

Fourth Sunday of Lent



15th March 2015

MASS INTENTIONS

- 6:30pm** Joe Logue & Frank Moreland (A)
9.00am Altar List of the Dead
11.00am John Paul Fitzsimons (A)
12.30pm Marie & Michael Reynolds (A) &
Dcsd Family Members
5.30pm Damien Byrne (1st A)

PRAY FOR

- Gerry Ward (A)
Kathleen Naidoo (RD)
Elizabeth (Betty) Carolan (RD)

MASSES NEXT WEEK 10.00 AM

- Mon:** Dcsd Members Delaney & O'Reilly Families
Tues: ST. PATRICK'S DAY
Vigil: Tom McArdle (A)
9:00am: Margaret & Kevin McTiernan (A)
11:00am: Frank Hopkins (A)
12:30pm: Joe, Molly & Christy O'Grady(R)
Pray for: Frances Halligan (A)
Wed: Eileen Clancy (A)
Thurs: David Ralph (A)
Fri: William & Mai Nolan (A)
Sat: Audrey Mullan (R)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

- Times of Adoration are:
Mon: 10.30 am – 11.30 am
Wed: 6.00 pm – 11.00 pm
Fri: 10.30am – 5.45 pm
Sat: 10.30am – 11.30am
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on each Sunday of Lent from 4 - 5 pm.

LENTEN BIBLE CHALLENGE

A group of about 25 meet each week to study the New Testament, you are very welcome to join us. We will be meeting this week on Monday 16/03/15, at 7.30-8.30 pm in the Parish Meeting Room for a review & discussion on chapters 1 to 6 of Mark's Gospel. The reading plan for next week is Mark, chapters 7 to 13. The weekly reading guide is available on Monday night, copies are also available on the rack in the church porch.

BAPTISMS

There will be no Baptisms during Lent. The next dates for Baptisms are in May. Please check our website for details.

If you would like to be a part of the Baptism Ministry here in St. Cronan's, please contact any of the Priests in the Parish, a member of the Baptism Team or the Parish Office.

FAMILY OFFERING

We thank all those parishioners who support the running of the parish through the Parish Family Offering fund. The January standing order figure is €3,475.00. The Weekly Outdoor collection for last week amounted to €945.63 and three annuals/half yearly contributions totaling €1,000. The Family Offering Envelope/Standing Order Collection is the ONLY one which supports the daily running costs of the Parish and the upkeep of the Church. Thank you for your commitment to this collection.

CHURCH GATE COLLECTIONS

The following are Church Gate Collections for March/April:

- 14/15 March – No Collection
21/22 March – Order of Malta
28/29 March – VDP Advocate
4/5 April – No Collection
11/12 April – CASA
18/19 April – Share Appeal
25/26 April – Dublin Seminarians

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir are looking for singers and musicians to aid them in their presentation of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 8pm. If you are aged 12-18 and would like to get involved, please contact Sarah 086 0687650 or Andrea 086 805 9030.

THE ROSARY STATUE

The Rosary Statue was blessed for use in 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 a member of Legion of Mary in main porch after Sunday morning Masses.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY MASSES

Our Masses in St. Cronan's for St. Parick's Day will be as follows:
7:30pm Vigil; 9:00am; 11:00am & 12:30pm.
No evening Mass will be available.

SWORDS PARISH GROUPING

Swords Parish Grouping Holiday 2015
Monday 29 June – Saturday 4 July
Splendours of Poland
based in Krakow

Cost: €725.00 per person sharing

Booking and further details at
Parish Office Tel: (01) 8407277

This holiday is organised by:
MAP Travel

FAITH IN THE FOG

An evening of theatre, music, story-telling and comedy, presented by Jeff Lucas, author of the best-selling book Faith in the Fog. Riasc Centre, Swords Wed 25th March 7.15 pm. Tickets 12 euro at the door or 10 euro in advance from Hilary at 087 837 or 1120 or 01 6268519.

FAMILY MASS TEAM

Any children who would like to participate in the Good Friday Stations of the Cross drama and/or a short re-enactment of the Gospel on Easter Sunday, please give their names to the Family Mass team after 12.30 Mass or email the parish office at brackenstownparish@gmail.com.

PARISH PASTORAL CENTRE FUND

The total raised for the Parish Pastoral Centre Fund Raising Appeal is to date €8,465.00. Many thanks to all who have kindly contributed.

PARISH RECEIPTS

The Annual Parish Receipts are ready to be distributed. If you can help in delivering these or wish to collect your own, please contact the parish office.

EASTER ENVELOPES

The Easter Offering Envelopes are now ready for distribution. If you are able to help deliver these, please contact the Parish Office.

"NOW WE ARE GOING"

"Now We Are Going Up To Jerusalem" is a book of reflections on the Passion, Resurrection and Reign of Christ by Fr. Owen Wynne SCJ (Sacred Heart Fathers, Inchicore). It is available from Legion of Mary in main porch after Mass.

