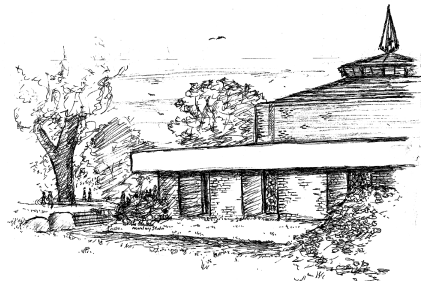


# BALLINTEER PARISH NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2007

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

## A SEASONAL REFLECTION

**I**f you only knew the gift of God'- these words of Jesus (*John 4, 10*) are worth thinking about at this time when gifts are big on our agenda. For Christians God is the source of all we have and are; our Creator. He is the potter, we are the clay, the work of his hands; each of us is God's work of art – uniquely and wonderfully made, called and gifted by God.

**A**s a human person I am a gift from God, a gift to myself and others. Many have never seen, much less accepted, themselves in this light. They have grown up with a poor self image, afraid and insecure. The reality is so different and so beautiful. Are we not told that at the creation God saw all that he had made and it was very good; that includes you and me! Why do people, why do I, hesitate about accepting God's great gift of self? It might be worth making a list of all the good and positive things about me, and thanking God for so many gifts. I am a child of God. I have eternal value. As Jesus put it, the very hairs of my head are numbered. I am more precious by far than the birds of the air or the flowers of the field. I am a child of the Universe. I have my dignity. I have a right to be here. I belong to the human race. I have my unique place side by side with countless ancestors and descendants as well as those with whom I share the world at this time. I have my own special gifts and my own part to play. Opting out is not an option.

**O**f special importance to me are those whose lives I touch in whatever way and who make human liv-

ing possible for me. It is God who has sent them; they are God's gift to me as I am to them. Like us, God wraps his gifts before sending them. 'Some are wrapped very beautifully and are very attractive when I first see them. Some come in ordinary wrapping paper. Others have been mishandled, even damaged in transit. Some gifts are loosely wrapped: others very tightly. But the wrapping is not the gift'.

[Fr. G. Ninteman O.P.]

**S**ome gifts are easy to open and others not so easy. Some people may have been hurt and rejected previously and are on the defensive. Personality clashes may make close relationships with some virtually impossible. The Christian commandment of Love requires us to be good neighbours, to accept others and respect them as gifts from God like ourselves, agreeing to differ, perhaps, but ready to help in any way we can when the need arises. Unwrapping some gifts, not excluding ourselves perhaps, can be quite a challenge, demanding patience and tact, prayer and maybe prudent and skilled advice.

**I**t is a challenge also to allow ourselves to be given by God to others, to be persons for others. Am I prepared to let others get beyond my barriers, the 'keep clear' image that I,



perhaps unknowingly, project; to get to know the real me; am I willing to take the risk this involves? Friendship is a relationship between persons who see themselves as sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus; as gifts of God to each other and for others. Any attempt to take over or possess my friend destroys the relationship. Genuine friendship involves self giving and self sacrifice after the example of Jesus who laid down his life for us. Still this is the challenge posed for us by the Christ child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. 'No one has greater love than to lay down their lives for their friends. I call you friends ... I chose you and commissioned you to go out and bear fruit. What I command you is that you love one another'.

(*John 15, 13-17*)

### Church Carol Service

Sunday 16th December at 7pm in  
Church. All are welcome.

## Eucharistic Adoration in Oratory



In late November a renewal of the Eucharistic Adoration was undertaken in our Parish and the response from parishioners was wonderful.

Adoration has now been extended as follows:-

*Tuesday - 10am to 10pm*

*Wednesday - 10am to 1pm*

*Thursday - 10am to 1pm*

*Friday - 10am to 10pm*

If you did not have sufficient opportunity to consider supporting the programme, you may still volunteer by giving your name to one of the co-ordinators whose names and telephone numbers are available on the notices at the Church entrances. The blessings arising from this Devotion are immeasurable.

*'I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever hunger; no one who believes in me will ever thirst.'*

*John 6: 35*

## Church Roof Fund

The amount collected in the twice monthly Church Door collections stands at €148,730 of which €136,000 has been repaid on the loan of €860,000. This leaves us with a balance on hand of €12,730. The repayment is €8,000 per month. We are very grateful to those who continue to subscribe.

## Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina (Praying with Scripture) resumes on January 17th next. We will pray with the Letter to the Hebrews. It takes place on Thursday nights in the Oratory, 8 pm to 9.30 pm. All are welcome even on an occasional or once-off basis. 'In the ancient and ever valid tradition of lectio divina the word of God becomes a life-giving encounter that draws from the biblical text a living word that questions, directs and shapes our lives' Pope John Paul II.

## Prayer or Spiritual Guidance

Anyone interested in prayer guidance or spiritual guidance or the possibility of doing the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius in daily living is invited to contact Fr. Jim O'Sullivan at 4944163.

## "Get to know your Parish" Christmas Quiz

There will be 4 Prizes of €25 worth of Prize Bonds and a number of runner-up prizes of sweat-shirts and wallets. In the event of a tie, Fr. Richard P.P. will draw the 4 winners from the top scoring entries. The answers may be found on the Parish Website, in the Parish Booklet or just look around the Church.

E-mail your answers to [editor@ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie](mailto:editor@ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie) or leave them in the Parish Office or Sacristy in an envelope clearly marked "Christmas Quiz". The closing date for receipt of entries is Sunday 6th January 2008. Good luck!

1. What are the Parish Office opening hours and the phone number?
2. When is the Church Repository Shop open?
3. What are the revised days and times of the Eucharistic Adoration?
4. On what date and where was Fr Richard P.P. ordained to the priesthood?
5. When did the Roof Fund commence?
6. Name the Chairman and Secretary of the PPC and what do the initials PPC stand for?
7. At what Masses do the Folk Group sing?
8. Name just 2 of the 7 Purposes of a Parish Cell Group.
9. During what Mass does the Children's Church take place?
10. If boys or girls wish to become Altar Servers, whom should they contact?
11. There are quite a few Statues around the Church – can you name 3 of them?
12. Our Church was opened by the late Archbishop Dermot Ryan on what date?
13. Who is represented by the new sculpture by Noel Hoare on a wall in the Church?
14. Suggest a name for the new Youth Choir who sang at the recent Dublin Gospel Choir Concert.
15. When was Canon Battelle appointed a Canon of the Metropolitan Chapter?

## Legion of Mary

Are you consumed with zeal for Jesus and love for His Mother?

If you join the Legion of Mary you can do as much evangelisation as you wish. The minimum is 2 hours work per week but you can volunteer for weekend projects down the country, week-long projects in England or on the Continent, projects into the Dublin schools, soup runs, duty in the Legion's homeless men's or women's hostels or women's refuge. There is also the social side: a ceili once a month, annual reunions and outings, enduring friendships. **We meet on Tuesday nights in the Church Conference Room at 8.00 pm.**

All are welcome.

## Parish Schools

Sale of Work and Mini-Auction for Girls' School in School Hall at 2 pm on Sunday 16th December.

'Who wants to be a Thousandaire' Quiz in aid of both schools in Stillorgan Park Hotel on Wednesday 23rd January at 8 pm. Tickets (€10) on sale at schools and Wise Owl Bookshop.

## Ballinteer Active Retirement

Weekly club meetings in Ballinteer St. John's GAA Pavilion on Wednesdays at 10.15am. New members welcome. Last meeting before Christmas on 12th December. Resuming 9th January.

## Ballinteer Parish Cell Community

Cell Community 'Home Centres of Prayer' meetings continue every second Wednesday in our parish. These meetings are held in homes in Broadford, Pine Valley, Woodpark, Old Ballinteer and Barton Road and all are welcome. If you would like more information about Cell Community or if you would like to 'Come and See' a Cell meeting please call 085 7788395 or leave your name and number in the sacristy and we will be happy to call you. Please keep an eye on our parish website or Church notice-board for up-to-date Cell information.



