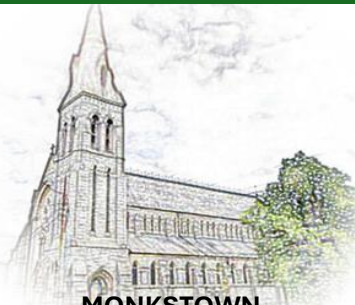


NEWSLETTER - Commencing Sunday 1st February

St. Bridgid, Abbess, Secondary Patron of Ireland



MONKSTOWN (Church of St. Patrick)

Mon – Fri @ 10 am
Sat Vigil 6 pm Sun 10 & 11:3
Web: monkstownparish.ie

Parish Secretary: Ann Acres
T: (01) 538 2542
E: secretary@monkstownparish.ie

Sacristan: Ciarán Ryan

Parish Priest: Fr Kevin
Mobile: 087 224 2230
E: revkevmonkstown1@gmail.com

Deacon: Rev. Eric Cooney
Mobile: 087 668 3499
E: eric.g.cooney@gmail.com

Safeguarding
Alice O'Connell & Denise
Beardmore
T: (01) 538 2542
E: CP@monkstownparish.ie

PARTNERSHIP PARISHES

KILL O' THE GRANGE (Holy Family)

Mon – Sat @ 10 am
Sat Vigil 5 pm Sun 10 & 12
Web: www.holyfamilyparish.ie
Parish Office Tel: (01) 284 5299
Email: admin@holyfamily.ie

BLACKROCK (St. John the Baptist)

Mon – Fri @ 1:05 pm
Sat Vigil 6:30 pm Sun 10 & 12
Web: www.sjb.ie
Parish Office Tel: (01) 288 2104
Email: office@sjb.ie

NEWTOWNPARK (Guardian Angels)

Mon – Sat @ 10 am
Sun 9:30 10:45 & 12 noon
www.newtownparkparish.com
Parish Office Tel: (01) 283 2988
E: parishoffice@newtownparkparish.com

FOXROCK (Our Lady of Perpetual Succor)

Mon, Tue, Thurs & Fri @ 10 am
Sat Vigil 6 pm Sun 10 & 11:30
Web: www.foxrockparish.ie
Parish Office Tel: (01) 289 3492
Email: secretary@foxrockparish.ie

Mass Intentions

We remember in our prayer at mass this weekend the following whose anniversaries and month's mind occur at this time:

- Jerry Liston (Month's Mind)
- Jane Reynolds (A)
- Art McMurragh Kavanagh (A)
- Marjorie Kavanagh (A)
- Mary O'Connell (A)
- Michael Duggan (A)
- Cora Smyth (A)
- Rory McGann (A)

FIRST FRIDAY (6th February)

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

As Fr Kevin will be away from Monday 2nd for the next few weeks, there will be no daily mass (apart from Ash Wednesday – 18th February). Deacon Eric will celebrate a prayer service @ 10 am. All are welcome.

BLESSING OF CANDLES

Candles will be blessed on Monday @ 10 during the prayer service for the Presentation of the Lord.

BLESSING OF THROATS

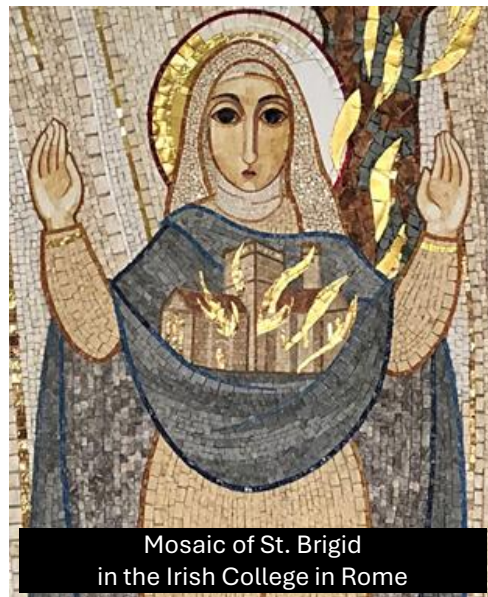
The Feast of St. Blaise is on Tuesday. The traditional Blessing of Throats will take place after the Prayer Service @ 10:20 am.

PARISH PARTNERSHIP NAME THE DEANSGRANGE PARTNERSHIP

More than 20 names were submitted from the 5 parishes with a good deal of thought. It was agreed that the partnership name should have a geographical theme.

The Deansgrange Partnership was decided upon as it is identifiable by name throughout the diocese and many parishioners from all 5 parishes are laid to rest in the cemetery there. The point was made that so many of the people buried there had probably funded the building of all our churches.

