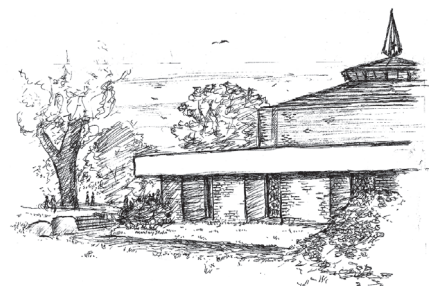


BALLINTEER PARISH NEWSLETTER



CHRISTMAS 2010

www.ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie

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A Gift from Mexico

The picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the wall at the side of Our Lady's Shrine in the Church was given as a gift to our church earlier this year by a lady from Mexico. This lady arrived one morning with a request. As her children now lived in our parish, would it be possible for her to present the picture as a gift to the church in Ballinteer so that Our Lady of Guadalupe would protect them? The picture, the lady explained, is of great importance to the people of Mexico and indeed to all people from the Americas as Our Lady is called Patroness of the Americas. The particular picture had been blessed by the Bishop of Mexico City. This image of Our Lady of Guadalupe represents an Aztec Princess who is pregnant with child and for this reason she has been declared protectress of the unborn.



On Dec. 9th 1531, on his way to Mexico City via Tepeyac Hill, a peasant named Juan Diego saw a vision of a young woman surrounded by light, whom he recognised as the Virgin Mary. Speaking in a local dialect she asked that a church be built there in her honour. Hearing what had happened, the Spanish Bishop told Juan Diego to return to the site and ask the vision for a sign to prove her identity. The Lady then instructed Juan Diego to gather some flowers at the top of the hill, even though it was winter. He found Castilian roses, typical of the Bishop's homeland, and she told him to

present them to the Bishop. When he showed the Bishop the roses in his cloak, the well-known image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, which features symbols of both Spanish and indigenous peoples, appeared imprinted on the cloth.

In her appearance at Tepeyac Mary's love is evident both in her message and in her image. At no point in the account is there an indication of divine retribution or impending disaster or chastisement. As the theologian Maxwell Johnson observed, what the Virgin of Guadalupe simply requested was a 'temple' or 'home' where 'all people might find love, compassion, help and protection, and where the laments of all people would be heard'. Her image on the cloak is also an invitation to immerse ourselves in the beauty of being loved, precisely within one's own ethnic, social, cultural and religious identity.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, unexpectedly appeared to an indigenous person (Juan Diego), so as to highlight, among other things, the preferences of Jesus. In a time when the native people were suffering greatly, she showed herself not to those who were dominant in that time

but to Juan Diego, speaking his language. In doing this Mary exemplifies how love becomes tangible. Her appearance brought relief and happiness as she entered into the world of the indigenous peoples in order to understand them and share their joys and sufferings.

In this time, as we prepare for Christmas, perhaps this image of Mary – pregnant – expecting the Christ child, is a sign of hope to us in difficult times. Our Lady wishes to enter into our suffering and offer her love and protection to us all.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Happy Christmas and every blessing for 2011.

Fr. Richard

Christmas Carol Service Sunday 12th December at 3.30 pm

Join our traditional service of Christmas carols in the Church, featuring Our Lady's Girls' and Boys' School Choirs, the Gospel Choir and Ballinteer Male Voice Choir. Greg Doyle will play organ solos before and after the service.

Christmas Masses in Ballinteer

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

First Mass of Christmas: 6.00 pm

Solemn Mass of Christmas: 9.00 pm

Saturday 25th December (*Christmas Day*):

Masses at 9.30 am (Irish/As Gaeilge),
10.30 am and 12.00 noon.

(No evening Mass)

Sunday 26th December (*Feast of the Holy Family*):

9.30 am (Irish/As Gaeilge), 10.30 am,
12.00 noon and 5.30 pm

Monday 27th December to

Saturday 1st January 2011: 10.00 am

Sunday 2nd January: Vigil Mass (Sat.) 6.00 pm,
9.30 am (Irish/As Gaeilge), 10.30 am, 12 noon
and 5.30 pm

Thursday 6th January (*Feast of Epiphany*):

Vigil Mass (Wed.) 6.00 pm

Masses (Thurs.) at 10.00 am and 11.00 am

Preparing for Christmas Penitential Rite

Meadowbrook: Mon. 13th Dec., 7.30 pm

Dundrum: Tues. 14th Dec., 7.30 pm

Marley Grange: Mon. 20th Dec, 8.00 pm

Ballinteer: Wed. 22nd Dec., 7.30 pm

Confessions in Ballinteer

Saturday 18th December:

After 10.00 am Mass and

after 6.00 pm Vigil Mass

Friday 24th December:

10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Parish Cell Community

The 20th National Seminar of Parish Cells in Ireland was held in our Parish from the 8th to the 10th October. It was a proud occasion for the Ballinteer Cell Community as the Cell System for Parish Renewal in Ireland had its origin here under the direction of Fr. Michael Hurley. From here cell communities have spread to over 40 parishes throughout Ireland.

