

BALLINTEER PARISH NEWSLETTER



CHRISTMAS 2016

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Preparing for Christmas

Carol Concert:

Ballinteer: Sunday 11th December 3.00pm - 4.00pm

Penitential Rite:

Marley Grange: Monday 19th December at 7.30pm

Ballinteer: Tuesday 20th December at 7.30pm

Dundrum: Saturday 24th December at 12 noon

Confessions in Ballinteer:

Saturday 24th December: 10.30am

Christmas Timetable In Ballinteer

Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve):

10.00am Mass in Meadowbrook

6.00pm First Mass of Christmas: (Organist and Singers)

9.00pm Solemn Mass of Christmas (Gospel Choir)

Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day):

Masses:

9.30am (Irish/As Gaeilge)

11.00am (Ballinteer Male Voice Choir)

12.30pm (Organist and Singers)

(No evening Mass)

Monday 26th to Friday 30th December: 9.30am.

Saturday 31st December:

6.00pm Vigil Mass (10.00am Mass in Meadowbrook)

Sunday 1st January 2017:

Masses at 9.30am, 11.00am and 12.30pm

(No evening Mass)

Christmas Greetings

It is said to be a sign that we are getting older when Christmas seems to come around so quickly after the Summer. In September I completed my first year in the parish and I am now much more familiar with it and the links with Dundrum and Meadowbrook. Our parish works very efficiently thanks to the huge numbers of volunteers and, of course, the big number of parishioners who attend Mass and other Liturgies regularly. The average attendance at weekend Masses is 1,590 and approximately 140 on weekdays. Baptisms numbered 105 and funerals 53 in the past year. The Baptism and Funeral Teams do excellent preparation work with the families concerned. The Parish Council, with Brendan Lane as Chairman, meets regularly to discuss all parish matters. A Finance Committee, chaired by Jimmy Finlay, meets four times per year and more often if needed. At Easter we will set out our Accounts for the 12 months to the end of 2016. The parish is very grateful to all our volunteers, especially the cleaning team who keep the church in pristine condition and the new landscaping team.

In this great season of Christmas, we celebrate the coming of God among us in the person of Jesus to our world. Prayer, listening to God's word and our Mass are central to our Christian lives. Many family members travel home for Christmas and they will be especially welcome at our Christmas Masses and a visit to the crib. For those who cannot be home for the season our parish extends to you our special greeting. (People abroad may join us on the World Wide Web, with live streaming of Masses, Baptisms and Funerals).

A happy Christmas to all.

Fr. Liam Belton

Church Financial Giving

The parish thanks all who contribute to parish finances. All your giving is accurately recorded. The roof loan is greatly reduced (now €285,000). €25,000 was collected in the special roof collections in the past year.

Jimmy Finlay

Methodist Church Services

Sunday 11th December:

Candlelight Carol Service at 7.00pm.

Sunday 18th December:

10.00am - Family Worship

11.30am - Contemporary Worship

Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve):

9.00pm - Reflection & Carol Service

Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day):

10.00am - Family Celebration.

Taney (C of I.) Parish Christmas Services

Christ Church:

Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve):

11.30pm - Midnight Holy Communion

Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day):

10.30am - Family Service

11.00am - Holy Communion

St. Nahi's on Christmas Day

9.00am - Holy Communion

Church Repository Shop

The Church Shop will be open after the 9.30am Mass every morning from now until Christmas, for Advent Calendars, Christmas cards, candles, cribs, religious diaries and Church Art calendars for 2017.

Confirmation + First Holy Communion + Christmas, Birthday, Get Well, Thank You + Sympathy and Wedding Cards.

Also Catholic newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, children's books and bibles.

Our New Priests

In September we welcomed Fathers Fidelis Leburu and Christopher Okoye, from the Diocese of Yola in Nigeria. They will be studying Liturgy and Systematic Theology respectively in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth for two years, while also helping in our Pastoral Area. We remember with gratitude Fathers Charles and Emmanuel who returned to Nigeria at the end of June on completion of their studies.

Our Young Parishioners

Annette Farrell is the Faith Development Co-ordinator for our Pastoral Area and is doing great work with our parish schoolchildren and their parents. A new Family Mass at 11am in our church commenced on Sunday 20th November and will continue each two weeks while the schools are open. The liturgy is prepared by the parents of the children making their First Holy Communion next year. A new children's choir led by Tarny Reilly provides the music. This promises to be a great way of involving young families in our Sunday Mass.

Another promising development is a faith friendship group where children from third and fourth classes meet in the Conference Room for an hour after school once per week. They are introduced to scripture, meditation, music and art.

Annette is much encouraged by the response of young parents and teachers to these initiatives as well as their involvement in the well established preparation programmes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.