It was agreed that we will consider adding to the name "Under the patronage of - a patron saint - at our next meeting in April.



Mosaic of St. Brigid
in the Irish College in Rome

St. Bridgid, Abbess, Secondary Patron of Ireland

Blessed are they who lived the beatitudes. They are blessed and know what makes true happiness. Blessed are they who are poor in spirit, leaving space and time for God in their lives, blessed are they who are gentle and kind, merciful and pure in heart. Blessed are they, who hunger and thirst for justice, who work for peace. And blessed are they who suffer for Christ.

Brigid lived the Beatitudes. Born around the year 454 at Faughart, she followed her calling to consecrate her life to God. Tutored by Mel in Ardagh, she fostered that calling in many others. With Conleth, she founded the double monastery of Kildare. The interior spiritual life was given countless expression in a life marked by welcome of the stranger and hospitality to all, in her care for the sick and the poor, and in her concern for animals, nature and the Earth.

Brigid died on 1 February 524 and is buried in Downpatrick, with the other two patrons of Ireland, Patrick and Columba (Colum Cille). The first day of February is also the date of the Celtic festival of Imbolc, the beginning of a new season of hope and growth,

Brigid's reputation spread throughout Ireland and in many parts of Europe. The legend of her cloak expanding to meet the needs of her monastery, highlights the power of this fourth/ fifth-century woman. The Brigid's Cross, woven from rushes expressed her Christian faith and God's concern and protection given to us through the prayers and intercession of Brigid.



Fr Kevin's Reflection

This Week, If You . . .



Commentary on the readings Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13;

The first reading from Zephaniah speaks to us about acting with humility and being honest before the Lord. Those who live by humility and seek the Lord will find shelter in the Lord and uninterrupted rest.

Matthew 5:1-12

In our gospel passage from St Matthew, we have the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount. As well as being a well-known passage it is a radical way of living, something that could bring great good to our world but only if people choose to live it. Matthew tells us that the sermon took place on top of a mountain reminding us of Moses, and the fact that Jesus was seated which emphasises his authority.

The connection between this and the first reading is the theme of humility.

1Corinthians 1:26-31;

St Paul tells us in the second reading from his second letter to the Corinthians that God often chooses what we regard as something foolish or lowly and turns it into something great, such as humility or what many regard as weakness or foolishness. Paul tells us that what the world regards as foolish and weak is actually turned into something powerful and transforming by the Lord.

Psalms 145

The Response to the Psalm is:

How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

This week, if you do something for someone else for no other reason than to bring joy to their lives, blessed are you.

If you find yourself feeling the loss of a friend or loved one and, in missing them, you realize that you experienced the love of God in their love for you, blessed are you.

This week, if you put yourself second for the needs of another, blessed are you.

If you do the "right" thing when the conventional wisdom is to do the "smart" thing, blessed are you.

This week, if you forgive someone or if someone forgives you, blessed are you.

Sometime in the next few days, if you stop, unplug and spend even just a moment thinking about all the good in your life and find yourself embraced by a sense of gratitude, blessed are you.

This week, if you can diffuse someone's anger, if you can bridge the chasm between you and another, if you bring a positive perspective to an otherwise negative situation, blessed are you.

If you risk being laughed at or misunderstood or if you endure a "funny look" from someone because you took a stand based on what was morally and ethically right, blessed are you. You have reason to be glad. In the blessings you give, you have been blessed.

Such an attitude to living is missing from so many areas of our lives, from our culture, from our society. But in the Gospel of the Beatitudes, Jesus calls us to live our lives by a very different set of values than those of our dog-eat-dog -success-is-everything- get-them-before-they get-you- based world: to detach from material things and attach ourselves to the things of God; to embrace God's Word of comfort in the face of life's difficulties; to find our joy and purpose in service to others; to seek what is just and right in all things; to become vehicles of God's mercy and forgiveness for all; to stop and listen to God's voice speaking in the quiet of our hearts; to work for peace in our homes and communities; to take up our own crosses as Jesus took up his for the sake of justice and righteousness; to spend all that we have and are to establish the kingdom of God in our own time and place.

I think it was Mother Teresa who said "You can do no great things - only small things with love." The Gospel of the Beatitudes is grounded in such an attitude of love, that true "blessedness," heart-felt happiness and satisfaction is centred in Jesus' perspective of humility, mercy, compassion and justice. Titles and labels don't matter; skills and talents are not the measure of faith.

Jesus calls us to become a people of the Beatitudes: to embrace a spirit of humble gratitude before the God who gives, nurtures and sustains our lives and to respond to such unfathomable love the only way we can - by returning that love to others, God's children as we are, in whatever way we can, as a way of returning it to God.