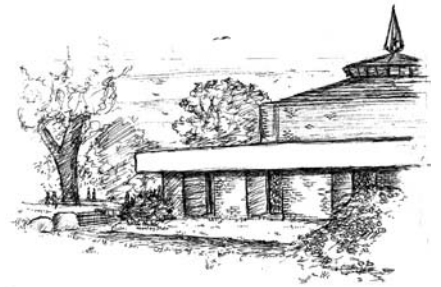


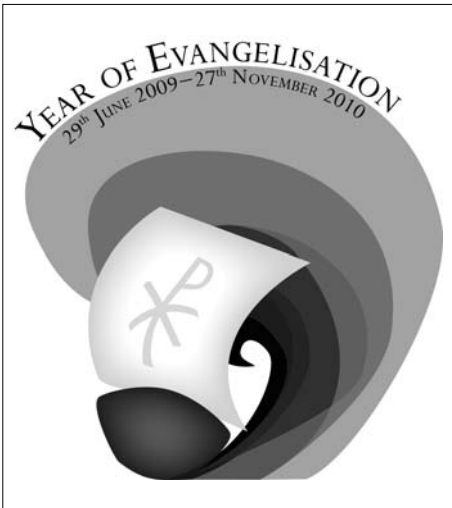
# BALLINTEER PARISH NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2009

www.ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie e-mail: editor@ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie

## Year of Evangelisation



I recently visited St. Columcille's Well in my home parish of Knocklyon. It is situated near the entrance to Orlagh at the foot of the Hellfire Club. It brought back many happy memories from my childhood and I am delighted to say that it is beautifully kept. While I spent some time there in prayer and meditation I reflected on the importance of re-discovering our rich Christian past and culture. Perhaps we have lost contact with the many shrines and holy places that were so important to our ancestors and which shaped the rich embroidery of faith in Ireland for hundreds of years. The heroic lives of the saints are there to inspire us in the faith to which they bore witness. It seems to me that they call us to bear witness to our faith in our own times also. We are encouraged to imitate them and to express our love for God as they did in our daily struggle to bear witness

to our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. I think this will become an important aspect of our living the Year of Evangelisation which was inaugurated by Archbishop Martin on the 27th of June this year. In launching this initiative the Archbishop expressed his wish that we would all take advantage of this year to deepen our love for God and bear witness to this love in our lives.

"The hope of the year of evangelisation is that all people will deepen their relationship with Christ and that will be reflected in the way we live our lives in parish and in society." (*Archbishop Martin*)

It is a wonderful challenge that we face together as church in the Dublin diocese. We do not face the challenge of being evangelisers alone but it is something we do as church together. In the early church it was the witness of love that Christians had for one another that bore witness to God- "see how they love one another". This reciprocal love that we have for each other is the greatest witness to God's love in the world. With these encouraging words the Archbishop launched the Year of Evangelisation.

"The church constantly needs to renew itself. It must draw on the authentic biblical revelation of how God's love was revealed by Jesus

Christ. I ask your prayers that this programme of evangelisation will truly open the lives of each of us to be embraced by God's love and thus become witnesses of that love to the world." (*Archbishop Martin*)

May the Lord bless us as we strive to live this Year of Evangelisation together.

*Fr. Richard*

### Prayer

God our Father,  
You sent us Your only Son Jesus  
to live among us.  
Jesus shows us Your Love for us.  
Help us to bring the Good News  
of Your Love to one another.

Send Your Spirit to live in us,  
to work in us, to pray in us.

Bless everyone with peace and  
forgiveness so that we may share  
Your Good News with  
everyone we meet.

We ask this through Christ  
our Lord, Amen.

*(The logo shown was created by Rebecca Roughneen, a student of The College of Art and Design. It was inspired by a reflection on Mark 4:35-41 - Jesus Stills the Storm.)*



## Fr. Jim O'Sullivan, 1931 - 2009

It was with great sadness that we heard the news on Friday 17th April that our beloved Curate, Fr. Jim, had died. Our sorrow at his

loss was compensated by our feeling that he, who had served the Lord so faithfully as a priest for 54 years in the Dublin Archdiocese, was gone to his eternal reward. We felt that it was no coincidence that Fr. Jim died during Easter week – a feast to which he was so dedicated.

