



Parish of St. John the Baptist, Blackrock.

Parish Newsletter 4th/5th September, 2021.

Website: www.sjb.ie

Masses available on webcam

Priests:
Fr Peter O'Connor. P.P. 01 2882104
Fr. Eddie Conway 01 2882248

Parish Office:
Hours 10.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.
Tel: 28821 04

Times of Mass:
Sunday Vigil (Saturday) 6.30 p.m.
10.00 a.m.
12 noon

Weekdays: 1.05 p.m.
Saturday 6.30 p.m. Vigil.

Confessions

On request.

Baptisms: On request

Marriages: By arrangement, 3 months' notice required to Parish in which you reside.

When entering the Church, please wear **face masks, social distance, and use the hand sanitizers.**

The Church is cleaned at regular intervals to make it a safer environment for all.
Thank You.

Climate Change

Pope Francis is due to visit Glasgow in Scotland for the UN Climate Change Conference in November.

Below is an excerpt from Archbishop Farrell's recent Pastoral Letter: The Cry of the Earth—The Cry of the Poor

“At this time every person on our planet is confronted with two interconnected crises: the coronavirus pandemic and the ecological crisis. Both define our age. Both require urgent action. But it is the reality of climate change that is ‘humanity’s defining challenge.’ Over the coming decades, the havoc of the pandemic will pale when compared to that of climate change.

To respond to the climate crisis, and to mark the Season of Creation—which began on September 1st and continues until the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on October 4th—Archbishop Farrell has published a pastoral letter, The Cry of the Earth—The Cry of the Poor: The Climate Catastrophe—Creation’s Urgent Call for Change. This pastoral letter is an invitation to all people—those in the Church and those beyond—to reflect on the climate crisis in new ways, so that the baptised may live the life of faith more vibrantly, and everyone may respond more actively to the serious situation in which the world finds itself.”

The pastoral letter is available online, as well as in hardcopy from Veritas.

A Message from Fr. Peter O'Connor. Adm.

Dear Parishioners,

We welcome at Mass this weekend all those who have returned to School. This weekend and next weekend we will bless any school bags that are brought to the Church, and we will pray for all those who have returned to school. A leaflet called “Blessing of School Bags” is available at the door of the Church for parents, grandparents, family or friends to collect to bless the school bags at home. Holy water to bless the school bags at home is available in St. Annes Chapel. There is also a special colour in leaflet for children which can be collected.

This week the loosening of restrictions has been announced for numbers attending religious services. Each Church can hold up to 50 percent of full capacity from Monday 6th September. There is still an obligation to sanitize hands, wear face masks, and keep social distance. For the Church of St. John, the Baptist, this means we should be able to facilitate 300 people at any one ceremony. Last Sunday the combined attendance at the three weekend Masses was 304 people. We hope that from the 20th October further restrictions can be lifted. Thank you for your support and we pray that we will all keep safe.

The painting of the Calvary scene has now been completed and we wish to thank Nigel for all his hard work. I am sure you will agree he has done a tremendous job. We hope to be able to place some colourful pots around the Calvary and the entrances of the Church.

Briefly in other news,

- Maintenance on the lighting system on the outside and inside of the Church continues this week.
- We are in contact with some of our schools regarding First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Hopefully we will have good news soon about arranging dates as the situation regarding numbers etc remain fluid but in a positive direction.
- A Parish Finance Committee meeting was held this week.

Some dates for your diary:

- Harvest Thanksgiving the weekend of the 25th /26th September (details to follow).
- Blessing of Pets on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals, after the 12 noon Mass on Sunday 3rd October.

Thank you for your support.

Fr. Peter

Leaving Certificate Students

We congratulate all students on the success of their examination. We hope you are happy with the results, and pray that you will be guided by the Holy Spirit in your decision making for your future career.