This year's Seminar had delegates from the USA, Germany and Italy as well as Ireland. The theme for the weekend was 'Bringing Light to where there is Darkness' - a theme which we felt was most relevant at this difficult time in the life of the Church. Bishop Willie Walsh, the retired bishop of Killaloe, gave a very supportive keynote address on the Saturday. Fr. Kevin Doran, General Secretary, International Eucharistic Congress 2012, sent a representative, Gerard Connolly, to speak to us about the forthcoming Congress. Dymphna Sheehan led us in a most moving healing service. There were also many contributions from delegates who shared their faith stories with the group.

To fulfil our mission of evangelisation as Christians we all need support and encouragement. At the National Cell Seminar we experienced that support, as collectively, we celebrated the many blessings God has given to us and to our Parish over the past 20 years. Our thanks to all who helped in any way to make the Seminar a success, especially those parishioners who so generously opened their homes to our visiting delegates.

Cell meetings continue every second Wednesday in homes in our Parish. Further information from **Kitty** at 085 778 8395.

Book of Life

Readers will recall that the Parish Pastoral Council had undertaken a project to update the Book of Life to include the names of all parishioners who died since the parish was established in 1974. This was a very big undertaking as the entries made in the Book in 1995 only related to those who died in that year and there were gaps in the records retained in the Sacristy. The idea of the Book, which will be displayed in a glass case in the Church, is that each day the relevant page will be opened to show the names of all those parishioners who died on that particular date as well as the year of death. It was necessary to verify the details for each person whose name is to be entered. Thanks to many people, some 1,000 names have been identified for inclusion with almost 950 fully verified leaving the balance to be identified or details verified. The Book will be updated at regular intervals and this will be facilitated by the recent putting in place of a Register of Deaths for the Parish. If you have a query about a deceased family member or friend/neighbour please drop a note with telephone number to the Sacristy addressed to Pat O'Sullivan or Sean Roche who will be happy to contact you.

Folk Group

The Folk Group will be singing at 12 noon Mass on Christmas Day. We sing every 2nd Sunday of the Month and rehearse every 2nd Wednesday for one hour from 8.00 pm in the Conference Room. We are looking for new members. It doesn't matter if you can't sing like a professional. All that matters is that you join us and enjoy what you are doing. We are also looking for musicians, so if you are interested please contact **Gemma** at 086 872 7740.

Parish Pastoral Worker Report

This is our second year for the 'Do This in Memory', programme for the children who are preparing for their First Penance and First Eucharist. The parish team here in St. John the Evangelist are delighted with the response from and the active participation of parents. We had our first 'Do This in Memory' Mass on Sunday 21st November. The next Mass will be on Sunday 19th December and I am sure the children will again enjoy the Mass before they start getting excited about Christmas.

Last year we also introduced a parish-based programme, 'You Shall be My Witnesses', that complements the great preparation that is done in the schools for Confirmation. A number of parents signed up to be trained as Leaders for this programme. It took place in the parish over a period of four consecutive weeks. The final fifth session took place after Confirmation. The parents involved felt it was a good opportunity to reflect themselves on the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We are now setting up a Liturgy Group in the parish in order to enhance our liturgies and encourage a wider participation from our faith community.

Geraldine O'Keeffe, Pastoral Worker

An tAifreann Gaeilge I mBaile an tSaoir

Cuireadh tús leis an Aifreann Gaeilge san eaglais seo tosach Mhí Eanáir seo chaite agus beimid ag ceiliúradh bliain iontach sar i bhfad. Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghabháil do gach duine a chabhraigh linn i nith na bliana agus do phobal uile an cheantair as freastal air. Táimid ag súil le bliain iontach eile in 2011. Ar Lá Nollag beidh ceoltóirí ó Chomhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann ag seinm dúinn. At the beginning of January we will be celebrating a year since the Irish Mass started in Ballinteer. It has been a wonderful year when we got great support from the community. We would like to express out thanks to the priests, sacristans and to all those who participate as readers, musicians, singers, altar servers etc. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir. We hope to see all our friends on Christmas Day at the 9.30 am Mass in the main church when music will be provided by musicians from Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. We invite singers who would be prepared to sing from time to time at the Irish Mass to ring **Caitriona** on 01 2955410.

