



Parish of St. John the Baptist, Blackrock. Parish Newsletter 21st/22nd December, 2024.

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: 01 288 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, three months' notice required to the Parish in which you reside.

CROSSCARE APPEAL
Crosscare, the social care agency of the Archdiocese, is once again asking for support for their Christmas Food Poverty Appeal. As families struggle to cope with the cost of Christmas, there will likely be a spike in the number of people seeking help in the weeks ahead. Anyone wishing to contribute can donate online at www.crosscare.ie, call 01 8360011, or send a cheque or postal order to Crosscare Christmas Appeal, 2 Saint Mary's Place North, D07 Y768.

Christmas Contributions

There are two envelopes if you wish to contribute. One envelope is for Christmas Dues which go towards the salaries of all the clergy of the Archdiocese. The second envelope is for the Christmas Parish Offering, which goes towards the maintenance of Saint John the Baptist Church here in Blackrock.

Envelopes may be left in the Parish Office, the safe at the back of the Church or in the collection baskets.



GRATITUDE TO ALL

As we have rejoiced in the great feast of Christmas, we thank all who do so much to enhance our celebration: those who have cleaned and decorated the church, the flower arranging group, those who built the crib, the collectors, the choirs, organists and instrumentalists, ministers of the Word and ministers of the Eucharist. Our Sacristans as well as those who serve during the year on the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Committee, and Baptism and hospitality teams. Thanks also to those who helped sell the Parish Christmas cards during the month of December.

A big thank you to you all.

Congratulations

Warmest congratulations to Sonia, Brendan, St. Mark, Nelson, and Elvis who will receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion at the 12 noon Mass this Sunday 22nd December.



Christmas Message

Dear Parishioners,

The gift of peace is one of the aspirations we pray for in our parish of St John the Baptist. The year 2025 is a Holy Year. Pope Francis has set the theme of the Holy/Jubilee Year as 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The above logo shows four stylised figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. Each of the different colours – blue, green, yellow, and red – embrace each other to indicate the solidarity, diversity and fraternity which should unite all people. The figure at the front is holding onto the Cross.

The words of Pope Francis from his Holy Year letter read as follows:
"Our pilgrimage during the Jubilee Year 2025 will express and confirm the shared journey that the Church is called to make, in order for it to be more fully a sign and instrument of unity in harmonious diversity."

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. I invite you to join in the celebration of Christmas 2024 in church or online at the times printed on the Christmas card and posted on our parish website.

On a personal level thank you for your support and prayer which makes for me as a priest at St John the Baptist such a happy place to minister in.

May I wish you, your family, and friends a prayerful, happy, and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Fr. Peter O'Connor.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Vigil Tuesday 24th December Family Mass at 6.00 p.m. Fr. Peter. (Cantor Simon Morgan, Organist Maria Geheran)
Christmas Night Mass 24th December at 9.00 p.m. Fr. Peter. (preceded by Carols with the Choir at 8.45 p.m.)
Christmas Morning Mass 10.00 a.m. Fr. Michael Collins, with Carols
Christmas Day Mass 12.00 noon Fr. Peter, with Carols

Thursday December 26th to Friday 27th
Daily Mass at 10.00 a.m.

DUBLIN DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

The process has begun to establish a Diocesan Pastoral Council for the Dublin Diocese, which will be commissioned at the beginning of Lent 2025. Following from the Synodal and Task Force listening exercises, having a Diocesan Pastoral Council was seen as an essential part of moving forward. Earlier this year Archbishop Farrell set up a group to look at the requirements, statutes, and membership of the Council. The work of the group can be seen on the Diocesan Website under the Diocesan Pastoral Council tab.

The function of the Diocesan Pastoral Council is to be a consultative group which works co-responsibly with Archbishop Farrell in designing ways and means by which the Diocese can best fulfil the mission of Jesus Christ. It will be made up of the Archbishop and 21 laity, religious and clergy. The makeup of the membership will reflect the entire People of God with the good of the whole Diocese in mind. Those who will be on the Council are not representatives of areas or groups in the Diocese but fulfil the criteria for membership that has been set down.

The choosing of the nine lay members will be a five-stage process of discernment. It began at the Deanery Meetings this week. As the discernment process continues over the next three months, we ask the whole Diocese to pray for the work that is going on. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide all who are involved both the nominees and those engaged in the discernment process. As this continues, we will keep you updated and let you know the key moments as they happen.