



Today, the Second Sunday after Christmas, is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This Feast affords us an opportunity to reflect on the significance of our own Baptism, to thank God for those who set us on the path of Faith, Hope and Love in Christ and those who have supported us on this path throughout our lives. We also pray on this great Feast for all those baptised in our Parish over the past 51 years and for those families preparing to present their children for Baptism and the other Sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

As this is the first edition of the Parish Newsletter in 2024, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families every blessing in the year ahead. Remember the words addressed to Jesus at his Baptism "You are my beloved, my favour rests on you" were also directed to each of us on the day of our Baptism. Let us try to live every day of the year as God's much loved and highly favoured children. Happy New Year. *CJF*



"What have you done with your baptism?"
7th January 2024

When Saint John Paul II first visited France in the 1980s, he addressed a large crowd in Paris and asked them: "France, what have you done with your baptism?" This same question could be

equally addressed to each one of us today. When we were baptised, we were brought to the church by our parents and godparents who made promises on our behalf. As adults, it is now our responsibility to live out these promises in our lives. In the course of conversation, we will often recommend a film or a play to someone we meet but how often do we take the opportunity to offer them some insights into the Christian way of life either in conversation or by example when the opportunity arises? In the Gospel from saint Mark today, Jesus encounters John in the Jordan and is baptised. Here we see Jesus, by his humility, showing by his own example that the least will be become the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. God the Father speaks these words in our gospel reading: "You are my Son, the Beloved, my favour rests on you." God also addresses these words to each of us individually. At this time of the year, we too can make new beginnings as we try to make a definite commitment to our faith in the challenging times in which we now live. It may be that we could attend mass more regularly or go to confession once a month or perhaps take the opportunity to pray more frequently. As we start 2024, we ask that our Risen Saviour, whose baptism we recall today, will help us to use the graces and gifts that we have received from our baptism for the benefit of our Church and community. May this be a year of blessings of each of us as we continue on the next stage of our Christian journey.

Deacon Gerard

COLLECTIONS

23/24th December

First Collection € 570
Share € 540

Christmas Day

First Collection € 6,186
Share € 2,100

31st December

First Collection € 1183
Share € 1245

We are very grateful for your continued support.

TIMES OF MASSES: WEEKDAYS 10AM: MON, WED, THURS and FRI.

SATURDAY: 6.30PM (VIGIL), SUNDAY: 10.30AM. and 12 NOON. BAPTISMS 1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS AND AT THE EASTER VIGIL (SOME EXCEPTIONS AROUND CHRISTMAS AND EASTER.). CONFESSIONS SAT. AFTER 6.30PM MASS, AFTER DAILY MASS (UNLESS THERE'S A FUNERAL), OR ON REQUEST.

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 6th January 2024

6.30p.m.

Sheila Savage [1stA]; Breda & Richard Savage [A]; Charles Squires [A]; Jennifer Squires [A]; Thomas Blake[A]; Ciara Blake[A]; Alice McLernon [A]; for a Special Intention; Mark Fitzmaurice [A]; John, Anne & Patrick Pepper [A]; Una & Michael Hayes [A]; John, Margaret, Kevin, & Bridget Pringle [A]. William Russell [A]

Sun, 7th January 2024

10.30a.m.

Annette Lowry [6th A]

12.00 noon

Padraig Ó Mórdha [A]; Helen O'Dwyer [A]; Tom Redmond [A]

PARISH ACTIVITIES

The following will resume during this week:

MEALS ON WHEELS

MyBOD FITNESS

ART CLASSES

AFTERNOON CLUB

CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

PORTMARNOCK SINGERS

HSE BREASTFEEDING CLASSES

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

Parents and Guardians of children in 2nd Classes who have registered their child for **First Penance and Holy Communion** are invited to attend a **Meeting of Parents/Guardians** from St Marnocks, and St. Helen's Junior School on **Wednesday, 17th January 2024 at 8.00pm.** to present your child at the **Parish Mass for Enrolment** on either **Saturday, 20th January at 6.30p.m.** or **Sunday, 21st January at 10.30a.m.**

Parents and Guardians of children in 6th Classes who have registered their child for **Confirmation** are invited to attend a **Meeting of Parents/Guardians** from St Marnocks, and St. Helen's Senior School on **Wednesday, 24th January 2024 at 8.00pm,** and to present your child at the **Parish Mass for Enrolment** on either **Saturday, 27th January at 6.30p.m.** or **Sunday, 28th January at 10.30a.m.**

MEDUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

5th to 12th June 2024 with Marian Pilgrimages

To be included in our group please contact Derek & Anne Farrell, 0862573824, or 0879224077.

Direct flight from Dublin to Mostar and then only 30 mins. coach drive to Medugorje, return flight Split to Dublin. Staying in Ines house close to Church. Our Spiritual Director is Capuchin priest from the Raheny Friary Fr. Des Mc Naboe. OFM Cap. Early booking is essential as demand for places is very high as was the case in 2023. Early booking discount of 50 euro per person applies if deposit paid by end January 2024.

ANAM CARA NORTH DUBLIN,

the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on **Wednesday 17th January at 7:15pm** in the Hilton Hotel, Malahide Rd, Northern Cross, Dublin, D17 Y924. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. Please contact us on info@anamcara.ie or 085 2888 888 for any queries.

GUNS OR GOLF - A MILITARY "FIRING RANGE AT PORTMARNOCK?"

Speaker Garry Ahern, on Tuesday, 9th January at 8.00p.m. St. Sylvester's Parish Centre, Malahide.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY.

You shall love the Lord your God.. and your neighbour as yourself (Luke 10:27)

The theme for 2024 is based on a text from the Gospel of St. Luke, with material prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso, facilitated by the local Chemin Neuf community, whose members have a special devotion to Christian Unity. Observed from 18-29 January since 1908 in the /northern hemisphere, this Week of Prayer is frequently celebrated around Pentecost in the Southern Hemisphere. Materials for the Week is jointly published by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches.

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