Youth and Family Update

New Youth Masses for 12 to 20 something year olds in Ballinteer and Marley churches. Watch for details.

Kids net. A living faith for children through stories, games, crafts and music for those aged 4 to 9 once a month for an hour. Contact **Bernie** at 086 351 2818.

Marley & Ballinteer Youth Choir. For 10-18 year olds. We sing at evening Masses twice per month, 3rd Sunday (Ballinteer) and 4th Sunday (Marley). Practice on Tuesdays 7.00 pm. Also Carol singing, e.g. Superquinn from 1 - 4.00 pm on Sun. 19th Dec. for *Focus Ireland*.

The Quarry (Youth Club) meets in the Church Conference Room on Fridays from 7 to 9.45 pm. Membership limited by availability of volunteer helpers. Contact: The Quarry Team: Call or text: 086 314 8067. www.thequarryyouthclub.com

Parish Pilgrimage to San Giovanni & Sorrento

On 24th September our group of 33 departed to spend four days each in San Giovanni and Sorrento. Our Spiritual Director, Canon Battelle, celebrated daily Mass for us, including three times in the old Capuchin church where Padre Pio celebrated Mass for over 50 years.

In San Giovanni we visited the crypt in the new Basilica where Padre Pio's body now lies, having been moved from the old church last year. We went to Monte San Angelo to visit the church of Saint Michael the Archangel where we attended Mass in a beautiful setting in a cave underneath the Basilica. From there we travelled to San Matteo to visit the shrine of St. Matthew, where the Canon blessed the group with a relic of the saint.

After four days we left for Sorrento, making a few stops on the way. The first was at Piana Romana where we attended Mass in a Capuchin church and close by we saw the tree where Padre Pio encountered his first 'invisible' stigmata where he felt the pain but there was no sign of an injury or blood. We then moved on to Pietrechina to visit the small house where Padre Pio lived with his parents and also the room in a separate house where he studied. Finally we stopped for Mass at the church of St. Philomena, where she is interred, and the Canon blessed us with her relic.

On Wednesday morning in Sorrento we attended Mass in a local church. On Thursday we went on a tour of the excavation site in Pompeii and attended Mass in 'Our Lady of Pompeii', a church very dear to Padre Pio. On Friday we took a twenty minute ferry trip across the beautiful Bay of Naples to the Isle of Capri. We then took a small boat ride around part of the island to experience the views, including the famous Blue Grotto. The Funicular railway brought us up the steep climb to the main piazza of Capri from where we walked through the narrow shopping streets. As we said 'arrivederci' to Capri we took in the spectacular sight of Mount Vesuvius across the Bay. Back in Sorrento, Canon Battelle celebrated the last Mass of our trip in the beautiful church of Our Lady of Lourdes.

We departed Naples on 2nd October for our flight home. We thank both Canon Battelle and Leader Tom Ryan for organising such an enjoyable and memorable pilgrimage.

Jimmy Finlay

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



Attendance at Eucharistic Adoration is continuing to be steady despite a little weakness on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1.00 to 4.00 pm.

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference have suggested visiting the Blessed Sacrament as one of the forms of Friday Penance in order to obtain the grace of healing and renewal for the Church in Ireland.

In the parish preparations for the International Eucharistic Congress in June 2012, we are inviting more parishioners to come along and pray for the success of the Congress.



Parish Accounts Summary July 2009 - June 2010

| Income | € |
|---|-----------|
| Family Offerings (Envelopes & Standing Orders) | 95,031.99 |
| Roof Fund Collections | 32,227.00 |
| Shrines | 36,832.22 |
| Special Collections | 46,440.00 |
| Tax Rebates | 11,934.96 |
| Donations | 3,463.00 |
| Bank Interest | 00.35 |

Total: 225,929.52

| Expenditure | € |
|--|-----------|
| Church Expenses (Wages, Cleaning, Altar Supplies, Music, Missalettes etc.) | 49,764.03 |
| Lighting/Heating | 13,831.40 |
| Property Expenses (Insurance, Maintenance etc.) | 43,551.68 |
| Parish Office Expenses | 8,416.48 |
| Bank Charges/Prof. Fees | 2,723.23 |
| Roof Loan Repayments | 96,009.12 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,691.14 |
| Major Projects | nil |
| Special Collections remitted | 48,769.00 |

Total: 264,756.08

Deficit: - €38,826.56

Thanks to all who contribute to the Family Offering, Roof Fund etc. and all those who help the many other parish activities. May God reward your generosity.

You will note from the Accounts that there was a deficit due to Roof Fund repayments. The cost of the roof reconstruction in 2005 was €1.6 million. This required a loan of €800,000, amounting to €960,000 including interest, to be repaid over a 10-year period at a rate of €8,000 per month. The parish and the diocese were to share the repayments. When the diocese was approached for assistance of €4,000 per month, it stated that due to the economic downturn it was not in a position to assist. This led to a renegotiation of the loan. This summer the Bank of Ireland agreed to a new loan of €650,000, including interest, over 14 years with repayments of €4,000 per month. We would like to make some extra payments, depending on our yearly balances. The twice-monthly Roof Fund collections are, therefore, very important. If anyone would like to contribute towards the running of the parish through a Standing Order or a weekly Family Offering Envelope, please call to the Sacristy or contact the Parish Office (01 499 4203).

Fr. Richard

Fr. Stephen Dami Mamza

In September I was appointed Assistant Priest for the Pastoral Area of Ballinteer, Meadowbrook and Dundrum, residing in Ballinteer.

I was born in 1969 in Northern Nigeria. My father, who served in the Nigerian Army, had 4 wives and 26 children. In my early childhood I assisted my grandfather in looking after the family cattle. When I was eight, I was registered in the Mission primary school against my will and that of my grandfather. In my fifth year there I joined the catechism class for adults preparing for Baptism. Two years later, at age 15, I was baptised. Soon I joined the mass servers association and I was inspired by the good work being done by my Parish Priest, Fr. Patrick Farrell, an Irish Augustinian. When I indicated my interest in the priesthood to him, he facilitated my admission to the minor seminary run by the Irish De la Salle Brothers. My family almost disowned me when they heard about this. I was denied family meals for three days in order to make me change my mind. With the assistance of my Parish Priest and some relatives, who were practising Catholics, my school fees were taken care of. When my father retired from the Nigerian Army, he supported my continuing desire to be a priest. I gained admission to St. Augustine's Major Seminary in Jos in 1988 to begin my proper training for the priesthood. I studied Philosophy and Theology for eight years and was ordained priest in 1996 for the Diocese of Maiduguri by Bishop Senan O'Donnell, an Irish Augustinian. Both Fr. Farrell and Bishop O'Donnell are now retired to Ireland.

After my ordination, I worked as an Assistant Parish Priest for two years. I was later appointed a Parish Priest and Co-ordinator for the Diocesan Justice Development and Peace Commission. My parish stretched for 220 km with a Main Church and 27 outstations and has about 15,000 Catholics. As Co-ordinator, I worked in the rural areas of my Diocese where the Government had neglected to provide basic facilities like water. Through the assistance of Misereor in Germany and individuals, the lives of these rural communities have been improved by the provision of clean water through the digging of wells, boreholes and rain water catchments. In order to gain more knowledge of issues relating to development, my Bishop sent me to Kimmage Development Studies Centre last year for further studies. I am currently writing my dissertation on "Community Management of hand-dug well water projects" to be submitted this month. I am also studying Canon Law part-time in Milltown.

Fr. Stephen

Our Lady's Boys' School

The boys had something exciting to look forward to when the new school year began on the 30th August as our new playground was unveiled. They got the opportunity to test their skills on the fantastic colourful equipment. From spinning units to climbing equipment, which assist children's physical, mental and social skills, it has already provided hours of endless fun at break time and other times in the school week.

This year we are working towards our fourth Green Flag based on the theme of Travel. The boys from 4th/5th and 6th classes were involved in cycle training facilitated by the Cycle Skills and Safety School and funded by An Taisce. Certificates were awarded and the number of boys cycling to school has increased significantly.

Permanent Diaconate

We have all come across a deacon in the Church, a man in the final stages of preparation for ordination to the priesthood. This was the Church's understanding of the deacon for the past one thousand years and is known as a transitional deacon. There is, however, another understanding of the diaconate that existed for the first millennium, that is the permanent deacon. Vatican II reintroduced this ministry to the church. The permanent deacon, as the name suggests, remains a deacon and does not progress to priestly ordination. He is ordained for service, service to God and to the community. This service to the community takes three forms: firstly, service to the Word of God, e.g. reading the gospel at Mass and encouraging people to become familiar with the scriptures in their daily lives. Secondly, he serves at the altar, assisting the priest during the celebration of Holy Mass. Thirdly, the deacon has a special role in caring for the poor and the marginalised. The permanent diaconate is open to men, married and single, between the ages of 35 and 60. Preparation takes four years, one year of discernment and three years of study and pastoral development.

Noel Ryan

Editor's Note: *Noel, who lives in Broadford, is currently studying for the Diaconate at Mater Dei Institute and also undertaking a practical training programme in our Parish.*

Going from Strength to Strength

St. John's Gospel Choir has had a very successful year, a highlight of which was our performance in October in the National Concert Hall with Rebecca Storm. We have nearly 80 members and although we like to welcome everyone into the choir, there is a waiting list.

We will be singing at the 12 noon Mass on Sunday 12th December and later with the other parish choirs at the 3.30 pm Christmas Carol Service in the Church. The Gospel Choir will be singing at the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at 9 pm.

Due to the huge interest shown in joining a choir, Mary and her colleague Yvonne set up CORus, a new type of choir which is open to everyone who loves to sing pop, rock, country, Irish and gospel music. CORus began in St. Tiernan's Community School in October and has 50 plus members. CORus is setting up two new choirs in Rathfarnham and Terenure in January. For more information please contact **Mary** at **087 9439380** or **Yvonne** at **086 8115854**.

School Hall

A new Committee has been formed with representatives of both schools and the parish. Future bookings will be through the Parish Office, Tel: **499 4203**, 10 am to 12 noon, Mon-Fri. E-mail enquiries to: ballinteer-schoolhall@gmail.com.

Taney (C.of I.) Parish Christmas Services

Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve):

Christ Church:

11.30 pm - First Holy Communion of Christmas

Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day):

Christ Church:

8.30 am - Holy Communion

10.15 am - Family Service for Christmas Day

11.00 am - Short Service of Holy Communion

St. Nahi's:

9.15 am - Parish Communion

11.45 am - Holy Communion

Methodist Church Services

Sunday 19th December:

10.00 am - Family Worship

11.30 am - Contemporary Worship

7.00 pm - Carols by Candlelight

Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve):

9.00 pm - Reflection Service

Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day):

10.00 am - Family Celebration

BAPTISMS - March to December 2010

We welcome into our Christian Community:-

Kate Marie Anne Iveagh
Sean Christopher Meghan
Aaron Alan Latimer
Aoibhin Mairéad Hennessy
Darragh William Oldham
Lily Esther Lawlor
Conor Declan Feely
Alfie Joseph Carroll
Jamie Watters
Rachel Anne O'Driscoll
Isaac Thomas Biggs
Kate Mary McCarthy
Ben Michael Graham
Aileen Maria Ye

Daisy Jill Coleman
Lucy Louise Jordan
Vanessa Charlotte Dobberstein
Aoibhe Juliet Verdon
Isabella Eva Ryan
Kaylem Thomas Matthews
Eimear Mary Cullen
Rebecca Eileen Charles
Finn Michael Harris
Lauren Kathleen Murphy
Christopher Anthony McCoy
Luke Fionn Quilty
Sorcha Mulvaney
Milly Poppy O'Halloran

Layla Donna Ryan
Hannah Bernadette O'Dea
Bobby Joseph Geraghty
Jack David Peter Glass
David Martin Cullen
David Conor Campbell
Samuel Richard Marsh
Laura Lucy Clodagh Wright
Rian Garvan Rigby
Daisy Sarah Rickard
Max Lorcan Kirwan
Alison Charlotte Louise Ennis
Grace Rose Caddle
Ciara Nyambura Lane

Sophie Rose Figgis
Dylan Joseph Morris
Ronan Patrick McGee
Emma Catherine Alison Bailey
Clodagh Maria Ó Dálaigh
Oisín Evan Lillis
Jamie Daniel Lillis
Cillian James Rowe
Alison Margaret Keane
Henry William Flynn
Askel George Bottomley
Alice Lauren O'Dwyer
Daniel Nathan Connolly
Shane Michael Allan



DEATHS - March to November 2010

Lord, grant eternal rest to:-

Billy Byrne, Ballinteer Gardens
Christy McDonnell, Ballinteer Park
Pauline Shannon, Mayfield Terrace
Sarah (Toni) Kenny, The Green, Woodpark
Michael Doran, Heather Close
Patricia O'Gorman, The Glade, Woodpark
Paddy Maguire, Ballinteer Crescent,

Aidan Leonard, The Rise, Woodpark
Margaret Gray, The View, Woodpark
Monica (Mona) O'Neill, Pine Valley Avenue
Pauline Menzies, Kingston Drive
Katia Kelly, Ballinteer Gardens
Simon Kelly, Broadford Drive

Aidan Colman, Kingston Rise
Elizabeth Ludlow, Broadford Rise
Harry Waters, Mayfield Terrace
Doreen Greene, Ballinteer Gardens
John McGuire, Clonlea Wood
Charles Roe, Ballinteer Drive



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

WEDDINGS - March to November 2010

Congratulations and best wishes:

Alan Brady, Meadow Mount and Elaine Dunne, Pine Valley Way
Stephen White, Broadford Crescent and Maria McDonald, Meadow Grove
Keith Kerrigan, Broadford Avenue and Denise O'Brien, Broadford Drive
Andrew Morris, Walkinstown and Lynn Mulholland, Ballinteer Park

Martin O'Keeffe, Herefordshire and Anne Marie Kelly, Broadford Avenue
Tom Fitzpatrick, Mohill and Deborah Coleman, Broadford Rise
Eoin Reville, Knocklyon and Eilish O'Connor, Ballinteer Park
Alan Doyle, Knocklyon and Louise Shorten, Wexford Town

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**.

Parish Website - 10 Years on

www.ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie

The website went live in 2000. The first Parish Newsletter on the website was the November 2000 issue. All of the Newsletters since then are on the website. Over the Christmas period you may wish to read some of the older issues and reminisce. To look up the older issues just log on to the website and click on 'Newsletter Archives' on the Home Page. The weekly 'Sunday Message' which is made available at weekend Masses is also displayed on the website.

We would like to thank all those who provided information which helped to keep the site up to date.

Jimmy Finlay

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 087 174 4839.

Fr. Jim O'Sullivan Bequest

Very recently the parish received a generous bequest from the late Fr. O'Sullivan's will. A small portion of this is going towards the erection of a Calvary Scene on the grounds in front of the main entrance to the Church. It is also hoped, out of the bequest, to fund the marking of the car park beside the Lourdes Grotto, the painting of the Oratory, the provision of a radio service for the housebound and improvements to the sound system in the Church. Work on some of these projects, suggested by many parishioners over the past year, is already under way.

Faith & Light Ballinteer

The Ballinteer Faith & Light Community meets on the 3rd Sunday of the Month in the Church Conference Room. We invite those with an intellectual disability, their families and those who wish to be their friends to our meetings. All 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. Further info. on national website: www.faithandlight.ie

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

The Legion of Mary

Local Legionaries were in Finland and Germany this year. At home we met Carol, a 17 year old, in Temple Bar. She was telling everyone she was an atheist. Six weeks later she told us that she now believed and had gone back to Mass. She had seen a video on U Tube of a lapsed Catholic man who had become an atheist. Following a near-death experience he told how Jesus had given him a second chance. This put a holy fear into Carol who started going back to Mass and praying, especially for her late mother. She had gone to Confession a few days previously. The next morning she woke up with a feeling of joy. Carol was now telling all her teenage friends that Jesus is alive!

The Legion of Mary meets on Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. in the Conference Room. **Contact Mary at 086 361 6453.**

Thursday Coffee, Library and Craft morning

This takes place in the Conference Room after Mass. Together with the Tuesday bridge players (beginners) at same venue, we have raised, since the meetings commenced earlier this year: €200 for Fr. Peter Mc Verry, €140 for Trocaire for Pakistan, €72 for Debra Nurses for children with E.B., €100 for Focus Ireland for the homeless.

The Thursday meeting provides an opportunity to chat, knit or sew and to peruse and borrow some of the books in the Parish Library. All welcome.

Happy Christmas and Prosperous 2011 to our readers

Date of Next Issue: Easter 2011