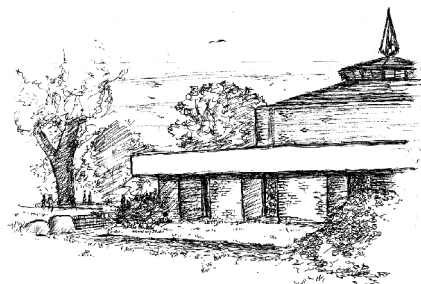


BALLINTEER PARISH NEWSLETTER



CHRISTMAS 2009

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

Whose Birthday is it anyway?

In 1969 the world held its breath. This was a moment the whole world had been waiting for. After years of dreaming, planning, working, designing and putting into practice, finally the time had come. In living rooms, kitchens, bars, hotels, and even at shop windows



all over the globe, people huddled around television sets and stared in anticipation. Finally, before their eyes in black and white they saw what they never would have believed possible. They saw Neil Armstrong climb down the steps of the lunar space module and, with an American flag in his hand, walk - yes walk- on the moon ! They heard him speak those memorable words, 'One small step for man; one giant leap for mankind!' It was accomplished. A human being had walked on the surface of the moon. It was a truly historic moment.

Almost 2000 years before that, in the absence of the world's gaze, well away from television cameras and satellite links, an even more momentous event took place. No one noticed except a few shepherds and three Eastern gentlemen, who were awake enough to read the signs and to follow them. It was an event that changed the nature of human history and 'future history' forever. In a cave on a dark lonely hillside outside the city of Bethlehem, a baby boy was born.

God came down and walked upon the earth.

Among the few who read the signs were the wise men, the Magi from the east and they began a tradition of Christmas gift-giving that has lasted ever since. Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar brought their royal gifts to Jesus because they recognised a tiny child as the Son of God. We carry on the tradition of exchanging gifts as a way to express our joy at the birth of Christ. But sometimes amid all the hustle and bustle of shopping, wrapping and decorating, we forget to stop and think about whose birthday party it is.

It's impossible to give Jesus expensive gifts like Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh that the three Magi brought. But we can give ourselves to Jesus, just as He gave Himself to us. Among the gifts of 'self' are Love, Kindness and Compassion. For when we show compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves, when we share our time and our love with friends and family, when we are kind and generous to people in need, we are showing our love for Jesus.

So this year let us remember whose birthday it is and give him a gift.

Happy Christmas and every blessing for 2010.

Fr. Richard



Preparing for Christmas

Penitential Rite

Dundrum: Wed. 16th December, 7.30 pm
Meadowbrook: Thurs. 17th December, 7.30 pm
Marley Grange: Mon. 21st December, 8.00 pm
Ballinteer: Tuesday 22nd December, 7.30 pm

Confessions in Ballinteer

Saturday 19th December:

After 10.00 am Mass and after 6.00 pm Vigil Mass

Thursday 24th December:

10.30 - 11.30 am and 3.00 - 4.00 pm

Revised Sunday Mass Timetable for 2010

In last Easter's Newsletter I explained that the reduction in the number of full-time priests in the Ballinteer, Dundrum and Meadowbrook Pastoral Area from 8 in 2006 to 4 meant that the feasibility of continuing the current Sunday Mass Schedule was being examined.

Arising from the examination, which included monitoring the numbers attending, it has been decided that there will be a reduction of one in the Sunday Masses in Ballinteer. A 10.30 am Mass will replace the current 10.00 and 11.00 am Masses.

The foregoing decision, however, will be mitigated by a separate decision to transfer the Irish Mass, currently celebrated in Dundrum on Saturday evenings, to the Oratory in Ballinteer where it will be celebrated at 9.30 am on Sundays from 10th January onwards.

Fr. Richard



New Weekend Mass Timetable

Saturday: 6.00pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 9.30am (Irish) in Oratory
from 10th January
10.30am (from 3rd January)
12.00noon
5.30pm

Christmas Masses in Ballinteer

Thursday 24th December (*Christmas Eve*):
10.00am

First Mass of Christmas: 6.00pm
Solemn Mass of Christmas: 9.00pm

Friday 25th December (*Christmas Day*):
10.00am, 11.00am and 12.00 noon
(No evening Mass)

Saturday 26th December: 10.00 am and
6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday

Sunday 27th December (*Feast of Holy Family*):
10.00am, 11.00am, 12.00 noon and 5.30pm

**Monday 28th December to
Saturday 2nd January 2010:** 10.00am

Sunday 3rd January:
(*New Sunday Mass Schedule*)
Vigil Mass (Sat.) 6.00pm, 10.30am,
12.00 noon and 5.30pm