Fr. Jim was born in Blackrock on 30th May 1931. He was an only child. Fr. Jim was an outstanding student, achieving a first class honours degree in UCD. He was ordained a priest in Clonliffe on 14th May 1955.

Following ordination, Fr. Jim was a teacher in the Technical School in Blackrock, Chaplain at Carriglea, Bakers Cross and Loreto Dalkey. This was followed by parish appointments in Glasnevin, Kilcullen and Wicklow Town. He was next appointed Curate in Clondalkin with responsibility for development at Bawnogue /Deansrath where he was appointed Parish Priest in 1981. In 1985 he was appointed Parish Priest in Balbriggan. In 1996 he retired as Parish Priest and was appointed Curate in Ballinteer where he found himself teamed up with his college friend, Fr. Battelle, then our Parish Priest. For many years he was also Chaplain to the Catholic Girl Guides.

Fr. Jim developed particular interests which greatly assisted him in his ministry. Following Vatican II he updated his knowledge of theology becoming a master of spiritual direction. In Ballinteer he set up the Lectio Divina (Praying with Scripture) Group where he imparted his great knowledge of the Gospels complemented by stories of his travels to the holy places mentioned. Fr. Jim also organised One-to-One retreats and directed Scripture Reading sessions.

As a priest in Ballinteer Fr. Jim took his duties very seriously. In all his activities he was methodical, preparing himself well for the various ceremonies, preparing his most interesting homilies and serving in the Confessional. He was gentle with everyone, particularly the elderly, the sick and children. On a Sunday morning after Mass he was at the church door to make himself available for a quiet chat or a bit of banter when appropriate. A particular trait of Fr. Jim was his availability to those in trouble. He regularly visited the housebound and those bereaved to comfort, console and listen as well as advise. Despite the workload he took on himself he managed to find time for his favourite pastimes of concert-going and golf.

Fr. Jim became ill after Christmas 2008 but continued to serve the parish well into February 2009, when he was hospitalized. He spoke at the time of his acceptance of God's will, simply stating that he hoped whatever his fate would be that it would be bearable and quick. No doubt but he suffered much before the Lord called him. Fr. Jim died in Blackrock Hospice, adjacent to his birthplace.

We miss you Fr. Jim but know that you are up there watching over us, pleading with the Lord on our behalf so that we get things at least half right!

The esteem in which Fr. Jim was held was evident at his funeral ceremonies, on the Saturday evening when his remains were received in the Church, on

the Sunday at his lying in repose, when Archbishop Martin visited, and at the funeral Mass on the Monday. It was fitting that Canon Battelle delivered the funeral Mass homily and that Fr. Jim's coffin was shouldered from the Church by parishioners. He was buried in Deansgrange Cemetery with his parents.

*Lord rest you, Fr. Jim.*

## Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Twenty two parishioners, including Father Behan and his father Tom, visited Lourdes from 18th to 23rd August 2009.

We stayed at the Agena Hotel which is run by an Irish woman and her French husband. GAA fans were well catered for on Sunday afternoon. A large TV in the foyer brought Croke Park to Lourdes! The food was good and the weather beautiful. Many candles were lit, including a large one especially for the parish, and many prayers were said. We thank Our Lady and St. Bernadette for such an enjoyable pilgrimage.

## Eucharistic Adoration in Oratory



Adoration hours are:

*Tuesday - 10.30 am to 10 pm*

*Wednesday - 10.30 am to 1 pm*

*Thursday - 10.30 am to 1 pm*

*Friday - 10.30 am to 10 pm*

All are welcome to come along and join in the adoration at any time.

## Parish Schools

The staff of the Boys' and Girls' Schools welcome all their pupils and their families back to school for 2009/2010. A very special welcome to the new Junior Infants (and their parents) and those who have enrolled in higher classes throughout the schools.

The choir has resumed singing at the 10.00 am Mass on Sunday mornings, with many new members now involved.

Opening of the school year Mass - "Mass of the Gifts" - was celebrated on Thursday, September 17th. The gifts contributed by the girls, will be distributed within the parish by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Coffee morning in aid of the Hospice Movement was held in the Reception Area of the Girls' School on September 17th. Many thanks to the parents who organised this event.

