

## Parish Newsletter



Monday is the Feast of St. Brigid, Patron of Ireland. We ask her protection over our country and healing for those who are sick.

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February Archbishop-elect Dermot Farrell, will officially take on the role of Archbishop of Dublin. As he takes up this responsibility at such a challenging time we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and protect him.

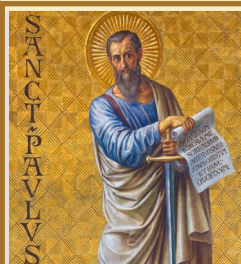
St. Laurence O'Toole pray for us, St. Kevin pray for us.



Tuesday is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. We will bless candles at Mass on Tuesday morning. If you have candles to be blessed please leave them in the basket at the Ambo on Monday. It is the last day that the crib will be up. There is a tradition of taking straw home and this will be available after Mass on Wednesday in the porch.



Wednesday is the Feast of St. Blaise. It is traditional to have the blessing of throats but due to the restrictions that are in place there can be no physical blessing this year. Instead a prayer of blessing will be said at the end of Mass on Wednesday morning.



## Brackenstown Bible Study Group

invite you to join us in our Lenten Scripture study. We will be reading St Paul's letters to the Galatians and the Ephesians. The study will commence on Monday 15th February. Our study of Galatians will take place over four weeks, followed by a three week study of Ephesians. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the study will be home based. There will be an optional Zoom, on-line group discussion/questions and answers facility available from 7.30 to 8.30 pm each Monday night. The current difficult situation may be an opportunity for you to deepen your relationship with Christ through becoming more familiar with the Word of God. Both letters are relatively short, with only six chapters in each, so either would be ideal for the newcomer to Scripture Study. There is no charge to take part so why not give it a go? For more details please email Paddy at [pobyrne50@gmail.com](mailto:pobyrne50@gmail.com).

## PRESENTATION ON THE BAHAI FAITH



ZOOM ONLINE SESSION  
WITH A 20 MINUTE PRESENTATION  
FOLLOWED BY QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

TUESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2021  
FROM 7:00PM-8:00PM

## COVID19 RESTRICTIONS

All Masses are online only: Mon to Sat 10:00am; Sunday 6:30pm(Sat. vigil) 9am and 11am  
Rosary and Night Prayer online 8:30pm Mon to Fri (from 4th January) Taizé Prayer Friday 7:30pm (from 11th Jan)  
Confessions Saturdays 10:45am to 11:30 in Pastoral Centre. Church closes at 6:00pm.



## Bishops' Conference statement: "Welcoming vaccines for the Common Good"

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference welcomes the encouraging news that a number of vaccines for COVID-19 are at an advanced stage of preparation and are likely to be available for use in the near future. The Catholic Church recognises that safe and effective vaccination is an essential aspect of the prevention of disease. We are encouraging Catholics to support a programme of vaccination, not only for their own good, but for the protection of life and the health of those who are vulnerable and for the common good of humanity.

Questions have arisen that human foetal cell-lines, which have their origins in abortions carried out in the past, are used in the development and production of some of the vaccines

for COVID-19.

If a more ethically acceptable alternative is not readily available to them, it is morally permissible for Catholics to accept a vaccine which involves the use of foetal cell-lines, especially if the potential risk to life or health is significant, as in the case of a pandemic. Refusal to accept a vaccine could contribute to significant loss of life in the community and especially among those who are most vulnerable. This reality must inform any judgement of conscience.

We reaffirm the consistent teaching of the Church that abortion is always gravely immoral. The Church has always made a distinction, however, between formal (deliberate) involvement in an immoral act and material involvement, which may be incidental and remote. The decision of those who decide to accept vaccines which have had some link with foetal cell-lines in the past does not imply any consent on their part to abortion.

We note that many of the vaccines currently being developed do not depend for their design or production on foetal cell lines. Catholics should continue to advocate for the availability of ethically-developed vaccines. In that way they bear witness that biomedical research should always be conducted in a manner which is consistent with respect for life and for human dignity.

Access to healthcare is a fundamental human right. The Church, while respecting intellectual property rights, believes that essential medicines, including vaccines, should be made available on the basis of need rather than on the basis of capacity to pay. This position is consistent with the TRIPS agreement of the WTO, which permits national governments to arrange for the manufacture of essential pharmaceuticals, for domestic use and for the use of poorer countries, even without the consent of patent owners.

Mary's Meals =  
Lots of little acts of love ❤️

Please support Mary's Meals by buying a copy of this beautiful book of reflections, written by Fr. Eamonn Kelly, following a recent mission trip to Zambia with Mary's Meals. ❤️

€6.10 per copy  
3 copies feed a child with Mary's Meals for an entire school year...

Tel: 085-179 7278 - Aoife ❤️

Thank you

Sincere thanks to all the lovely people in Brackenstown for your kindness to me during my present illness. I was overwhelmed by the amount of Mass Bouquets, Triduums, Christmas cards, flowers, gifts, texts and phone calls I received. It gave me such comfort and peace. I will remember you all in my prayers. May you all keep safe and healthy.

Aileen Smyth

**Church Art Calendars**  
& **Catholic Papers & Magazines** are available in the new bookrack at the back of the Church.

Candles of Hope, with **Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection from the Coronavirus** are available by emailing [brackenstownparish@gmail.com](mailto:brackenstownparish@gmail.com)

'LIKE' Legion of Mary Brackenstown Swords

ALL WEEKEND MASSES WILL BE OFFERED FOR INTENTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN BOOKED	PRAY FOR	10 AM MASSES NEXT WEEK
Padraig Keane (A) June Daly (34A) John & Annie Conroy (A) Edward & Sarah Greene (A)	Altar List of the Dead John de Burgh (RD) Patricia Bourke (RD) Flora Moran (RD) Rosie Moran (RD) Ollie Dignam (RD) Aidan Donnelly (RD) Bernard & Margaret O'Reilly (A) Harry & Joan Mills (A) Gearóid Lynch (3A)	<b>Mon:</b> Thomas Kinsella (RD) <b>Tues:</b> Rose Fernie (A) Pray for: Special Intention <b>Wed:</b> Anna Vasquez (Rem) <b>Thur:</b> Special Intention <b>Fri:</b> Catherine White (A) Pray for: Pat Stapleton (1A) <b>Sat:</b> Carmel Cronly (MM)

View our Parish Webcam via the Parish Website [www.brackenstown-parish.com](http://www.brackenstown-parish.com)

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**Declan Colgan, Permanent Deacon**  
 01 8401188—[brackenstownparish@gmail.com](mailto:brackenstownparish@gmail.com)

**Louise Donnelly, Secretary** Mon to Fri. 9.30am – 1.00pm  
 01 8401188 – [brackenstownparish@gmail.com](mailto:brackenstownparish@gmail.com)