

ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP OF BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS, RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE PARISHES

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

14TH DECEMBER 2025

YEAR A

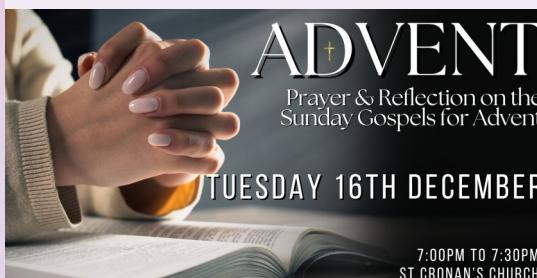


This weekend, Gaudete (Joy) Sunday we move into the Third week of Advent. If the first two weeks of Advent look forward to Christ's future coming in glory, and the full realisation of God's kingdom, the second half of Advent looks forward to celebrating the mystery of incarnation: God entering human history in a unique way through the birth of Jesus the Christ 2000 years ago. The real challenge is to prepare a way through the wilderness of over busy lives and Christmas celebrations for Christ to come into our hearts and homes

today. John the Baptist's summons was never more pertinent. Taking some moments of prayer and reflection every day, perhaps just popping into a church while out shopping or going for a walk, helps to restore our centre of gravity, brings calm to our souls amidst anxiety, panic or distress and reminds us of who or what is important. It also reminds us to reach out to someone who may be under pressure or experiencing loneliness or sadness at this time. During the past week Transition Year students from Colaiste Choilm helped our Society of St. Vincent de Paul to pack hampers for families or individuals in need. As the late Pope Francis put it so well: taking a few moments to pray every day 'reminds us of our dependence on God for life, strengthens our feeling of gratitude for the gifts of creation, and reaffirms our solidarity with those in greatest need'.

Maranatha, come Lord Jesus!

Fr Richard



Parishioners and visitors are invited to reflect together in a prayerful way on the **Scripture readings in Advent**. On 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.

Christmas Coffee with Raffle will take place immediately following 10.00am Mass on Wednesday 17th December.

All are welcome!

The parish will host an **International Carol Service** in the church this 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!

DERPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SURVEY: There are only a few more days for parents to complete the Department of Education online 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 about your local school. In other words, parents of children who attend a Catholic 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. 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 child's 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 prospective parent of a Primary school student. You can complete the survey for each primary school going child or for each future primary school child in your household.**

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 and the closing date is next 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

This **Saturday 13th December** those exercising ministry in our parish are invited to a morning of reflection and nourishment for ourselves with Rosemary Lavelle from 10.00am -1.00pm at the Carmelite Convent, Seapark, Malahide.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

Jennifer Murphy

Month's Mind

Breda Kane

Anniversaries

Dean Cox (2A)

Donal Cronin

Norah, Michael &

Michael Jnr Ward

Kevin Donnelly (BR)

Carmel & Michael Dunleavy

A meeting of the **Care for Creation** Committee will take place at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 16th December** in the parish centre.

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!

An **Advent Service of Reconciliation** for the Partnership of Parishes will take place in St. Colmcille's church, Swords on **Thursday 18th December at 7.30pm**.

An **Advent Service of Reconciliation** for the Partnership of Parishes will also take place in St. Patrick's church, Donabate on **Monday 22nd December at 7.30pm**.

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. See the schedule of Christmas services below.

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2025

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

Wednesday 17th December

International Carol Service 7.30pm

Thursday 18th December

Advent Service of Reconciliation at St. Colmcille's Church, Swords 7.30pm

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

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

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

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

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

10 AM MASSES THIS WEEK

| | |
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| Mon | Special Intention Rita Henderson (RD) |
| Tues | Dcsd Members Stones & McGonigle Families Mongan Family |
| Wed | John & Kathleen O'Connor (R) Noel O'Toole (BR) Colette Redmond (2A) |
| Thur | Donal Cronin (A) |
| Fri | William & Eileen Byrne (A) |
| Sat | Kathleen, Patrick & Hugh P. O'Reilly & Dcsd Members of O'Reilly & Lee Families |

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



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