



**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: 01 288 21 04  
 Email: [office@sjb.ie](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. All enquires welcome through the Parish Office on 01 288 2104, or email, [office@sjb.ie](mailto:office@sjb.ie)

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

### Monday the 5th February Bank Holiday

Mass will be celebrated at  
11.00 a.m.

#### St. Brigid



We thank all those who created the beautiful display of flowers and table of St. Brigid.

#### Parish Pastoral Council

##### Parish Pastoral Council Report from the meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

A meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council took place on Thursday evening 18th January 2024. The Council expressed appreciation of the number of new volunteers undertaking different duties since the beginning of the New Year. We have a number of new readers for the 10am Mass on Sundays but would welcome further readers for the vigil Mass on Saturday at 6.30pm and for the 12pm Mass on Sunday. Planning was the main focus of the meeting.

Dates were set for Father Peter, along with members of the Parish Council, to meet with the different voluntary groups over the coming months.

Members were updated on safeguarding. They were also informed of a number of safeguarding audits to be carried out by the Diocese in 2024. St John the Baptist Parish has been included on the list for audit this year.

Members were updated on the recent meeting of the Building Hope partnership. It was decided at that meeting to adopt the theme of Climate Change – Caring for God's creation. The Parish Council agreed to investigate possible actions appropriate to the context of St John the Baptist parish that could contribute to this overall initiative.

The Parish Pastoral Council wishes to extend sincere sympathy to our choir director Catherine Hughes on the recent death of her mother.

#### A Soldier's Playing Cards

After heavy fighting, a soldier returned to camp. The next day being Sunday, the Chaplain had set up church service. The men were asked to take out their Bible or Prayer Books. The Chaplain noticed one soldier looking at a deck of cards. After service, he was taken by the Chaplain to see the Major.

The Chaplain explained to the Major what he had seen. The Major told the young soldier he would be punished if he could not explain himself. The young soldier told the Major that during the battle, he had neither a Bible or a Prayer Book so he would use his deck of cards and explained: I have decided to talk to the Lord by studying this deck of cards. The Major asked in disbelief, how will you do that?

You see, the **ACE**, it reminds us that there is only one God.

The **TWO** represents the two parts of the Bible, Old and New Testaments.

The **THREE** represents the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The **FOUR** stands for the Four Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The **FIVE** is for the five wise Brides there were ten but only five of them were glorified.

The **SIXTH** is for the six days it took God to create the Heavens and Earth.

The **SEVEN** is for the day God rested after working the six days.

The **EIGHTH** is for the family of Noah and his wife, their three sons, and their wives, in whom God saved the eight people from the flood that destroyed the earth for the first time.

The **NINE** is for the Lepers that Jesus cleansed of leprosy. He cleansed ten but nine never thanked Him.

The **TEN** represents the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses on tablets made of stone.

The **JACK** is a reminder of Satan. One of God's first angels, but he got kicked out of heaven for his sly and wicked ways and is now the joker of eternal hell.

The **QUEEN** stands for the Virgin Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth.

THE **KING** stands for Jesus, for he is the King of all Kings.

When I count the dots on all the cards, I come up with **365** in total, one for every day of the year. There are a total of 52 cards in a deck; each is a week, 52 weeks in a year.

The **four suits** represent the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

Each suit has **thirteen** cards: there are exactly thirteen weeks in a quarter.

So, when I want to talk to God and thank Him, I just pull out this old deck of cards and they remind me of all that I have to be thankful for.

The Major just stood there and after a minute, with tears in his eyes and pain in his heart, he said, Soldier, can I borrow that deck of cards?

#### FINANCE UPDATE

The Parish Finance Committee met last Wednesday, 24th January.

The Committee, along with Fr. Peter, would like to thank you most sincerely for your very generous support of both the Parish Christmas Offering and the Christmas Dues. The Parish Christmas Offering, like the Christmas Dues, will be included in your 2024 contributions.

The new Tap Machine for the parish is expected to be installed in February.