



# CHURCH OF ST. CRONAN BRACKENSTOWN PARISH PARISH NEWSLETTER

*31st January 2016 — Year C*

## THE NEW PARISH NEWSLETTER

This is the sixth edition of the new Parish Newsletter. The feedback so far has been very positive and in particular people like the photographs of events that are included. I feel that it is important to explain the background behind why we decided to change.

We live in a world where images are an important part of communication and this was not possible in the former newsletter.

We were approached by Liturgical Publications of Ireland Ltd. with this format that is widely used in American parishes.

They source advertisers who are published on the back of the newsletter. This pays for the publication and if there is a surplus they will make a contribution to the Parish.

We would like to thank the businesses who are supporting us and ask that you would support them.

If you would like to advertise, the contact details for LPI are on the back.

Having the newsletter being handed to people as they leave the Church has doubled the amount of newsletters going to homes. Never underestimate who may pick it up in your home and what might strike them. Thank you to those who have been willing volunteers!

## BUY A BRICK 7/8 FEBRUARY

Thank you to all who supported our Buy-A-Brick campaign and gave donations towards building the Parish Pastoral Centre. It has had a major impact on the life of the Parish and this will continue to grow.



The certificates for the campaign are now ready for collection in the Parish Office. Next weekend 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> February members of the Finance Committee and Parish Pastoral Council will be distributing them in the Pastoral Centre after all Masses.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

The theme this year is Challenged to Proclaim God's Mercy. In all aspects of school life our schools are challenged to be merciful and caring towards each other. We pray for our Catholic Schools, St. Cronan's Junior and Senior, Colaiste Choilm and Loreto College.

## UPCOMING FEAST DAYS

**Feast of St. Brigid** — Monday 1st February, Mass at 10am

**Presentation of the Lord** — Tuesday 2nd February; Candles will be blessed at 10am Mass

**St. Blaise** — Wednesday 3rd February; Throats will be blessed at 10am Mass

## PRAYER BY TEXT

In Advent we piloted a prayer initiative called 'Prayer by Text'. Each day you received a line from the Sundays Gospel and were asked to stop for a moment, reflect on it and be aware of how the word of God impacted on your life in that moment.



We had a review meeting of participants and all felt that it had brought a new awareness of the Season of Advent and that they felt connected with what was going on and with each other.

The idea is to encourage people in the Parish to pray during the day, recognizing the reality that we live busy lives, this gives us the chance to reflect.

We are going to do the same for Lent. We want to offer it to as many people as we can. After all Masses on the weekend of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February there will be an information talk for 10mins in the Pastoral Centre. If you can't make that there will be clip boards at the doors of the Church for you to add your name and mobile number or you can email them to the Parish Office, or fill in a card at the suggestion box in the main porch.

During Lent the group will be invited to get together three times for input and reflection.

## MASS INTENTIONS

**6:30pm** Marie Ralph (A)  
**9:00am** Altar List of the Dead  
**11:00am** Paddy Kelly (A)  
**12:30pm** Christina Walsh (A)  
**5:30pm** Eugene Marron (A)

## PRAY FOR

Padraig Keane (RD)  
John Keane (A)  
Paula O'Keeffe (MM)  
Betty & Eoin Meenan (1st A)  
George & Bridget Taylor (A)  
Barbara McGuirk (A)

## MASSES NEXT WEEK AT 10AM

**Mon:** Sean Cousins (RD)  
**Tues:** Tom & Angela Dormer (A)  
**Wed:** Special Intention  
**Thurs:** Anne, Tom & Philomena O'Leary (A)  
**Fri:** Special Intention  
**Sat:** Gerry O'Malley (MM)