## Parish Pilgrimage to Assisi, San Giovanni and Rome

On Tuesday 11th September our group of 36 set off at 3.30 am with our Spiritual Director, Canon Battelle, arriving in Rome later that morning. We drove to Assisi and had Mass in the Basilica of St. Francis. On Wednesday we visited the old town of Assisi, saw the tomb of St. Francis and the church of St. Clare. On Thursday we went to San Giovanni and visited the Miracle of the Eucharist at Lanciano. On Friday we had Mass at the tomb of San Pio and saw his room, bed and the chair in which he died in 1968. Later we were privileged to be allowed into his tomb to pray. We went to the Shrine of St. Michael Archangel at Monte S'Angelo for Mass on Saturday morning. On Sunday we left San Giovanni for Rome, visiting, en route, Piano Romano where San Pio first had his stigmata and Pietrelcina, his home town, where we visited the house he was born in and the church where he was baptised in 1887.

In Rome, on Monday, we visited the Basilica of St. Paul outside the wall, the Basilica of St. John Lateran, and the Basilica of the Holy Cross. That evening we did a tour of Rome by night. Early on Tuesday we had a lovely Mass at St. Joseph's altar in St. Peter's Basilica and visited the Crypt of the Popes. In the afternoon we visited the church of St. Mary Major. On Wednesday morning we said goodbye to Rome, arriving back in Ballinteer at 3.30 pm where the Canon said a Mass of thanksgiving for a wonderful pilgrimage.

*(For fascinating details of Padre Pio's life, search under his name in Google and click on the Wikipedia entry).*

## Parish Walking Group



New walkers are always welcome to join us. We meet in Kilmashogue Wood car park on Saturday mornings at 11.00 am. and walk for approximately one and a half hours – a reasonable level of fitness is necessary. Enquiries to 01 4941948.

## Viatores Christi

Since 1960 Viatores Christi (Catholic lay missionary development workers) has aimed to respond to needs overseas and at home. If you are interested in learning more, please come along to our information and recruitment session on Saturday 15th December from 11am to 3.30pm at 38 – 39 Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin 1. Contact: Colette Rooney 01 – 8749346.

## Bereavement Support Group

Some of us may ask 'What is a Bereavement Support Group?' The best explanation one can give to this question is that it is a place where grieving people are helped to survive the most traumatic and difficult times in their lives, the death of a loved one. It is a place where one is free to share thoughts and memories and focus on their loss in the safety of a group setting under the guidance of a trained facilitator. Recently it was suggested that there was a need for a Bereavement Support Group in our Parish. During the past number of weeks a group of six people attended training sessions in the development of such a group. The role of this new ministry in our Parish is to assist and support bereaved people, listening with sensitive understanding and having empathy with them in their pain and loss.

The whole emphasis of the work of the group is to be available for those who have been bereaved so that they can know that they are not alone, not only at the time of death but also as time goes by.

The Bereavement Support Group will be available each Wednesday. Details stating Time and Venue will appear on the Church Notice Board at the end of the Church.

PERHAPS if we could see  
the splendour of the land  
to which our loved are  
called from you and me,  
WE'D UNDERSTAND.

PERHAPS if we could hear  
the welcome they receive  
from old familiar voices  
all so dear,  
WE WOULD NOT GRIEVE.

PERHAPS if we could know  
the reason why they went  
we'd smile- and wipe away  
the tears that flow,  
WE'D WAIT CONTENT.

## Penitential Services

Wed. 19th December – Meadowbrook

Thurs. 20th December – Ballinteer

Fri. 21st December – Dundrum

All at 8.00 pm

**Confessions** in Ballinteer:

Monday 24th December

10am – 11am and 3pm – 4pm

## A Modern version of PSALM 23

The Lord is my Pacesetter –

I shall not rush.

He makes me stop for quiet intervals,

He provides me with images  
of stillness which restore my serenity,  
He leads me in ways of efficiency through  
calmness of mind,

And his guidance is peace.

Even though I have a great many things to  
accomplish each day,

I will not fret,

For His Presence is here,

His timelessness, His all importance, will  
keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshment and renewal in  
the midst of my activity,

By anointing my mind  
with His oils of tranquillity,

My cup of joyous energy overflows.

Truly harmony and effectiveness shall be  
the fruit of my hours,

For I shall walk in the Pace of my Lord

And dwell in His House for ever.

*by a Japanese writer – Tokio Megashio.*

## What's New?

Rev. Edward Collett, Vicar of Bowerchalke, a small village in Wiltshire, wrote a weekly single sheet Parish Paper, which he printed on a hand press in the vicarage and published at a farthing for 40 years from 1878.

