

ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

THE EARLY IRISH SAINTS PARTNERSHIP OF PARISHES
BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS, RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

18TH OCTOBER 2026

YEAR A



"Is not this what God asks of you?"

(MICAH 6:8)

Working Document for the
Irish National Synodal Assembly
17th October 2026 | Gormanston, Co. Meath



One of the fundamental tenets of the Judeo-Christian tradition is the sanctity of human life. It is also the basis of all other rights defined under the UN Charter for Human Rights drawn up in 1948 in the aftermath of World War II. With armed conflict daily taking a toll on the lives of civilians in Ukraine, Gaza, Iran and certain parts of Africa, the sanctity of human life is being challenged, if not ignored. More recently we have witnessed a botched attempt to execute a woman convicted nearly 50 years ago of a crime committed when she was 18.

Speaking last Saturday on World Day Against the Death Penalty, Pope Leo stated that the Catholic Church holds the death penalty to be inadmissible 'because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the human person'. Arguing that the requirements of justice can be met without recourse to capital punishment, Pope Leo says that we should not 'deprive those who are guilty of the possibility of redemption'. Closer to home, we have witnessed the appalling and indefensible petrol bombing of a family home in the middle of a community in Waterford this week, leaving four family members, including two children dead, and two other children fighting for their lives in hospital. While our thoughts and prayers this weekend are understandably with the family of those who have been the victims of this attack and their community, we also need to register our protest and abhorrence at such a callous and cowardly act and renew our commitment to the sanctity and inviolability of all human life.

Fr Richard

Baptism preparation for children over 5, who have not yet been baptised, and their parents, begins at the 11.00am Mass this Sunday 18th October.

Ecumenical Pilgrimage *WALK*

**Meeting at St Cronan's
Church Car Park, on Saturday
17th October at 2pm**

**Finishing in St Cronan's Church with
a short prayer and a cup of tea!**



St. Colmcille's Well



St. Columba's Church



Swords Castle



St. Cronan's Church

PARTNERSHIP OF BRACKENSTOWN, SWORDS,
RIVER VALLEY & DONABATE



This Sunday, 18th October is **Mission Sunday** with the theme "One in Christ, united in mission." A special collection for the Pope's missions will replace the usual second (Share) collection at all Masses.



We say farewell to the **Loreto sisters** who will be leaving Swords at the end of this month after 40 years of faithful service to mission both in River Valley parish and with the partnership. Their great service will be acknowledged at the 12.00 noon Mass in River Valley. We thank Srs. Josephine, Anna, Helena and Phil for their ministry and wish them every blessing for the future.

A guided, **Pilgrimage walk** with parishioners from our partnership parishes, takes place this Saturday 17th October tracing our spiritual and monastic roots in the Swords area. The walk will be led by local historian, Kieron Gargan. People can leave their cars in St. Cronan's car park at 2.00pm and walk down or meet directly at St. Colmcille's well at 2.15pm, where we begin. Enroute we will visit St. Columba's Church and the chapel at Swords Castle, before concluding with a short prayer and refreshments at St. Cronan's Church. All are welcome.

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

Once children have made their First Holy Communion, they are eligible to join our Children’s Choir or to become an Altar Server at Mass. The Children’s Choir sing once a month on Saturday/Sunday evening at the <i>Grow in Love</i> Mass in preparation for First Communion. They practise on the preceding Wednesday at 4.30pm in the Church. Altar Servers serve Mass at the Saturday vigil at 6.00pm, or on Sunday at 11.00am or 5.00pm, depending on their availability. They are not expected to be available every week. Before serving Mass a rehearsal will take place on Saturday at 5.15pm. Merry Zacharias coordinates the altar servers, and Andrea the servers. They are Garda vetted and have had child safeguarding training.	
We also open to recruiting new members for our Senior Choir and Young Adult Choir , who sing on different Sundays at the 11.00am Mass. If interested in the Senior Choir, talk to Maria Lyle; if interested in the Young Adult Choir, talk to Orla Nic Reamoinn (organist) after Mass this Sunday.	NATIONAL SYNODAL ASSEMBLY The Working Document for the Irish National Synodal Assembly, taking place in Gormanston, Co Meath, on October 17 , brings together the fruits of five years of prayer, listening and discernment and will guide delegates as they consider and vote on suggested actions to be presented to the bishops of Ireland. While the Assembly marks an important moment in the journey, the Synodal Pathway is now moving towards a new phase of implementation. Everyone is invited to read, pray with, and reflect on the Working Document and the question: “What does God want from the Church in Ireland at this time?” Please pray for all those taking part in the Assembly and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. To find out more, visit www.synod.ie .
Bible study continues each Monday at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. We are looking at Matthew’s Gospel, which we follow at Mass each Sunday this year.	Following the recent approval by the diocese of our parish accounts for 2025, we publish our annual statement of receipts and payments for 2025 . Copies of the statement are available at the back of the church. Many thanks to parishioners for your continued generosity and support of the parish. Our thanks too to our Parish Finance Committee for their diligent work in looking after the parish finances and also in ensuring the ongoing maintenance and repair of the church and of our parish pastoral centre.
A gathering for parish clergy and chairpersons of Parish Pastoral Councils across the diocese, to review progress on the Building Hope goals, will take place on Monday 19 th October in Porterstown Parish Centre.	Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on Wednesday 21st October 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
Crosscare (the Diocesan Social Care Agency) has asked us to convey their thanks to parishioners for your generous response to their annual appeal last weekend. This parish donated €1,120.	LEGION OF MARY: Patrician Meeting The Message of Fatima, Thursday 22 nd October from 7:30pm – 9pm in St. Cronan’s Pastoral Centre. All most welcome! The Rosary: Praying for a special intention? Praying for peace? 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 get more information, please contact the Legion of Mary in main porch after Saturday evening or Sunday morning Mass.
Our Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Wednesday 21st October at 7.30pm.	
Bible Study - Old Testament - Genesis with Fr Dominik Domagala. The course runs once a month on Wednesdays at 8.00pm in St Finian's Room, Malahide Parish Centre starting on 21st October 2026 and ending in May 2027. There is no charge for attending this course. Further information from Ronan Reynolds on 087-2429540 .	

PARISH PRIEST FR. RICHARD SHEEHY 087 2412459 RICHARDESHEEHY@GMAIL.COM PARISH CHAPLAIN FR. JOSEPH HAO P.C. 01 8401188 BRACKENTOWNPARISH@GMAIL.COM PERMANENT DEACON DECLAN COLGAN 01 8401188 BRACKENTOWNPARISH@GMAIL.COM PARISH SECRETARY LOUISE DONNELLY MON TO FRI. 9:30AM – 1:00PM 01 8401188 BRACKENTOWNPARISH@GMAIL.COM PARISH OFFICE HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:30AM - 1:00PM REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 20016166		
SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS		
Recently Deceased Mary Foster Heri Gonzalez Ann Blake Clancy		
Month’s Mind Anne Hanlon Rita MacCarthy Christy Farren (MM & BR)		
Anniversaries Teresa Mackin (1A) Francis Fiederowicz (3A) Thomas Palmer (5A) & Dcsd Members of Palmer & McQuaid families Bernadette Pender (8A) Jimmy Devine (16A) Fianna Fail 100 th Anniversary Kay & Bill O’Connor Dcsd Fianna Fail Members Baby Katie Galligan Liz Kelly Kathleen Dargan Bernadette Lalor Teresa Doyle (BR) Fran McEvoy (BR)		
THIS WEEK 10 AM MASSES		
Mon Anne Hanlon (RD)		
Tues Oliver Collins(RD) Seamus Grant (6A)		
Wed Esther Halpin (A)		
Thur Anne Hanlon (RD)		
Fri Tom Mongan (A) Maggie Rogers (A)		
Sat Peter McCormack (RD)		