**Please take this Newsletter home with you**

# PARISH DIARY

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
<b>JANUARY</b>		
30th	Final booking for Rome Pilgrimage	Office
31 – 6	Catholic Schools Week	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
1st	St. Cronan's Service of Light	7:30pm Church
1 <sup>st</sup>	The Great Adventure Bible Study Begins	7:30pm Pastoral Centre
2 <sup>nd</sup>	The Great Adventure Bible Study Begins	12:00noon Pastoral Centre
8th	Gaelscoil Bhrian Boroimhe Service of Light	7:30pm Church
10 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Sacrament of Confirmation St. Cronan's SNS	11:00am Church
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sacrament of Confirmation St. Cronan's SNS	11:00am Church
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sacrament of Confirmation Gaelscoil Bhrian Boroimhe	11:00am Church
20 <sup>th</sup> – 28th	Parish Retreat Led by the Capuchin Retreat Team	7:30am; 10:00am 12:00noon; 7:30pm
27 <sup>th</sup>	Do This In Memory	6:30pm
28 <sup>th</sup>	Do This In Memory	12:30pm
29 <sup>th</sup>	First Confession St. Cronan's JNS	7:00pm Church

## Blessing and Dedication of the Pastoral Centre

The Pastoral Council will invite Archbishop Martin to celebrate the 12:30pm Mass some Sunday after Easter. This will be followed by blessing of the Pastoral Centre.

**THE PARISH DIARY IS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE**

## YEAR OF MERCY PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

26th September—1st October 2016

**Closing Date is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016.** Cheques made payable to St. Cronan's Church. Please note total cost is €795. Full details on the Notice Board and on the Parish Website.

### GROTTO ROSARY

**Thursday 11th February**  
*Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes*

Volunteers are required to recite the rosary every hour on the half hour commencing 9:30am to 9:30pm. Please sign the roster at the back of the Church or contact a member of Legion of Mary.

### THE ROSARY STATUE

was blessed for use in the homes of the parish at the October Candlelight Procession. If you would like to pray the rosary and have the statue in your home for a week, or to get more information, please contact a member of Legion of Mary in main porch after Sunday morning Masses.

### LEGION OF MARY

Welcomes new members — over 18's — Tuesdays 10:30am in Sisters' House & Wednesdays 7:30pm in Sacristy. Junior members Fridays 5:00pm in Sacristy. Come and see.

### FAMILY OFFERING

We thank all those parishioners who support the running of the parish through the Parish Family Offering fund.

**Dec Standing Order €3,685**

**Outdoor Collection €604.64**

**Annals/Half Yearly €0.00**

### PARISH PASTORAL CENTRE FUNDRAISING

The following are weekly totals:

**Buy-A-Brick Appeal € 20,558.28**

**Pastoral Centre Donations; €26,586**

**Parish Centre Appeal Total €47,144.28**

The Certificates for all who contributed are now ready to be collected at the Parish Office.

Many thanks to all who have kindly contributed.

### RELIGIOUS GOODS

Confirmation Cards, medals, souvenirs etc. available from Legion of Mary in main porch after Saturday evening & Sunday morning Masses.

**WORLD  
YOUTH  
DAY 2016**

KRAKOW, POLAND  
JULY 24 - AUGUST 1



Krakow  
**WYD 2016**



This is the Brackenstown Parish Group who will represent us at World Youth Day. (L-R) Alex Haidurov, Anita Okoye, Séan Cantwell, Sarah Donohue, Stuart Donnelly, Today they are taking up a Church Gate Collection. The target for the fundraising is €2,000.00 for the group, which will cover part of their fare. They will meet a substantial portion of the cost personally and the Parish will make a contribution.

Pope Francis is carrying on this tradition of brining together young people from around the world to celebrate their Catholic faith and grow in their understanding of how to live as a young Christian today. It is great for us as a Parish to have these five young people participating in the Pilgrimage. Please keep them and all who will travel from Dublin in your prayers.





Happy 90th Birthday to Jenny Tierney.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on the last Sunday of the month from 4 - 5 pm. Could you not watch one hour with me? We encourage new people to come and join us.

