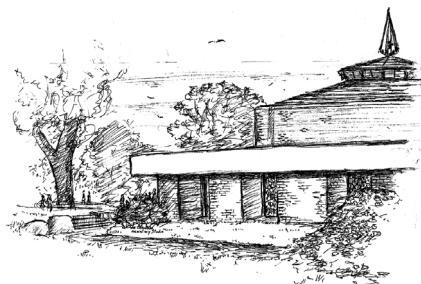


BALLINTEER PARISH NEWSLETTER



EASTER 2008

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

Full of Emptiness



There's a beautiful old story about a Sunday school teacher who asked the children in his class to bring plastic eggs on Easter Sunday, each one filled with something that symbolised the meaning of the resurrection. The day came and the teacher took each child's egg in turn, opening it and making a point of amplifying and reinforcing its meaning. One child had a tiny flower and the teacher spoke of the new life that springs forth at Easter. Another egg contained a crayon picture of Christ and the teacher spoke of that. Another had a small nail and the point was made about the nails of the cross. Another had a round pebble that represented the stone that had guarded the tomb.

But the teacher was dumbfounded when he opened the egg of seven-year-old Brian, a mentally-challenged boy, and found nothing there. But not to worry, Brian himself spoke up and announced: "It's full of emptiness - just like the tomb of Jesus." His was the best lesson of all.

Why is Easter so early this year?

Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 completed a reconstruction of the Julian calendar and produced new Easter tables. The rule is that Easter falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon that occurs on or after the day of the spring equinox which is fixed as 21st March. Easter falls as early as 23rd March only once in every century. The next occasion will be in 2160. The earliest date on which Easter Sunday can fall is 22nd March. This happens once in every two hundred years.

Parish Schools

Confirmation: 44 boys and girls were conferred with the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 23rd February by His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev'd. Dr. Diarmuid Martin. The ceremony was inspiring and enlightening. The school choir and servers were highly praised by the Archbishop. The Parents' Association hosted a very enjoyable reception for all in the School Hall afterwards. Those confirmed were:-

Avril Brierly, Mark Burke, Claire Byrne, Paddy Cash, Olivia Church, Christopher Clarke, Conor Cosson (Wesley College), Hugh Cresswell (Wesley College), Sarah Cummins, Stuart Duff, Aoife Clabby, Josh Dunne, Eleanor Dunne, John Enright, Harry Gleeson (Wesley College), Orla Lavelle, Luke Gray, Isobel Lorigan, Sean Hanlon, Niamh Lowe, Adam Hembrecht, Sarah McNamara, Niall Irwin, Sinead Madden, Stephen Kinsella, Hannah Nolan, Darragh Long, Jessica O'Neill, Conan McBrien, Daneka Stewart, Ross McDonnell, Hannah Thornton, Tiernan McDonnell, Shane McKeon, Peter McNamara, Brian Mannion, Lee Martin, Jamie Moore, Dean Mullen, Liam Murphy, Aaron Nolan, Stephen Quinlan-Pollard, Alex Thornton, Adam Young.

Congratulations to all.

First Penance: This Sacrament was celebrated on 1st March for the boys and girls in Second Class in preparation for their First Holy Communion on Saturday 24th May.

Enrolments: Enrolments for September 2008 are now being taken in both schools. For information/application forms please call to the School Secretaries or telephone 01-4946647 (Boys) or 01-4944052 (Girls). See also website www.ourladsboysballinteer.ie

Fund Raising: The 'Who wants to be a Thousandaire?' quiz on 23rd January was a great success and raised €34,500 for the two schools. TV3 personality Martin King was the first in the hot seat on a 'trial run' and gave his winnings back!

Parent & Toddler Group: The Parents' Association host a parent/toddler group each Monday from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon in the Girls' School library. All are welcome.



Retirement of John Furlong, Sacristan

On 31st December last John closed the Church for the last time as he left to take a well-earned rest. For 22 years John faithfully served his parish and community as Sacristan. Indeed, during the long days he devoted to that task he ensured that the Church grounds as well as the Church itself were clean and tidy.

To mark John's retirement the Parish Pastoral Council are arranging an appropriate function to celebrate his years of service. The date will be announced later. To give the parish community a chance to contribute, envelopes were handed out at all Masses one weekend recently. If you wish to make a donation please place it in an envelope with John's name and bring to the Sacristy or put it in the collection basket at Mass.