The boys in Our Lady's under the stewardship of Ms McMahon, worked very hard this year to obtain their third Green Flag for Water Conservation and were duly rewarded for their hard work. On 19th June the Minister for Energy, Communications and Natural Resources, Eamonn Ryan, raised the flag. There was great excitement on that day also as the boys proudly showed off the Harry Conlan trophy which the Under 12's hurling team had won the day before in Croke Park. Well done to Mr. Fogarty who coaches the boys.

The girls have resumed their "Walk on Wednesdays" as part of their endeavour to attain a fourth Green Flag for the school during this year.

Parent-and-Toddler group meets every Monday in Room 4 of the Girls' School from 11.00 am – 12.00 noon. All are welcome.

## A Brief History of Faith & Light

*by Marie-Hélène Mathieu*

It all began with the suffering of Gérard and Camille, the parents of two children, Thaddée and Loïc, both of whom had a profound intellectual disability. They went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes with them but they felt edged out, almost excluded. It is true that at that time people with a disability and their families did not really have a place within the Church.

In 1968, Jean Vanier and I proposed, to them and some other parents, a pilgrimage for children, adolescents and adults with an intellectual disability, along with their parents and friends, especially the young ones. The undertaking, that we called "Faith and Light", would be prepared for in small communities.

Three years later, at Easter 1971, we met up with 12,000 pilgrims from 15 countries in Lourdes. 4,000 of our number had an intellectual disability. We spent three days of indescribable peace and joy. We discovered that the person who was disabled by his/her intellectual capacities was not disabled in his/her heart. The only thing that was asked for was to be loved and to love. The thirst for unity brought down the barriers of race, age, language, class... and also Christian traditions, requiring us to become ecumenical. On the last day, the pilgrims did not want to accept that it was all over. And so the Faith and Light movement was born.

In 1975 we experienced the grace of an international pilgrimage to Rome. Paul VI welcomed 5,000 Faith and Light pilgrims. He addressed each disabled person: "God loves you as you are" and so confirmed the vocation of Faith and Light within the Church. Other international pilgrimages have punctuated our lives, taking place in 1981, 1991 and 2001.

After 38 years we are able to say again that Faith and Light is the work of the Lord. He has entrusted us with the smallest, the most precious to His heart. It is He who has inspired us to create these communities for sharing, friendship, prayer and celebration for them, where the weak become our masters.

*The Ballinteer Faith & Light Community was established in 1988 and meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the Conference Room of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Ballinteer. You will be welcomed. For further information contact the Community Co-ordinator Marie on 087 271 3265 or e-mail your query to [faithandlight-ballinteer@ireland.com](mailto:faithandlight-ballinteer@ireland.com)*

*Also you can visit the national web site on [www.faithandlight.ie](http://www.faithandlight.ie) where you can see details of recent activities as well as other useful information about Faith & Light.*

## Orlagh Retreat Centre

The theme for the October 'DAY FOR YOURSELF' is: **Letting Go of the Baggage that Holds You back!**

**Date:** Saturday 10th October 2009

**Time:** 10.00 am to 4.30 pm with possibility of staying for 4.30 pm Mass

**Cost:** €50 including a full lunch

**To book:** Contact Fr. John Byrne OSA, Orlagh Retreat Centre, Old Park Road, Dublin 16. Tel: 01 495 8193. E-mail: [info@orlagh.ie](mailto:info@orlagh.ie)



## Fr. Richard's Silver Jubilee

Our Parish Priest, Fr. Richard, celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood at the 6.00pm Mass in our church on Saturday 6th June.

Bishop Eamon Walsh was the main celebrant assisted by Fr. Richard and eight of his classmates. It was a heartwarming occasion for all of the large attendance.

Fr. Richard and his close friend, Fr. Aquinas Duffy, were ordained by Archbishop Dermot Ryan at Holy Cross College, Clonliffe, on 8th June 1984. These were the last ordinations by Archbishop Ryan before he moved to Rome where he died three months later.

Congratulations, Fr. Richard, and best wishes for many more years.

## Farewell to Fr. Brian

Fr. Brian Edwards came to us early in May on a temporary basis following his return from Galway Diocese where he had been on loan for three and a half years. He recently left us to take up an appointment to the very large and busy parish of Sandford which also includes Kiltiernan and Glencullen. He knows the area well having served for six years in neighbouring Balally Parish. We thank him for all his help and inspiring liturgies over the summer period.