In March 1883 he wrote:-  
'Steps are now being taken to punish with the utmost rigour all those young men who commit a trespass by intruding themselves either into the church yard or school yard or who damage or disfigure the church yard or other walls by marking or writing on them. Mr. Collett is in correspondence with the Superintendent of Police on the subject.'

*(The Bowerchalke Parish Papers by Rex L Sawyer, published 1989.)*

## Christmas

And girls in slacks remember Dad,  
And oafish louts remember Mum,  
And sleepless children's hearts are glad,  
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'  
Even to shining ones who dwell  
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true? And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,  
A Baby in an ox's stall?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me?

*Sir John Betjeman*



## BAPTISMS - May – November 2007

*We welcome into our Christian Community:-*

Louis Brendan Small  
Robert Sean O'Brien  
Jessica Martha Hughes  
Thomas Oliver McDonagh  
Zoe Catherine Cullen  
Keelan Edward Perry  
Nicola Lilly Erdis  
Brianna Josephine Healy  
Ben Frederick Wellsted  
Mark Daniel Watts  
Christopher Thomas Jorg Dobberstein

Noah Christopher Ryan  
Sophia Rachel Murphy  
Lucy Ellen Curran  
David Michael Bowen  
Emily Audrey Murray  
Ryan Michael Kavanagh  
Maitiu Alan McCoy  
Christian Gerald Kelly  
Orla May Rigney McGrath  
Lauren Mary Toner-Jordan  
Katie Patricia McHugh

Lucy Theresa Dunne-O'Farrell  
Amelia Grace Nugent  
Cian Myles Murphy  
Layla Dorothy Morrison  
Corey Mark O'Brien  
Nicole May Renwick  
Darragh Philip Browne  
Senan James O'Brien  
Cathal Andrew Troy  
Alex Ann Campbell  
Jack Aaron Rowe



Ronan Thomas Murphy  
Alex Rocco Munier  
Dominic Eoghan O'Suilleabhain  
Gareth Michael Morgan  
Abbie Helena Coyne-Maher  
Robyn Aisli O'Dwyer  
Niamh Rosamund Tuomey

*Apologies for omissions from last Newsletter*

*Congratulation to the proud parents.*

## DEATHS - July – November 2007

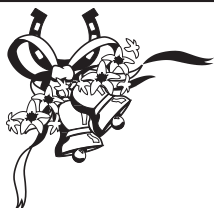
*Lord, grant eternal rest to:-*

Dermot O'Brien, Pine Valley  
Jim Duffy, Broadford Rise  
James Mangan, Grange Cottages  
Kathleen Gratten, Broadford Close

Sean Ruane, Broadford Avenue  
Patrick Prendergast, St Anne's Court  
Rita Curran, Marlay Wood.



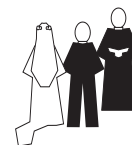
*Our sympathy and prayers are with their families, friends, relatives and neighbours.*



## WEDDINGS - October 2007

*Congratulations and best wishes to*

Damien Collins, Grange Cottages who wed Sarah Buckley, Mallow, Co.Cork  
*May you have many years of health and happiness.*



## Environment

Congratulations to Sean Roche and Catherine Devine, Woodpark, who received Community Environmentalist Awards at the Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown Co. Council Tidy Districts 2007 ceremony in October. Sean picks litter in the environs of the church and parish schools. Catherine is active in Woodpark Residents' Association.



## CHURCH REPOSITORY SHOP

Open after Saturday evening Mass and  
all Sunday morning Masses.

*Keeping Christ in Christmas!*

Candles • Cards  
Calendars • Cribs • Sheds  
Children's Books • Small Gifts

## Parish Intercessory Prayer Team

*Kay, 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 6677749.*

## THANK YOU

St. Benildus College  
would like to thank everybody  
who supported their recent  
RUN FOR LIFE  
Sponsored Run/Walk.  
The students collected more  
than €40,000 and this money is  
now being distributed to  
12 designated charities,  
including St. Vincent de Paul,  
Bothar and  
the Special Olympics.

Date of Next Issue: February 2008



*Happy Christmas and Prosperous 2008 to our readers*

