



Parish of St. John the Baptist, Blackrock. Parish Newsletter 15th /16th March, 2025.

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.

THE HOLY DOOR



Happy St. Patrick's Day to all!

Next Monday 17th March is St. Patrick's Day. It is a day when everyone is Irish and people are very welcome to join us in our St. Patrick's Day celebration Masses **at 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon.** At both Masses there will be music. As usual the blessing of the shamrock with holy water will take place at both Masses. Our beautiful statue of St. Patrick will be placed in St. Anne's Altar. Beside the altar will be placed St. Patrick's Breastplate Prayer.

St. Patrick's Prayer

**May the Strength of God pilot us.
May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Host of God guard us
Against the snares of the evil ones,
Against temptations of the world.
May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us,
Christ be over all!
May Thy Salvation, Lord,
Always be ours,
This day, O Lord, and evermore. Amen.**



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

This week for two nights I returned to Rome – a city I studied in for four years. The occasion I returned for was the Jubilee Year. I had a strong desire to partake in the Holy Year 2025 celebrations. The Holy Year is marked by the opening of the Holy doors in the Basilica's.

- 1. St. Peters**
- 2. St. Mary Major**
- 3. St. John Latern**
- 4. St. Paul outside the walls**

The picture of me in the newsletter is from the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica taken at 7.30 a.m. last Monday morning. The doors are different in design. Each tells the story of Jesus from the four gospels. The opening of the doors represents a symbol of hope and a call to open our hearts to prayer and also to each other by our actions in everyday life.

Pope Francis is currently in hospital this week and every evening in St. Peter's Square prayers are offered for him at 6.00 p.m. In our parish of St. John, the Baptist on this St. Patricks weekend we keep his wellbeing in our prayers as he guides the Church in such a beautiful and courageous way.

The prayer I share with you today is said to have inspired Pope Francis in hospital.

The doors are always open in St. John the Baptist Blackrock to all regardless of creed, gender, and race. Whoever you are you are always welcome. Fr. Peter.

A REFLECTION THAT INSPIRED POPE FRANCIS.

**"The walls of hospitals have heard more honest prayers than Churches....
They have witnessed far more sincere kisses than those in airports...
It is in hospitals that you see a homophobe being saved by a gay doctor.
A privileged doctor saving the life of a beggar...
In intensive care, you see a Jew taking care of a racist...
A police officer and a prisoner in the same room receiving the same care...
A wealthy patient waiting for a liver transplant, ready to receive the organ from a poor donor..
It is in these moments, when the hospital touches the wounds of people, that different worlds intersect according to a divine design. And in this communion of destinies, we realize that alone, we are nothing.
The absolute truth of people, most of the time, only reveals itself in moments of pain or in the real threat of an irreversible loss.
A hospital is a place where human beings remove their masks and show themselves as they truly are, in their purest essence.
This life will pass quickly, so do not waste it fighting with people.
Do not criticize your body too much.
Do not complain excessively.
Do not lose sleep over bills.
Make sure to hug your loved ones.
Do not worry too much about keeping the house spotless.
Material goods must be earned by each person-do not dedicate yourself to accumulating an inheritance.
Respect yourself, respect others. Walk your own path, and let go of the path others have chosen for you.
Respect: do not comment, do not judge, do not interfere.
Love more, forgive more, embrace more, live more intensely!
And leave the rest in the hands of Jesus. Amen.**