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

Spread the Good News This Year! Retired from your work? Volunteers needed to deliver the free Catholic Paper "Alive" in Brackenstown Village, Ard Cian, Ashton etc. Information from Legion of Mary members in main porch after week-end Masses or leave your name and phone number with Louise in Parish Office.

Does that mean that the Church should simply recognise social change and either change its teaching or shut up? What the Church in Ireland has been weak on is that of presenting in a convincing way to our younger generations the values which underlie our teaching on marriage and the family.”

Now is our opportunity to respond and be part of the conversation of the Synod in October. On Wednesday night we will look at the following questions which have been drawn out of those from the Synod. Again the purpose of the discussion is to look at ways in which the Church as a community of faith, guided by compassion and understanding.

The questions are as follows:

PRELIMINARY QUESTION:

Does the final Synod Document offer an adequate account of marriage and the family in the Irish context or does more need to be said?

Questions for Groups:

How are people being helped to see the value of lifelong commitment in marriage? What more could be done? (This reflects questions 10-17 of the original list of questions)

How are people being helped to understand that a relationship with God can help and enrich marriage and that the grace of the sacrament of marriage helps to sustain couples in lifelong love? (This reflects question 11 of the original list of questions)

How can couples living together be encouraged to enter into marriage in the Church? (This reflects question 22 in the original list of questions)

Do couples in the early years of married life need more support? If, so, what? (This reflects question 31 in the original list of questions)

How can the Irish Church respond compassionately to people in irregular unions while remaining faithful to the teaching of Christ and the Church? (This reflects question 35 in the original list of questions)

How can the Irish Church respond better to lesbian and gay people and their families? (This reflects question 40 in the original list of questions)

What more can we do to prevent abortion and foster a genuine culture of life? (This reflects question 44 in the original list of questions)

How can parents and the Christian family be made aware that the duty of transmitting the faith is an intrinsic aspect of being a Christian? (This reflects question 46 in the original list of questions)

The reference to question numbers refers to the questions in the full Synod documents. This is available together with the full text of Archbishop Martin's Address, and other material on the Parish website www.brackenstown-parish@gamil.com.

Pope Francis has opened up the Synod to every member of the Church. This is your opportunity to be part of the discussion, please add your voice.

Meet to Discuss the Synod on the Family
Wednesday 18th March at 7:30pm in St. Cronan's School Hall
All Welcome

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THE SYNOD ON THE FAMILY

In the opening talk of our Retreat this year, Archbishop Martin spoke about the Synod on the Family the first part of which, took place in Rome last October. The focus of that Synod was to look at the challenges that families face around the world. The preparation for this synod involved a consultation of people in every country and every Parish. Brackenstown participated in this consultation and made a submission as part of the Irish contribution. The issues raised here are printed on the yellow sheets at the doors of the church, which also contain the questions for discussion on Wednesday night.

In his talk Archbishop Martin said “The world-wide consultation had shown that there was a strong recognition that the Church's teaching on marriage and the family is not easily understood in today's world, especially by young people. In today's culture, many of the classical terms regarding marriage and the family have taken on a different meaning in secular society.”

The focus of the Synod in October this year, is to discuss and put in place Pastoral supports for the family. Again Pope Francis has asked that as wide a group of people as possible be consulted and so we are gathering on Wednesday 18th March at 7:30pm in St. Cronan's School Hall, to discuss what supports we feel would be important to be discussed and adopted at the Synod. Again Archbishop Martin said “The strong message of the Synod was a call for a radical renewal of the Church's pastoral support for marriage and the family. In the pluralism which exists today in every part of the world we need a radical catechesis on marriage and the family. Marriage preparation is not just preparation for a Church wedding, much less a matter for filling-out canonical forms. Marriage must be understood as part of a life-long catechesis or itinerary of faith about the Sacrament of Marriage.”

At the Synod Pope Francis constantly stressed an image of the Church as a “field hospital on the scene of a battle”. At the field hospital what matters is the first contact with one who is wounded. It is not a place for diagnostics, but a place where people are taken up into the caring arms of someone, where their wounds are washed and cleaned and they receive a welcome of care and concern.

One Bishop took up Pope Francis' image of the Church as a “field-hospital” where wounds are healed, saying that too often the Church appears more like the city morgue where all the pathologies of the things that have gone wrong with the family are examined without emotion. That is something we must keep in mind in the way we reflect for the future. We should not get bogged down with problems, but bring a message of hope and encouragement.

In looking at the Irish situation Archbishop Martin reflected “The Church in Ireland for far too long started out from the position that the majority of Irish men and women understood and accepted the Church's teaching on the nature of marriage. For too long Catholics felt that the fact that Catholicism was the majority faith in Ireland and thus numbers were on our side and numbers were our strength. As time went on and the culture of Ireland changed, the numbers decreased and the cultural factors which affect all western countries are just as active in Ireland as elsewhere.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY