

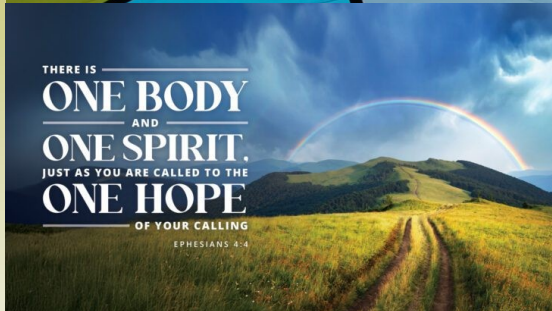
# ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP OF BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS, RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE PARISHES

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

25 JANUARY 2026

YEAR A



**Catholic Schools Week** and **Christian Unity Week** both conclude this Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Catholic Schools Week provides an annual opportunity to acknowledge the work of Catholic schools in our parish and around the country in providing holistic education of our young people informed by the beliefs and values of the Catholic church. It is an opportunity to salute the extraordinary commitment of our school principals, Boards of Management, Parent Associations, teachers, SNAs and auxiliary staff to delivering the highest standards of education to the young people in their

care. The schools also support the work of the parish in preparing children and their parents for the celebrations of the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. One of the highlights of the Advent season was the wonderful Carol Service which Scoil Chronain SNS presented in the church just before Christmas, a beautiful collaboration of pupils, teachers and members of our parish senior choir. Christian Unity Week, which is also celebrated annually from 18<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> January, reminds us that, as Catholics, we are part of a wider family of those who believe in and try to follow Jesus. There is richness in diversity, and we are grateful for the witness of our fellow Christians in Swords and opportunities to collaborate with them in the service of God's kingdom. The prayers and reflections for this year's Christian Unity Week are prepared by the Armenian Apostolic Church, in collaboration with the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches. Established in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century the Armenian Church is one of the oldest churches, tracing its roots back to the apostolic era, when Thaddeus and Bartholomew evangelised in Armenia.

The following prayer is offered during the week: ***'Jesus Christ, you have brought us together in all our diversity as your family and church. In the face of so many situations on earth, where hope has given way to despair and wounded hearts, renew our hope in the Holy Spirit's work of changing the world. Move us to spread this hope to everyone everywhere. You are the true Light, who casts out the darkness of sin and shines into our hearts the joy and hope of your eternal love.'***

**Fr. Richard**

**Retreats for Confirmation candidates** for students from Scóil Chrónáin and Gaelscoil Bhrian Boroimhe will take place in the parish centre over the next four Wednesdays in the parish centre. The retreats are being led again this year by Gerard Hanley, who is the coordinator of Youth Alpha.



January is a good time to announce plans for a **Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi**. The pilgrimage, which includes 3 nights in Rome and 2 nights in Assisi from 14-19<sup>th</sup> September, is open to parishioners and friends from the parishes of Swords, River Valley, Donabate

and Brackenstown. The cost of €1,495 per person sharing includes return flights to Rome with Aer Lingus, half board accommodation in Rome and Assisi, air conditioned coach throughout the pilgrimage and assistance of a Marian Pilgrimages representative. For more details, look out for the posters and flyers. Booking, which is now open, is made directly with Marian pilgrimages, and a non-refundable deposit of €400 per person is required.

## How about reading one Gospel in 2026?

Are you looking for a challenge in 2026? How about deepening your relationship with Jesus by studying one Gospel from beginning to end? The Gospel readings at Mass for 2026 will be taken from the Gospel of Matthew. The Brackenstown Bible study group will commenced a study of St. Matthew's Gospel on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January and you are invited to take part.

### **Matthew: The King and His**

**Kingdom** shows how Jesus fulfils God's promises to Israel and establishes his kingdom on earth. The classes will be held in St Cronan's Pastoral Centre from 7.30 to 8.50 pm on Monday nights. There will be a 50 minute DVD presentation by biblical scholar Jeff Cavins followed by a Q & A and discussion. There is no charge, and all are welcome. To register please contact Louise in the parish office, tel. 01 8401188 or email: [brackenstownparish@gmail.com](mailto:brackenstownparish@gmail.com)

ARE YOU LOOKING  
FOR A CHALLENGE  
IN 2026?

How about reading  
the Gospel of Matthew?



**Matthew: The King and His Kingdom**

Starting Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January  
7:30pm - 8:50pm  
in St Cronan's Pastoral Centre

**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)

*Celebrate your marriage  
this Valentine!*  
in St Cronan's Parish Centre  
on Saturday  
14<sup>th</sup> February  
at 7.30pm

**St. Valentine's Day Candlelight Dinner for Two** on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. This invitation is open to the first 12 married couples who book through the parish office or through Fr. Richard (don't worry, he's not cooking!). A simple outreach from Teams (Teams Of Lady).

The parish has devised a programme for children of the parish who are 5+ years of age. This is of particular relevance to children who may wish to receive First Communion next year. If you are interested in having your child baptised, please contact the parish office.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION  
PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN  
OVER 5 YEARS**

**WELCOME**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 11am Mass:  
Welcome from the Altar followed by  
a meeting in the Parish Centre

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 11am Mass:  
Mark with the Sign of the Cross &  
Anointing with Oil of Catechumens  
followed by a meeting  
in the Parish Centre

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at  
11am Mass: Baptism directly  
after the Mass

The Holy Cross Group, a missionary group from Bethlehem will visit the parish on the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> February to sell olive wood crafts to support Christians in the Holy Land.

**Baptised and Sent in Lent:** a new set of weekly prayer and reflection resources for parishes, schools, and faith groups across Ireland. With Ash Wednesday on 18 February, these resources are being shared now to give communities time to plan, share, and prepare together. Rooted in the belief that baptism is the foundation of our identity, dignity, and mission, each Sunday of Lent offers:

- Prayer A Gospel reflection Shared listening and conversation
- ➡ Simple, concrete actions flowing from baptism

Facilitator Training to learn how to lead the programme in the parish will take place **on zoom on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January from 7.30-8.45pm**. Inspired by *Baptised and Sent*, the preparatory document from our 2025 National Pre-Synodal Assembly, these reflections explore themes of belonging, healing, renewal, and mission. Find out more and download the resources here:

<https://synod.ie/baptised-and-sent-in-lent/>  
[#BaptisedAndSent](#) [#Lent](#) [#SynodalJourney](#) [#FaithInAction](#) [#Baptism](#)

Many thanks for that wonderful donation of goodies from your parishioners in St. Cronan's Parish. They were, as always, so generous to us once again this year and I know the people who use our service very much appreciate your support. As you can imagine life is very difficult for the many people who use our service, so it is so nice to be able to give them something nice to have with their tea/coffee when they call. Your parishioners alone donated enough sweet and biscuits to get us through the first few months of the year! Thank you also for the various toiletries and gifts sets and other food items including tinned goods, tea/coffee etc and new clothing donated – all of which help us help the people we work with. Wishing everyone in St. Cronan's Parish a healthy and happy New Year! We know you will remember us and the people who use our service in your prayers.

*Kind regards, Alice Leahy, Director of Services, Alice Leahy Trust.*

#### Religious Goods - Suitable for families

There will be insights from the catechism on what faith is, what it isn't, its harmony with the natural sciences and initiatives believers take to grow faith. All are most welcome. Thursday 22nd January at 7:30pm in Brackenstown Parish Pastoral Centre. Refreshments will be offered during interval.

#### Patrician Meeting: What is Faith?

Church Art calendars, children's books, Baptism cards and candles, motorist prayers and key rings, and lots more available at repository on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings.



Legion of Mary

#### SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

##### Recently Deceased

Mai Gargan  
Sheila Coll  
Martin Naughton  
Patsy Hylett  
Mary Fitzgerald  
Betty Cardiff

##### Month's Mind

Larry Kinsella  
Martin Godfrey

##### Anniversaries

Ethna Howard Moore (3A)  
Fiona Moran (5A)  
Oliver Dignam (5A)  
Bernard McGlynn (15A)  
Martin Corran  
James Tobin  
Patricia Byrne  
Monica Lowndes (BR)  
Barbara McGuirk  
Nancy O'Loughlin  
June O'Hare  
Marie Lynch (35A)  
Bernard & Margaret O'Reilly  
Gary Lunney  
Bridget Crosbie & Dcsd Family  
Members  
John Hughes  
Maureen Lyle (BR)  
Special Intention

#### 10 AM MASSES THIS WEEK

Mon	Maeve Kerr (RD) Patrick Connolly (A) John Hughes (A)
Tues	John (1A) & Judith Hamill (A)
Wed	Patrick Lyons (1A)
Thur	John Donohue (A) Martin Naughton (RD) Patsy Myland (Rd) Mass for the Holy Souls
Fri	Dcsd Members of Kavanagh Family
Sat	James Long (3A)

**PARISH PRIEST**  
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**PARISH SECRETARY**  
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01 8401188  
[brackenstownparish@gmail.com](mailto:brackenstownparish@gmail.com)

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

**Registered Charity Number**  
20016166