

ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

THE EARLY IRISH SAINTS PARTNERSHIP OF PARISHES
BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS + DRYNAM, RIVER VALLEY + DUBLIN AIRPORT & DONABATE, PORTRANE + BALHEARY

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2ND AUGUST 2026

YEAR A



Summer holidays should be a time of relaxation, family time, fun and renewal. However, our thoughts go out to those who travelled to parts of France or Spain this year only to be forced to relocate because of the threat posed by wildfires which have raged out of control for many days. Our hearts go out to local residents, as well as to firefighters who have sought to tackle the flames at great personal risk. We pray that their valiant efforts will save lives and neighbourhoods. We also think of those affected by the earthquake in Japan earlier this week.



I had the privilege of attending a gathering of leaders of *Equipes Notre Dame* in Villa de Leyva in Colombia last week. *Equipes* was founded by French diocesan priest, Fr. Henri Caffarel in 1947, when some young couples in his parish approached him for guidance on a spirituality for married life, and he replied: 'Let us seek together.' Out of that shared search a movement has developed which revolves around a Team of 5-6 married couples meeting monthly with a priest/spiritual counsellor, in which together they seek to deepen their respective vocations. Now present in over 70 countries around the world, the gathering in



Colombia brought together about 80 couples and priests from Australia, the Middle East, North and South America, India and Europe to listen, learn and pray together. For the Irish couple and myself who attended, having a shared faith and common experience in Teams facilitated ease of communication with the other participants, whatever the linguistic challenges. One of the highlights was the extended period of reflective prayer in the church at the beginning of each day before settling down to talks, testimonies and reports from around the world. If there are about 25 Teams in Ireland, in some countries like Brazil and France, there are several hundred. We had a midweek visit to Villa de Leyva, a former colonial town with a magnificent cobbled square which might have served as a set for the

movie, *The Mission*, and we celebrated Mass in its fine church. Another blessing I take away is the warm hospitality of our Colombian hosts and the dedication of the International Leadership Team, who organised the event. A question I am left with is what can we do as people of faith in Ireland to encourage our younger people to embrace the commitment of marriage as a gift and vocation and to celebrate their wedding in a church, rather than simply a civil setting?

Fr. Richard

Final call! 34 people are now registered to travel on our partnership pilgrimage to **Rome and Assisi** from **14th-19th September**. This means there are **only two** places left. If you are interested in taking part, contact the parish office as soon as possible to access the link that will allow you book online.

Feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Lady
St Cronan's Church:
Friday 14th Vigil at 7.30pm &
Saturday 15th at 10am
St Colmcilles Church:
Saturday 15th at 10am
St Finian's Church:
Saturday 15th at 11am

A Preparation meeting for parents of those who will be baptised in the coming months takes place this Sunday 2nd August at 12 noon in the parish centre.

SUNDAY MASSES: 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

Church Car Park: As parishioners who attend weekday Mass are all too aware, the situation in the car park has become increasingly problematic in the past couple of years. Although the entrance barrier is there to deter parents from driving into the church grounds to drop off or collect their child from school, many simply wait in a line behind the barrier until someone comes along who is able to raise the barrier remotely, then all the cars follow in behind. We are now putting a new system in place, so that the barrier remains in the lowered position between 8.30am and 9.30am each morning and between 1.00pm and 3.00pm each afternoon. Teachers in both schools have been informed that if they wish to park their car in the church grounds (on the far side of the walk way), they must do so before 8.30am each morning. This should significantly improve the situation in the car park, allowing parishioners attending Mass to find a parking space. However, it also means that parishioners will not be able to access the car park between 8.30 and 9.30am each weekday morning. The new arrangements are set to come into operation from Monday 17th August.