We wish him God's blessing in his new appointment and hope that his favourite team, Leeds United, continue to make progress. By the time he is a bishop they should be back in the Premier League!



## Pioneer Total Abstinence Association

The Association was founded in 1898 in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, Gardiner Street and is flourishing throughout the world. Members are concerned for those who have a problem with alcohol to the extent that they adopt an alcohol-free lifestyle in a spirit of prayerful solidarity with them. Members wear the emblem of the Sacred Heart (cost €5) and if they wish may purchase the Pioneer Magazine (€17 per annum – 11 issues). For further information, contact Pat O'Sullivan c/o the Parish Office.

Pioneer Prayer (morning and evening – referred to as 'Offering'):-

*'For Thy greater glory and consolation, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for Thy sake to give good example, to practise self-denial, to make reparation to Thee for the sins of intemperance and for the conversion of excessive drinkers, I will abstain from life from all intoxicating drinks'*

## Lectio Divina

Geraldine O'Keefe, Parish Pastoral Worker, intends convening Lectio Divina (Praying with Scripture) sessions in the coming weeks. Watch out for further details in the weekly Sunday Message leaflet. It is likely that the sessions will be on Tuesday mornings in the Conference Room from 10.45 am to 11.45 am.

## Tax Benefit on Donations

Did you know that the parish can now get the tax benefit of your donations (planned-giving envelopes, bank standing orders and Christmas/Easter dues)? This tax refund greatly assists the strained parish finances.

If you wish to participate in this scheme please contact either Fr. Richard or Parish Bookkeeper, Jim Kelly, at 01 499 4203.

## St. John's Gospel Choir

A new Gospel Choir is being set up this September called St. John's Gospel Choir. We are looking for male and female singers and musicians over 18 years of age to join us. We will be meeting every Wednesday night at 8.00 pm in St. John the Evangelist Church, Ballinteer. Rehearsals began on Wednesday the 16th of September with 30 members. A further 30 would be very welcome! Please come along any Wednesday night or contact Mary O'Gorman at 087-9439380 or Aileen O'Dalaigh at 085-7248610.

## Pastoral Worker

Geraldine O'Keefe, who first came to us in January last, was commissioned with 12 other Parish Pastoral Workers in June by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. On the same day 3 new priests were ordained. Geraldine is delighted to have been re-assigned to our parish. She is also the Pastoral Worker for the parishes of Meadowbrook and Holy Cross, Dundrum. Currently she is working on the sacramental programmes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Geraldine is very pleased with the welcome she has received from the priests and people of the Parish. She can be contacted through the Parish Office.

## First Holy Communion

On Saturday 23rd May, 31 boys and girls from Our Lady's Schools received their First Holy Communion at a Mass concelebrated by Fr. Richard Behan, P.P. and Fr. Brian Edwards. It was a very special occasion for all. The First Communicants were:-

*Matthew Hayes, Sophie Priestley, Cameron Stewart, Eimar Burke, Jack Kelly, Olivia Zabicka, Paula Ulloa, Liam O'Driscoll, Shauna O'Leary, Mark Dalton, Francesca McCann, David Clarke, Mai Maher, Aaron Condon, Ursula McDonnell, Ciarán Anderson, Grainne McDonnell, Daniel O'Connell, Shannon Ryan, Niall Webster, Triona McCarthy, Ian Downey, Laura Cleary, Ciara Carey, Zara Looney, Holly Barr, Dearbhla Nolan, Ciara Keenan, Sophie Hanlon, Rebecca Coogan, Sinéad O'Connor.*

They were prepared for the big day by Teachers Mr. Barry Hunt, Ms. Joan O'Callaghan and Ms. Bernadette McGinley, assisted by Mrs. Stella Scollan.

## Parish Youth Project

Welcome back from holidays to 'kids' young and old. We will be swinging into action again shortly. Watch the Parish Website at the end of each month for info on what is going on. For any budding singers we will have a great new local choir for 3rd to 6th classes under Echo Voices' Director, Aisling Dexter. Contact: Maria Broderick, 086 3751675.