Wednesday 6th January (*Epiphany*):
Vigil Mass (Tues.) 7.30pm,
10.00am and 11.00am



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

It is heartening to report the increasing support of parishioners for the Adoration. The blessings flowing from this devotion may be unseen but are truly there. There are, however, two weak spots in attendance on Tuesdays and Fridays. These are between 1pm and 5pm. We hope that additional parishioners will volunteer to cover these periods. If you cannot spend a full hour, even a short visit would help.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Join us on Monday evenings at 8.10 pm in the Oratory for an hour of prayer, praise, sharing, reflection and intercession. All are welcome.

Altar Servers

Boys and girls who have made their First Holy Communion are invited to join our team of Altar Servers. Interested parents may leave their names and telephone numbers in the Sacristy or with the Parish Secretary at 499 4203.

Christian Meditation Group

The Group, using the teachings of Dom John Main, O.S.B., meets each Thursday from 8.00 to 9.00 pm. New members are very welcome. Phone 298 2020 for further details.

Parish Schools

The Boys' School are delighted that they have received 55 choir places in the Hallelujah Concert in the R.D.S. The Hallelujah Concert is the largest children's concert series in Ireland. Schools from across the country will be participating in this enjoyable concert. There are 4 concerts in total but Our Lady's Boys will be performing at the **Matinee Concert on Sunday 13th December**. Ms. Howlett and Ms. McMahon have been working hard with the boys in preparation for the concert.

The Boys' Under 13s Gaelic football team has reached the semi-finals of the Clanna Gael Cumann na mBunscoil league. It is five years since the boys reached the semi-final, so we are all keeping our fingers crossed.

Places for the Boys' Junior Infant class for September 2010 will be allocated shortly, so please make sure that you have enrolled your son.

The Parents' Association held a very successful Coffee Morning on November 5th ('Pink Day') in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness. They also organised a Sale-of-Work in the School Hall on Sunday, November 22nd.

The new sacramental programme for the children preparing for First Holy Communion, 'Do This in Memory', was initiated at the 10.00 am Mass on Sunday 29th November. Parents, guardians and teachers helped to prepare the boys and girls for the Mass. It was great to see so many of them involved in different ways.

The Girls' School presentation of the Nativity Play was held in the Church on Wednesday, 9th December.

Lectio Divina

Praying with the Sunday scriptures takes place each Tuesday in the Church Conference Room at 10.45 am and continues for an hour. It is facilitated by Parish Pastoral Worker Geraldine O'Keeffe. All are welcome.

St. John's Gospel Choir

Just over two months in existence and St. John's Gospel Choir is going from strength to strength! There are now 56 singers in the choir and the bad weather hasn't dampened their spirits or their enthusiasm! Musicians are being sought to complement the choir. Anyone interested should contact Mary O'Gorman at 087-943 9380.

The Choir's debut was on Sunday the 8th of November and it was greeted with support and appreciation by both Father Richard and the congregation. They will next be singing at noon Mass on Sunday the 13th of December and the Vigil Mass at 9 pm on Christmas Eve.

A concert in aid of the charity Pieta House, (The Irish Centre for Prevention of Self-Harm and Suicide), will take place in our Church on Saturday 6th February 2010. The concert will feature the Rejoice Gospel Choir from Ballina, Co. Mayo, who performed for our parish so successfully in May 2009. They will be ably supported by St. John's Gospel Choir. There will be a cheese and wine reception after the concert and more details will be confirmed in the next Newsletter.

St. John's Gospel Choir would like to thank everyone for their kind words of encouragement and support and we wish everyone peace and joy for Christmas and New Year.

Folk Group

The Folk Group sings at the 12 noon Mass on the First and Third Sunday of each month from September to June inclusive. The Group rehearses (twice per month) at 8 pm in the Conference Room on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday on which they sing. They sing a wide range of hymns and are constantly updating their repertoire. Their singing schedule over the Christmas period is:

Sunday 20th Dec. - 12 noon Mass
Tuesday 22nd Dec. - 7.30 pm Penitential Service
Christmas Day - 12 noon Mass
Sunday 3rd Jan. - 12 noon Mass

The Group would welcome new members either as musicians or singers after Christmas. If you are interested please contact one of the Group after Mass.

Condolences to Fr. Kizito

We remember all those bereaved in the past year. We especially remember Father Kizito, whose father died in Rwanda on 6th November. Father Kizito has been a great help to Ballinteer and Meadowbrook Parishes over the last few years celebrating Mass when our permanent priests are unavailable. It is a particularly sad time for him as his sister Odette died just over a year ago, leaving a young family. We assure Father Kizito that he is in our prayers and thoughts.

Parish Office/Pastoral Centre

Presbytery No.2 (formerly Fr. OSullivan's house) is now the location of the Parish Office/Pastoral Centre. Meetings of Parish Groups will take place there while meetings of Prayer Groups will continue in the Oratory or Church Conference Room.

Parish Library

The Library will remain in the Church Conference Room. From early in the New Year, to encourage better use, it will be open each Thursday morning from 10.30 to 11.30 am. Users can make themselves a cup of tea/coffee in the adjoining kitchen. Donations of €1 will be accepted and given to a charity.

Sacramental Preparation

Parish Pastoral Worker Geraldine O'Keeffe is working with the teachers and parents/guardians of the groups of children preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation in May 2010. The purpose of the diocesan programme she is working with is to bring the home, the school and the parish together in preparing the children for these sacraments.

Pope Benedict XVI, speaking about the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation recently said:

'The proper meaning of catechesis, in fact, must be this: to bring the flame of Jesus' love, even if it is a small one, to the hearts of children, and through the children to their parents, thus reopening the places of faith of our time.'

Funeral Ministry

Over the past six months, under the guidance of Fr. Richard and Parish Pastoral Worker Geraldine O'Keeffe, a group of parishioners have completed training as members of the new Funeral Liturgy Team. They will assist with the preparation and celebration of funeral liturgies. It is their hope that they will be a support to the bereaved at the time of the death of a loved one.

Pilgrimage to Holy Land

On 25th October thirty eight parishioners and friends from Ballinteer went on a 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was the trip of a lifetime - to see the holy places we had heard and read about.

We visited Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem, the Jordan and the Sea of Galilee, tracing the story of Jesus's birth, death and resurrection, his miracles, parables and teachings.

One of the highlights was sitting quietly at anchor out in the Sea of Galilee, remembering all that happened there. Another was praying by night in the Garden of Gethsemane, just as Our Lord did, possibly among the same olive trees.

We had a really intimate Mass at a different holy site each day, offered by Canon Battelle, assisted by servers, readers and singers from the group. The Canon gave an apt reflection each time and led us in prayers and hymns at many other significant locations.

The group renewed their Baptismal vows at the Jordan, some undergoing full immersion. At Cana, the married couples renewed their marriage vows, while the single people renewed their life's commitments.

The pilgrimage served to deepen our understanding of the Mysteries of the Rosary, the Bible, and the Mass, thus strengthening our Faith.

We are very grateful to our organiser, Tom Ryan, and our Spiritual Director, Canon Battelle, for such a successful pilgrimage.

Car Parking

We are fortunate to have generous parking facilities around the church especially when the school yards are available. There is, however, an ongoing problem with Massgoers parking on the designated pedestrian route along by the railings of the Girls' School yard. This is a hazard to pedestrians and makes it difficult for drivers to safely exit the marked car spaces.

For special occasions, e.g. Christmas/Easter and funerals, it is desirable to have volunteers to help with the parking. A few parishioners are already doing this work but they need more help. If you would like to be involved please leave your name and telephone number at the Sacristy.

Cleaners, Altar Society, Flower Arrangers and Sacristy Team

Our thanks are due to all who work quietly to ensure that our Church and grounds are 'spic and span'. Any assistance you can provide to any of the Teams would be much appreciated, especially at holiday time.

Taney (C. of I.) Parish Christmas Services

Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve):

Christ Church:

11.30 pm - Holy Communion

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day):

Christ Church:

8.00 am - Holy Communion

10.15 am - Family Service

11.00 am - Holy Communion

St. Nahi's:

9.15 am - Parish Communion

11.45 am - Holy Communion



Parish Cell Seminar 2009

Over the course of the weekend 9th to 11th October the Ballinteer Cell Community hosted the nineteenth National Cell Seminar in our Parish. This is an annual event which is hosted, on a rotating basis, by Cell Communities throughout the country. We are particularly proud that Ballinteer was the chosen venue for this year as the Parish Cell System of Evangelisation had its origin here nineteen years ago under the guidance of Fr. Michael Hurley. Delegates attended from all over the country, North and South, and they were afforded a warm 'Ballinteer' welcome. In the words of many of our visitors it was like 'coming home'!