As parishioners will have observed, significant work has taken place over the past few weeks to upgrade the Grotto in the church grounds. Some of the bushes which had become overgrown have been cleared, new stone chippings laid, the water fountain repaired and cleaned, a new stone bench put in place, while the statues of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette are away being cleaned. Much of the work has been done by parish volunteers with the assistance of Christy, our caretaker. A statue of Our Lady with the Infant Jesus has also been donated by a parishioner, and that will be installed on the other side of the Grotto wall. Our sincere thanks to parishioners who have already donated towards the project. Those still wishing to do so can pick up a donation envelope on the tables at the back of the church or from the parish office. Any support that you can give will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

We are now registering children for the sacraments of **First Communion and Confirmation** next year. Parents of children who would like to receive either sacrament in 2027 are asked to register their child ASAP on our parish website, and to pay the registration contribution of €50. [TO REGISTER ONLINE.](#)

Parents of children who attend a school other than a Catholic school, are invited to also register their child for the *Seeds of Faith* preparation classes which take place weekly from October to May over two years for both First Communion and Confirmation. [Registration for these classes is also online.](#)

SUMMER ARRANGEMENTS

Due to priests across the partnership taking holidays at different times and being in need of cover for weekend Masses, the Saturday vigil Mass at 6.00pm is being suspended throughout July and August. Parishioners who wish can attend a Saturday Vigil Mass in any of our partnership parishes (see times listed below) Our three Sunday Masses at 9.00am, 11.00am and 5.00pm will continue as normal. The vigil Mass will resume at 6.00pm on Saturday 5th September. *Please note any Masses booked for the Saturday Vigil Masses during July and August will be included with the Sunday Mass Intentions.*

Envelopes for **Summer Offerings** are now available at the entrances to the church. Summer offerings form part of the annual remuneration of the priests of the parish and of the diocese. Thank you for your continued generous support!

The Diocesan Office of Mission and Ministry are taking applications for both the **Pathways** and **Catechesis** courses for the coming year. A significant number of our parishioners have participated in these programmes over the past few years and found them very helpful for engaging in parish ministry.

We welcome those who are visiting the parish during these fine sunny days and especially if you are able to join our congregation at Sunday Mass. It is always uplifting to see new faces among the more familiar ones. We hope you enjoy your visit with family or friends in the Swords area. We also wish those of our regular parishioners who may be travelling in the coming days safe travels and an enjoyable holiday!

FAITH 'N' FUN

3 WEEK PROJECT

FREE - to all aged 6 - 11 years

in St. Cronan's
Pastoral Centre
Brackenstown
Road, Swords

Thursdays
6th August
13th August
2pm - 4pm

Play,
Learn
and
Grow...
Together!

with much, much,
more so come
along and find
out more...

Organised by Legion of Mary
Registration Forms available in
Main Porch of St. Cronan's Church
Parish Office Phone No: 01 8401188

LEGION OF MARY: RELIGIOUS GOODS SUITABLE FOR FAMILIES

Grave candles, Baptism candles and cards, Rosary Beads and medals, Bible's, Prayer Books, key rings and motorist prayers and lots more available at repository Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings.

PARISH PRIEST Fr. Richard Sheehy 087 2412459 richardsheehy@gmail.com PARISH CHAPLAIN Fr. Joseph Hao P.C. 01 8401188 office@brackenstown-parish.com PERMANENT DEACON Declan Colgan 01 8401188 office@brackenstown-parish.com PARISH SECRETARY Louise Donnelly Mon to Fri, 9:30am – 1:00pm 01 8401188 office@brackenstown-parish.com PARISH OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday 9:30am - 1:00pm Registered Charity Number 20016166	SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS Recently Deceased Edward Gallagher Milo Long Anniversaries John Pender (7A) Gary Martin Paddy Ryan Catherine McNally Stephen O'Gorman (53BR)	10 AM MASSES THIS WEEK Mon Genevieve Turley (RD) Tues Special Intention Wed Marian Movement for Priests Thur Michael Tully (1A) Fri Vincent & Anthony Donnelly (BR) Pat McGonigle (RD) Sat Genevieve Turley (RD)
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