Social will take place in the St. Cronan's School Hall where there will be refreshments, music and an opportunity for all those involved in the Parish to get to know each other a little better. We have sent out invitations to as many of the members of various groups and hope that we haven't missed anyone. It would help us if you could let Louise know if you are coming along so that we have an idea of numbers. Even if you haven't received a formal invitation (some sent by post others by email) you are invited to join us, just let Louise know.

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Fourth Sunday of Year B *1st February 2015*

LENT IS COMING – GET READY

Pope Francis recently spoke about his three themes for Lent, which begins on Wednesday 18th February. In the lead up to Lent we will publish his thoughts for you. Here is part one, his introduction...

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2015

"Make your hearts firm" (Jas 5:8)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each communities and every believer. Above all it is a "time of grace" (2 Cor 6:2). God does not ask of us anything that he himself has not first given us. "We love because he first has loved us" (1 Jn 4:19). He is not aloof from us. Each one of us has a place in his heart. He knows us by name, he cares for us and he seeks us out whenever we turn away from him. He is interested in each of us; his love does not allow him to be indifferent to what happens to us. Usually, when we are healthy and comfortable, we forget about others (something God the Father never does): we are unconcerned with their problems, their sufferings and the injustices they endure... Our heart grows cold. As long as I am relatively healthy and comfortable, I don't think about those less well off. Today, this selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, to the extent that we can speak of a globalization of indifference. It is a problem which we, as Christians, need to confront.

When the people of God are converted to his love, they find answers to the questions that history continually raises. One of the most urgent challenges which I would like to address in this Message is precisely the globalization of indifference.

Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.

God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation. In the Incarnation, in the earthly life, death, and resurrection of the Son of God, the gate between God and man, between heaven and earth, opens once for all. The Church is like the hand holding open this gate, thanks to her proclamation of God's word, her celebration of the sacraments and her witness of the faith which works through love (cf. Gal 5:6). But the world tends to withdraw into itself and shut that door through which God comes into the world and the world comes to him. Hence the hand, which is the Church, must never be surprised if it is rejected, crushed and wounded.

God's people, then, need this interior renewal, lest we become indifferent and withdraw into ourselves. To further this renewal, I would like to propose for our reflection three biblical texts.

1: "If one member suffers, all suffer together" (1 Cor 12:26)

2: "Where is your brother?" (Gen 4:9)

3: "Make your hearts firm!" (James 5:8)