**Tarny Reilly, 087 2627424 or tarnyreilly@eircom.net**



## 'What a Rich Harvest Your Goodness Provides'

(Psalm 65:11)

Celebrating the 'rich harvest' which is the Cell Community in Ireland, the nineteenth **National Annual Seminar** will take place in our parish between **Friday 9th and Sunday 11th October 2009**. The cell-system of parish renewal began during a Lenten course which was held in Ballinteer in 1990. Since then, faith-sharing groups have grown and multiplied and today members from about forty parishes around the country are expected to attend the annual seminar, sharing their diverse experiences in building a Christian faith community. Down through the years, the National Cell Seminar has always attracted those wishing to set up, or be a part of, a network of faith groups. It has also enabled them to see at first-hand how an important support structure can make a difference to the person and the community. For anybody wishing to experience a more living faith within community, the Seminar will undoubtedly offer valuable insights and encouragement.

**Details: 085-7788395; cellsec@yahoo.ie or visit our parish website at [www.ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie)**

## Knock Night Vigil

Coach leaves Ballinteer Church at 5.30 pm on Monday 7th December. Dinner in Longford on the way down and breakfast on the way home. Return to Ballinteer at 10.00 am on Tuesday. Total cost €46. Names and deposits to Joan Redmond, 28 The Crescent, Woodpark. Tel: 295 1372.

## Confirmation

Saturday 25th April 2009 was a big occasion in our Church when the Sacrament of Confirmation was conferred on 42 boys and girls by Very Rev. Monsignor Dan O'Connor. Thirty three were from Our Lady's Schools and nine from Wesley College.

Those confirmed were:-

**Our Lady's Schools:** *Paul Carr, Sarah Halpin, Adam Kennedy, Megan Mulligan, Danny Hickey, Aoife McDonnell, Pádraig Cullen, Amber Traynor, Cian Houlihan, Una McCarthy, Steven O'Connor, Megan Nolan, Aaron Nolan, Eimear O'Reilly, Jamie McMahon, Robyn Malone, Seán Cleary, Niamh Kilkenny, Ciarán McGreevy, Hannah Tiedt, Seán Grant, Sinéad Nolan, Mikey Walsh, Katherine Burton, Liam Doherty, Kate McNally, Daniel Graham, Aoife Rose Kelly, Anu Ifelaja, Cliodhna Denny, Naomi Erica Pedro, Aoife Schutte, Alannah Mitchell.*

**Wesley College:** *Max Byers, Emilia Howarth, David Murphy, Katie Hastings, Alison O'Brien, Michelle Groos, Daniel Groos, Mark Redmond, Samira Nicola.*

Belated congratulations to all, including Teachers Ms. Colette Howard and Mrs. Marian Mulryan in Our Lady's Schools.

## BAPTISMS - March to September 2009

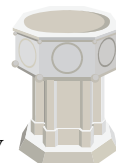
*We welcome into our Christian Community:-*

Josh Patrick Matthews  
Conor James McHugh  
Daragh James Byrne  
Ryan Moffatt Bradshaw  
Aidan Thomas O'Sullivan  
Saoirse Megan Dillon  
Tommy Anthony Dillon  
Ryan Martin O'Keefe  
Naomi Erica Pedro  
Isabella Nadia O'Connor

Daniel Luke Reilly O'Connor  
Hugh James Ahern  
Róisín Annabel Ahern  
Lucas Raymond Perry  
Harry George Fitzpatrick  
Anna Marie Malone  
Kayla Anne Murphy  
Aoife Beth Tobin  
Emma Mary Kavanagh  
Ciarán John Nolan

Michael Patrick Gaffney  
Patrick Oisín Caulwell  
Marcus Christopher Shelley  
Alannah Grace Larkin  
Pearse Adrian Carey  
Charlie Dermot Walker  
Arthur John Schwartz  
Daniel Shane Grant  
Angela Bernadette  
Maria Lawler

Laura Kate Murphy  
Daniel Francis Doyle  
Catriona Fiona Duffy  
Calvin Bob Duffy  
Sofia Galstyan  
Kai Warbrick Condon  
Max Seamus Morrison  
William Francis O'Connor  
Clara Breda Cray-Halliday



*Congratulations to the proud parents.*

## DEATHS - March to September 2009

*Lord, grant eternal rest to:-*

Michael Wyse, Broadford Close

Teresa Murphy, Kingston Heights

Fr. James O'Sullivan, Presbytery No. 2, Ballinteer Avenue

Margaret Mulvaney, Ballinteer Park

Fergal McCarthy, Ballinteer Drive

Mary Humphreys, Ballinteer Crescent

*Our sympathy and prayers are with their families, friends, relatives and neighbours.*