The Seminar was a great success with well over one hundred participants. The keynote speaker was Dr. Seamus Freeman, Bishop of Ossory, who also celebrated the 6 pm Mass on Saturday. There was input also from Fr. Ciarán O'Carroll, Director of the Office of Evangelisation in the Dublin Archdiocese. A huge debt of gratitude is due to Fr. Hurley, who was on hand for the entire weekend to give of his expertise. One of the many highlights of the Seminar was a healing service led by Dymphna Sheehan. Another high point of the weekend was the touching personal testimonies given by people from our own Cell Community and by others from around the country as to how the Holy Spirit has worked and continues to work in their lives.

An event like this doesn't happen without valuable input from many people. We would like to thank Fr. Behan for his advice, encouragement and help, not just over the weekend but also during the many months of preparation. We wish to thank Tommy Baker, the Sacristan, for helping to prepare the Church for the various events. Sincere thanks to the School Principals, Ms. Olive Horgan and Ms. Moya Murphy, who were most accommodating in allowing us the use of the school facilities. Thanks also to those parishioners who, although not members of our Cell Community, kindly offered accommodation and transport. Last but not least, a very sincere thanks to all those from the Cell Community who worked tirelessly over many months and without whom none of it would have been possible.

If you would like any information on the Parish Cell System of Evangelisation please contact 085 778 8395.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Ballinteer Conference

Weekly meeting:

Tuesday at 8 pm in Church Conference Room

Monthly collection:

Second Sunday each month after Masses

Annual collection:

Sunday 13th December at Masses.

(Replaces Share collection).

The Conference is extremely grateful to all who subscribe and assist in its work. This is particularly so at a time when many people depend on our generosity as they experience the fall-out from the current recession. May God bless you all.

The Conference welcomes new members and collectors.

Faith & Light Ballinteer

The Ballinteer Group of Faith & Light are joining with other Faith & Light Groups of the Eastern Region for a joint Christmas Party in Cheeverstown House, Templeogue, on Sunday 20th December.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month in Ballinteer in the Church Conference Room at 3.00 pm. The next meeting will be on Sunday 10th January 2010. As always, all families with a child with an intellectual disability, and their friends, are welcome to attend.

Further information is available from the Community Co-Ordinator, Marie, at 087 271 3265, or you can e-mail your query to: faithandlight-ballinteer@ireland.com

Happy Christmas to you all and thank you for your generous support during the year.

The Book of Life

This is a large decorated book purchased in the 1990's with a page for each day of the year.

The intention was that the names of parishioners who died would be entered on the appropriate date page, with the year of death. The Book would be in a display case in the Church and each morning the page appropriate to the date would be turned over showing the names of those whose anniversaries occurred on that day. Only the names of those who died in 1995 were, in fact, entered in the Book.

Fr. Richard has now revived this project. He has a calligrapher on standby to enter the names of those who died since the parish was established in 1974. The Parish Secretary has trawled through the parish records but there are big gaps for certain years. When more work has been done on compiling the list, copies will be made available for parishioners to inspect over a few weekends before Easter so that corrections can be made and omissions rectified.

Memorial cards for family or neighbours are a rich source of accurate information. It would help greatly if parishioners would look at cards they have and write a list of names, addresses and dates of death and enclose them in an envelope marked 'Book of Life' and leave it in the Sacristy addressed to Pat O'Sullivan/Sean Roche. At the bottom of the list please insert your own name and telephone number in case of a query. Alternatively, the cards can be enclosed, again with name/address of sender, and they will be promptly returned. A Ballinteer Park parishioner recently brought in cards which resulted in six names being added to our draft list.

Methodist Church Services

Sunday 20th December:

10.00 am - Morning Worship

11.30 am - Holy Communion

7.00 pm - Carol Service

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day):

10.00 am - Morning Worship

Sunday 27th December:

10.00 am - Morning Worship

BAPTISMS - September to November 2009

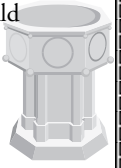
We welcome into our Christian Community:-

Maxim Michael John Reynolds
Alannah Kate Griffin
Harry Ronan Owens
Ryan Paul Cunningham
Jamie Paul Carroll
Thomas John Muldowney
Rose Margaret McGrath

Shea Matthew Delaney
Zach John Saunders
James Fergal McDonough
Amber Mary Murray
Tanawan Saoirse Lahiff
Dylan Pearse Bates
Ruby Maude Keating

Caoimhe Lucy Oman
Maisie Marie Julian
Michael Stephen Dillon
Abigail Aoibheann O'Dowd
Nicholas Boyle-Martinez
Patrick Stephen Quirke
Karina Meabh Troy

Kai Elizabeth Megan Warbrick-Condon
James John Nugent
Brian David McDonald
Liam John Hughes
Ronan Joseph Collins
Alice Mae Lyster



Congratulations to the proud parents.

DEATHS - September to November 2009

Lord, grant eternal rest to:-



Breda Durkin, Harold's Grange Road
Vincent Richardson, The Oaks
Paul Lynch, The Grove, Woodpark
Betty Dillon, The Lawn, Woodpark
Derek Furniss, Broadford Crescent

Dermot Keegan, Meadow Park
Liam Reinhardt, The Green, Woodpark
Paul Dillon, The Lawn, Woodpark
Bob Lewis, Broadford Rise

Aiden Shanagher, Ballinteer Grove
Dermot Sheehan, Pine Valley Park
Eleanor Taylor, formerly Broadford Ave
Phyllis Flynn, Broadford Walk

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

WEDDINGS - March to September 2009

Congratulations and best wishes to:



Mark Kneen, Isle of Man and Caroline Gavin, Pine Valley Avenue
Stephen Graham, Broadford Rise and Barbara Mullins, Pine Valley Avenue
Rory Creighan, Kingston Park and Rachel Ganly, Whitechurch Road



Children's Church

The Children's Church takes place during the 10 am Mass on Sundays (10.30 am Mass in 2010) in the Conference Room. It is a programme geared towards the 4-10 age group. It has been running for over twelve years and its purpose is to make Mass an enjoyable and meaningful experience for the children and to build their faith. The focus of the 15 minutes is on the readings of the day. Using storytelling, drama and music, the scriptures are interpreted in a way that is easily understood by the children.

Parents are invited to bring their children along. They will be welcome to stay if desired.

If there are sufficient volunteer helpers we would like to have a Children's Church also at the 6 pm Vigil Mass on Saturdays. If interested in helping, please call to the Sacristy after Mass.



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.

The Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King

We meet in the Oratory at 7.30 pm on the last Thursday of each month for one hour. The meeting consists of prayer, the luminous mysteries of the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and prayer for healing.

The Legion of Mary

The Ballinteer Praesidium of the Legion of Mary, which meets on Tuesday nights at 8 pm in the Church Conference Room, is now two years old. Fr. Behan celebrated a house Mass to mark the occasion.

The Praesidium, which is called Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, organised a Candlelight Rosary Procession from St. Attracta's Oratory, Meadowbrook, to the Lourdes Grotto at Ballinteer Church for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on 8th December. We hope to have two processions each year in future, one in May and one in October.

We have a Patrician Meeting (discussion group on some aspect of the Faith) on the second Tuesday of each month in the new Notre Dame Convent in Dundrum, across the road from St. Naithi's Church. A cup of tea is provided.

We recently started a Junior Praesidium on Thursday nights from 6.30 to 7.30 pm in the Church Conference Room. Parents are welcome to attend.

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. We are planning a 3 night visit to Cork in April. New members, aged 55+, are very welcome. After Christmas we resume on 6th January.

Ballinteer Parish Website

www.ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie

Our Parish Website can be of help to you to find information on a variety of activities both within and outside the parish. If you would like to volunteer to become a member of any of the Parish Ministries or Groups, and can afford a few hours per week or month to help out, click on the 'Parish Groups' page and you can view the contact details for over forty Parish Groups.

As well as obtaining information about our parish community on the website, you may also look up our 'Links' page which has information on our neighbouring parishes and links to some very interesting websites both in Ireland and abroad.

Parish Website e-mail Address:
editor@ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie or
Jimmy Finlay, c/o Parish Office.

Roof Fund

Up to the end of December 2009 we will have repaid €344,000 off the loan of €960,000 including interest. The balance left for repayment (following the December payment) will be €616,000 including interest. The total amount collected to date is €217,130. We are very grateful to those who continue to subscribe so generously. Go raibh mile maith agaibh.

Church Repository Shop

Open after Saturday evening Mass, all Sunday morning Masses and after 10.00 am Masses, Mon-Fri until Christmas.

Keeping Christ in Christmas!

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

Saint Padre Pio Prayer Group

The meeting takes place at the 7.30 pm Mass, usually on the first Monday of each month. Canon Battelle gives a short talk, recites the Novena Prayer and blesses those present with a relic of St. Padre Pio. Memorabilia of the saint are available. The parish is fortunate to have a statue of St. Padre Pio where candles can be lit in his honour and intercessory prayers said.

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.

Happy Christmas and Prosperous 2010 to our readers

Date of Next Issue: Easter 2010