

# ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP OF BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS, RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE PARISHES

4th SUNDAY of ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

24TH DECEMBER 2023

YEAR B



We have journeyed through Advent, lighting the candles on the Advent wreath, expressing the themes of hope, peace and joy respectively, and adding symbols to the Jesse tree, reminding us that our Christian story has its roots in Old Testament expectation, yearning, struggle, yet ultimate trust in a God who is faithful.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent we light the last purple candle, which reminds us that at the heart of the mystery we celebrate at Christmas is love.

God loves us so much that he enters our world in the most humble and vulnerable way imaginable, as a child born to Galilean parents in search of a place to stay.

God puts himself at the mercy of human hospitality, just as he does today. The only response such love asks is that of a child or a shepherd: joy, wonder, and gratitude. Our joy may be tinged this year by the sadness of a loved one being no longer among us or by tragedies unfolding in different parts of the world, not least in the land of Jesus' birth, but let us take time to celebrate this mystery of love with family and loved ones, and may our joy give birth to love and compassion for those who need our presence at this time.

***'For a child is born to us, a son is given to us, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace' (Is. 9:6)***

*Fr. Richard*

## BAPTISMS

*We congratulate the families of the children who will be welcomed into the community of faith through the sacrament of Baptism on Saturday 30th December at 12 noon*

The Baptism team at St. Cronan's, Brackenstown would like to invite parents who have had a child baptised in the past year to join us for Mass at 11.00am on Sunday 7th January 2024, feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. It will be an opportunity for the parish to celebrate the gift of Baptism and to welcome those who have been baptised in the past year.



Parents whose children would like to participate in the nativity

play at the Family Mass on Christmas Eve are invited to come to a rehearsal at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve.



The **Parish Christmas Card**, timetable of services and envelope are available for collection on the tables at the entrances to the church. As the cards are no longer being delivered to every home in the parish, we invite parishioners to take one for themselves and for any neighbour who may be glad to get one. Many thanks to parishioners and visitors who have already returned Christmas Offerings, which support the priests of the parish and of the diocese.

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](http://www.brackenstown-parish.com)

## Timetable of Christmas Services

**Saturday 23rd December**

Mass 10:00am  
(Confessions 10:30am-11:30am)  
Vigil Mass 6.00pm

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve)**

Mass 9.00am and 11.00am  
(Confessions after each Mass)  
First Mass of Christmas 6.00pm (Family Mass)  
Mass of the Nativity 9.00pm (Preceded by Carols at 8.45pm)

**Monday 25th December (Christmas Day)**

Christmas Mass 9.00am & 11.00am  
**No Evening Mass**

**Tuesday 26th December (St. Stephen's Day)**

Mass 10.00am

**Wednesday 27th - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December**

Mass 10.00am

**Saturday 30th December**

Mass 10.00am & Vigil Mass 6.00pm

**Sunday 31st December (Feast of the Holy Family)**

Mass 9.00am; 11.00am & 5:00pm  
Prayer vigil to welcome New Year 11.30pm

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

Mass 10.00am

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

Mass 10.00am

**Saturday 6th January (Feast of the Epiphany)**

Mass 10:00am & Vigil Mass 6.00pm

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January (Feast of the Baptism of The Lord)**

Mass 9.00am, 11:00am, & 5.00pm

All parish Christmas services will be broadcast on the webcam

## JESUIT NEW YEAR PRAYER

Loving God

we thank you for this past year  
with its positive moments and its more difficult ones.  
We thank you for the love we have received  
from family and friends  
And for the successes we have had at work and at home.

We thank you also for the hard moments  
The moments that we struggled with  
the moments of challenge; the moments of uncertainty;  
the moments when we have been afraid  
for our safety and of those we love;  
the moments when we lost those dear to us.

As we look forward to the next year  
we ask for Your grace and blessing.

Give us health and strength;  
give us faith and hope.  
Send us Your Spirit.