## WEDDINGS- March to September 2009

*Congratulations and best wishes to:*

Francis White, Pine Valley Park *and* Olga Gonzales, Madrid  
Ciarán Greenan *and* Róisín Cray both of Aiken Viillage, Sandymore

Kevin Brady, Parnell Square *and* Ann-Marie Joyce, Broadford Rise  
Gavin O'Leary *and* Kira Murphy both of Ballyowen Hall, Lucan

David Gardiner *and* Breda Gaffney both of Lynwood, Dundrum

### Parish Library

There is a fine selection of books (mainly left to Fr. Richard by priest friends) in the new library in the Conference Room. Parishioners are encouraged to browse and borrow after weekday morning Masses.

### Children's Church

Children from ages 4 to 10 attending 10 o'clock Mass on Sunday are welcome to join the Children's Church in the Conference Room where Angela and her team deal with the Gospel theme of the day in a fun way. They return to the main congregation at the Offertory of the Mass.

Recently a parishioner enquired if there could also be a Children's Church at the 6.00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday. Fr. Richard is very open to this if the supervisory resources are available. If you would be willing to help please leave your name in the Sacristy.

### Bereavement Support Group

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon. each month: 2pm - 3pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. each month: 7pm - 8pm in the Church Conference Room by appointment through the Parish Office (Tel: 499 4203).

### Age Action Care and Repair Service

Are you 65+ years of age? Have you a small repair job which you would like to have done for you? The Care and Repair programme (run by Age Action Ireland) uses a pool of trustworthy volunteers and handypersons to carry out minor repairs for older people. All volunteers are vetted and carry official Care and Repair identification cards. The service is free; you only pay for the materials used (though donations are welcome). For your bigger jobs, we maintain a register of reliable and honest tradespersons. You can arrange to have a job done for you by phoning the Age Action Care and Repair number which is 1890 369 369.



### Parish Walking Group

We meet at 11.00 am on Saturday mornings in Kilmashogue Wood car park and walk for approximately one and a half hours. A reasonable level of fitness is recommended. For more information please contact 01 494 1948.

### Youth 2000

Robert O'Hara spoke at all Masses in early July about the annual Youth 2000 Summer Festival at Clonmacnoise from 13th to 16th August. He reports that it was a great success with 1,200 young people attending. The keynote speaker was Bishop Frank Caggiano, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn, who was hugely impressed by the Festival. A Christmas Retreat for young people will take place in Newbridge College in December. Further details from Robert at 086 8636296 or look at [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie)

### Ballinteer Active Retirement

We meet each Wednesday in Ballinteer St. John's GAA Pavilion from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. We organise talks, activities and outings. Our Autumn break will be for 3 nights in Westport. New members, aged 55+, are very welcome.

### Roof Fund

Following the monthly repayment of €8,000 for September 2009 the balance remaining on the loan of €800,000 is €640,000 inclusive of interest. The last church door collection on 6th September brought in €1,720. The next collections will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October. We are very grateful to those who continue to subscribe so generously. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

### Parish Intercessory Prayer Team

*Ann, Jennifer, Pat and Philip meet regularly to pray for the needs of all in our parish and for the particular needs of those who ask for prayer. They can be contacted on 087 667 7749.*

### Church Repository Shop

For all your religious goods:

Rosary Beads • Holy water fonts • Statues • Holy water bottles • Crucifixes • Medals  
Bibles and Books for Adults and Children  
Pamphlets and Novena leaflets  
Cards for every occasion

Open after Saturday evening Mass and all Sunday morning Masses

### The Legion of Mary

A member of the Ballinteer Praesidium of the Legion of Mary recently went to an Oxford parish with a team of 10 Irish and 2 English Legionaries for a week. The day consisted of Mass, a Legion meeting and 7 hours of house to house visitation. The Legionaries were pleasantly surprised at the number of lapsed Catholics and interested non-Catholics who

attended a special Mass on the Friday night. As a result of the project, a Praesidium of the Legion of Mary was set up in the parish and its first meeting was held on the Thursday night. Truly, the team felt that God's grace was at work with them. Our local Praesidium, Our Lady of the Rosary, meets on Tuesday nights at 8 pm in the Conference Room of the Church.

**Date of Next Issue: Christmas 2009**