



Parish of St. John the Baptist, Blackrock.

Parish Newsletter 4th /5th March, 2023.

Website: www.sjb.ie

Masses available on webcam

Email: office@sjb.ie

Priests

Fr. Peter O'Connor P.P. 01 288 21 04
Fr. Eddie Conway P.C. 01 288 22 48

Parish Office

Hours: 10.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.
Tel: 288 21 04
Email: office@sjb.ie

Times of Mass

Sunday: Vigil (Saturday) 6.30 p.m.
10.00 a.m.
12.00 noon

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

Confessions: Available on request.

Baptisms: Held on the 1st Sunday and the 3rd Saturday of the month. All enquires welcome through the Parish Office on 01 288 2104, or email office@sjb.ie

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

SAINT FRANCES XAVIER NOVENA OF GRACE 2023

This starts on Saturday March 4th and concludes on Sunday 12th March, inclusive. It will be recited at Mass from Sunday 5th March to Sunday 12th March.

LENT

Trocaire Boxes – These are available in the porch of the Church. Thank you for your support.

Stations of the Cross are a private devotion popular in the season of Lent. Reflections for the Stations will be available in the missalette stands throughout the season of Lent.

Colour In's are available for children to take home.

This week we pray for our sisters and brothers in Northern Ireland as they seek a way to restore power sharing. I share in a spirit of ecumenism the following prayer from the Church of Ireland website.

A Prayer for the Restoration of the Assembly in Northern Ireland.

**God of our ancestors, God of our future;
from whom all authority comes, we pray for
the legislative assembly and its executive.
By your gracious help may it give Northern
Ireland good governance, serve with
integrity and seek the common good;
that all people may live peaceably,
and grow in respect for one another.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



PEACE



A Letter from the Administrator and Parish Manager Fr. Peter O'Connor.

The new banner outside both gates of the Church continues our parish policy of "A Welcome to All"- irrespective of creed, gender or race. We are so proud to be an inclusive Church where people of all persuasions can enter the Church and feel at home and included.

So many people call into the Church to not only enjoy the beautiful building but to experience a spirit of welcome in St. John the Baptist. During the Church's liturgical seasons, we have displays to help remind us of our journey of life and of our faith. Our Lenten themes are **Prayer, Almsgiving and Fasting**. This year included in the display at St. Anne's Altar is a beautiful image of the loaves and the fishes which I bought in Israel as a backpacker about 25 years ago!

The Lent Prayer Box by the pulpit is an opportunity for people to write their prayers on a small piece of paper and place them in the prayer box. All the prayers collectively will be remembered at Sunday Mass each weekend in Lent.

We have purchased two beautiful icons of the Holy Trinity and the Holy Family which will be placed at St. Anne's shrine later in the year – icons are a beautiful part of our ecumenical tradition shared with other Christian faiths.

The Synod process in the Universal Church is still continuing under the surface! Our prayers are asked for the work of the Synod.

During the next few weeks, we will enter in dialogue again with our Building on Hope grouping of neighbouring parishes.

On Practical Matters.

- Work on creating public access to the toilet in the Sacristy during Mass times is near completion.
- The Parish Finance Committee will meet next week and I hope to have a finance Sunday where the accounts of the parish during the year 2021 will be released.
- The children from Carysfort our parish primary school will celebrate their First Penance on Tuesday 7th March and those preparing for Confirmation will celebrate The Service of Light on Wednesday 22nd March.
- This weekend the 6.30 p.m. Vigil Mass is for the children preparing for First Holy Communion, and the 10.00 a.m. Mass on Sunday the 19th March is for the children preparing for Confirmation. (Date change due to Ireland/England rugby match and Mother's Day!). Flowers and plants will be collected by the children.
- The Parish Pastoral Council met last Thursday. Congratulations to Catherine O'Carroll who is our new Chairperson, and Liam Butler Secretary. At our next meeting we will discuss The Mission Statement of our Parish.
- The rosary will be recited at 12.40 p.m. Monday to Friday for the season of Lent only and will conclude on Wednesday 5th April.
- I look forward to St. Patrick's Day celebrations our Mass times are at **10.00 a.m. and 12 noon.**
- We are in the process of obtaining a new car park machine soon. It will give us the opportunity for tap, text and cash payments.

I thank you for your support especially to our volunteers who help in so many ways. Our Mass attendance numbers have reached an average of 40-65 on weekdays and between 350 and 420 at weekends. May I take this opportunity again to say thank you for your continued support and encouragement, and the very many kind and appreciative comments I receive in the parish of St. John the Baptist, Blackrock.

Fr. Peter O'Connor, Adm.