Give us peace with the choices we make  
Grant us joy as we look ahead and discern the future.  
Most of all give us the love that will guide us  
through whatever challenges we come across.

Help us to walk beside each other  
with patience and forgiveness  
putting our hands in the hands of Your Son Jesus.  
He guides us and strengthens us.  
He is always by our side  
He gives us hope  
He helps us see beyond the small 'now'  
to the bigger picture and the wider dream  
The dream imagined for us by You, our Father.  
You who live and love  
Forever and ever. AMEN

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

**All are welcome to join us in person or online as we pray in the New Year at 11.30pm on Sunday 31st December in the Church with music, reflection and silence, praying particularly for an end to the suffering brought about by war and violence**

**The Parish Office will remain closed from 22<sup>nd</sup> December to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.**

**Any enquiries to Fr. Richard at [richardesheehy@gmail.com](mailto:richardesheehy@gmail.com) or 0872412459**

*The clergy, parish team and pastoral council wish all parishioners and visitors a happy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year!*

We ask people attending funerals in the church not to double park along the roads around the church, especially Park Avenue. We ask all those who may be attending a funeral to be conscious of where they are parking, especially if it means possible access for a fire brigade or ambulance would be impeded.

### Bethany Bereavement Support Group

offer a free and confidential telephone support to any bereaved parishioners who wish to avail of it

**Please phone Terri on 8403243 -**

**Please phone from 6pm-8pm**

**Thursday 28th December 2023 to**

**Friday 5th January 2024**

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"*



Legion of Mary

**Religious Goods & Literature Suitable Gifts for Families during these Changing Times**

Books including **Blessed Carlo Acutis 5 steps to being a saint**, The Order of Mass Congregational Cards, Church art calendars, Nativity sets, Candles, Statues, Christmas tree decorations, Children's books, Bibles etc. all available in main porch after Saturday evening & Sunday morning Masses.

## SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS 31st December

### Anniversaries

Joey Conway (1A)

Breda O'Toole (1A)

Joe O'Toole

Eddie Farrell

Katrina Harford (16A)

Vincent Healy

Maria, Eileen & Willie Adams

## SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS 24th December

### Recently Deceased

Dean Cox

Colette Redmond

Willie Hughes

Carol Connolly

### Anniversaries

Terry Fitzpatrick (2A)

John Cawley (3A)

Pat Tierney (5A)

Jim & May Caffrey (8A)

Dolores Edwards (15A)

Anastasia Kelly & Dcsd Family

Members

John Hughes

Kevin Donnelly

Tommy, Douglas & Saoirse

Crosbie & Dcsd Family

Members

Ann Browne

Jim Thomas

Sheila Reilly

Larry O'Donohoe

## 10 AM MASSES 26-30 DECEMBER

**Mon** CHRISTMAS DAY - All Mass Intentions are for the names on the Christmas Mass Cards

**Tues** Jim Reid (A)  
Nathan, Daniel & Mary Sinead Maughan (A)  
Paul Ledwidge (A)

**Wed** Thomas, Pat & Kay Lawless (A)

**Thur** Tommy Malone (20A)

**Fri** Katrina Harford (16A)

**Sat** Special Intention  
Jim Rogers (A)

CO PARISH PRIEST  
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PERMANENT DEACON  
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PARISH SECRETARY  
Louise Donnelly  
Mon to Fri. 9:30am - 1:00pm  
01 8401188  
[brackentownparish@gmail.com](mailto:brackentownparish@gmail.com)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS  
Monday - Friday  
9:30am - 1:00pm

Registered Charity Number  
20016166

## 10 AM MASSES 1-6 JANUARY

**Mon** Special Intention  
Bill Barry (RD)

**Tues** Special Intention  
Paddy Callery (A)

**Wed** Dcsd Members of Legion of Mary Worldwide

**Thur** Special Intention  
Nano Tracey (A)

**Fri** Breeda Kissane (A)  
Bridget McGuirk (A)

**Sat** Freda Heaslip (A)  
Marian Movement for Priests