## CHURCH GATE COLLECTIONS

**30/31 January**

World Youth Day Collection

**6/7 February**

VDP Monthly Collection

**12/14 February**  
**ACCORD**

**20/21 February**  
**CASA**

## MISERICORDIAE VULTUS - POPE FRANCIS LETTER FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY

In the parables devoted to mercy, Jesus reveals the nature of God as that of a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy. We know these parables well, three in particular: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the father with two sons (cf. Lk 15:1-32). In these parables, God is always presented as full of joy, especially when he pardons. In them we find the core of the Gospel and of our faith, because mercy is presented as a force that overcomes everything, filling the heart with love and bringing consolation through pardon.

From another parable, we cull an important teaching for our Christian lives. In reply to Peter's question about how many times it is necessary to forgive, Jesus says: "I do not say seven times, but seventy times seven times" (Mt 18:22). He then goes on to tell the parable of the "ruthless servant," who, called by his master to return a huge amount, begs him on his knees for mercy. His master cancels his debt. But he then meets a fellow servant who owes him a few cents and who in turn begs on his knees for mercy, but the first servant refuses his request and throws him into jail. When the master hears of the matter, he becomes infuriated and, summoning the first servant back to him, says, "Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" (Mt 18:33). Jesus concludes, "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart" (Mt 18:35).

This parable contains a profound teaching for all of us. Jesus affirms that mercy is not only an action of the Father, it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are. In short, we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. Pardoning offences becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves. At times how hard it seems to forgive! And yet pardon is the instrument placed into our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart. To let go of anger, wrath, violence, and revenge are necessary conditions to living joyfully. Let us therefore heed the Apostle's exhortation: "Do not let the sun go down on your anger" (Eph 4:26). Above all, let us listen to the words of Jesus who made mercy an ideal of life and a criterion for the credibility of our faith: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7): the beatitude to which we should particularly aspire in this Holy Year.

As we can see in Sacred Scripture, mercy is a key word that indicates God's action towards us. He does not limit himself merely to affirming his love, but makes it visible and tangible. Love, after all, can never be just an abstraction. By its very nature, it indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes, and behaviours that are shown in daily living. The mercy of God is his loving concern for each one of us. He feels responsible; that is, he desires our wellbeing and he wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do his children. Just as he is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other. *Paragraph 9.*

## WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2016

The Annual Conference will take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm at the Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan Road, Co. Dublin.

Speakers include Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Bishop Donal Murray and Professor J. Bernard Walsh, who will reflect on the Lourdes experience.

For further information please contact Trish Conway on **087 6220349**. The *Mass of Healing and Anointing of the Sick* is on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 3.00 pm in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Merrion Road (opposite St. Vincent's Hospital). *Main Celebrant: Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. All are welcome to attend.*

## SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS THIS YEAR!

Volunteers are needed to deliver the free Catholic Paper "Alive!" in various parts of the parish.

Information from Legion of Mary members in main porch after week-end Masses or leave your name & phone no. with Louise in the parish office.

## THE GREAT ADVENTURE for Lent 2016



Our Lenten Bible Study commences Monday 1st February in the Parish Pastoral Centre at 7:30pm—9pm. 31 people have enrolled—15 of which are new members. If you would like, you can still join us on what will be an overview of the Bible. There will be a charge of €20 for the workbook. Come along and see for yourself.

## 2016 BRACKENSTOWN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Accompanied by a Spiritual Director  
 22nd—27th September 2016

Hotel Padoue—€729 per person sharing  
 incl. Airport Taxes & Free Insurance

Deposit €200 per person—

Single Room Supplement €175

Contact Susan Keane 01 8407100 / 085 847 1539

## PARISH INFORMATION

### Mass Times:

Sunday: 6:30pm (Sat. Vigil); 9:00am, 11:00am, 12:30pm & 5:30pm

### Weekday Mass:

Monday to Saturday 10:00am

### Holyday Mass:

Vigil 7:30pm; 10:00am

### Confession:

Saturday 10:30am to 11:00am and 6:00pm to 6:20pm

After 10:00am Mass on the Thursday before the First Friday

**Fr. Paul Thornton, Adm,**

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