Good Friday Appeal

As you come to Church on Good Friday to celebrate the Passion and Death of Jesus, you are being given an opportunity to contribute to the 'Heart to Hand' charity founded in 1991 by Kieran Byrne, a Wexford Transport Haulier.

The charity's trucks continue to travel to Albania and Romania with much needed aid. The following are the types of non-perishable food gifts which would be appreciated:

Flour, Sugar, Vegetable Oil, Pasta, Jam, Rice, Tinned Food, Breakfast Cereals, Porridge, Instant and Packet Soup, Horlicks, Drinking Chocolate, Tea, Coffee, Biscuits, Baby Food. Also Soaps, Shampoos, Creams.

Website: www.hearttohand.net

Penitential Services

Tues. 18th March – St. Attracta's 8.00 pm
Wed. 19th March – Dundrum 7.00 pm
Wed. 19th March – Ballinteer 8.15 pm

Confessions in Ballinteer:

Holy Thursday: 6.00 - 7.00 pm
Good Friday: After all ceremonies
Holy Saturday: 11.00 - 12.00 noon
and 3.00 - 4.00 pm



Eucharistic Adoration in Oratory

Adoration hours are:

Tuesday - 10 am to 10 pm

Wednesday - 10 am to 1 pm

Thursday - 10 am to 1 pm

Friday - 10 am to 10 pm

Please commit to an hour if you can.

Society of Simon of Cyrene

The late Fr. Michael Loftus, P.P., of Kilmacud, who died last year, was instrumental in establishing this Society in 1999 in the Stillorgan area. He was the priest who oversaw the establishment of Ballinteer Parish in the early 1970's.

The Society provides pastoral care for the housebound, the sick and senior citizens living alone. A number of volunteers become visitors to people in their own homes, in hospitals and nursing homes. The Society promotes the hearing of Mass, encourages reception of the Sacraments and popularises personal pendant alarms and membership of libraries etc.

The foundation, development and growth of the Society as a parish-based group has the encouragement and blessing of the Dublin Archdiocese. Currently individuals in Ballinteer undertake similar duties. Anyone interested in being involved in the Society can receive further information by contacting the Parish Office, Kilmacud Parish of St. Laurence O'Toole, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin, tel. 2884009 or the Parish Office at our own Church, tel. 4994203.

Fatima & Estoril

There will be a Padre Pio Prayer Group Pilgrimage to Fatima in the autumn.

Details:

25th September to 2nd October

4 nights Fatima - Full board

3 nights Estoril - Half board

Spiritual Director: Canon Battelle

€800 per person inclusive of transfers to and from Dublin Airport.

For more information please contact Mr. Tom Ryan (Tel. 01-2986889).

Ballinteer Scout Den

115th Ballinteer Scout Group was founded in 1974. The land on which the Scout Den was built was kindly provided by the Parish of St. John the Evangelist on a long-term lease. The Group has 220 youth members in five sections: A Beaver Scout Group (boys and girls aged 6-8), two Club Scout Packs (boys and girls aged 8-11), a Scout Troop (boys and girls aged 11-15), a Venture Scout Group (teenagers aged 16-19) and a Leader Team of 16 adults. The Group is part of Scouting Ireland, the largest youth organisation in Ireland with 40,000 members across all 32 counties.

The Scout Den is at risk (of closure) after an audit by Dublin Fire Brigade highlighted several areas of the premises which did not meet the latest EU fire safety standards. The Group Council has taken steps to rectify compliance gaps where possible but an assessment indicates that €120,000 will be needed to bring the building up to full compliance. The Group needs to raise €60,000 in 2008 in order to have any hope of qualifying for an equivalent grant to help secure their Scout Den for current and future members. They are appealing to former scouts, parents, friends and the community at large for support for planned fund-raising events in 2008.

Ballinteer Active Retirement

Weekly club meetings in Ballinteer St. John's GAA Pavilion on Wednesdays at 10.15 am. New members welcome. Group going to The Malton Hotel, Killarney for 3 nights on 30th March. Aquaerobics starting in April. Pitch and Putt on Wednesday afternoons.

Church Roof Fund

The amount collected in the twice monthly Church door collections stands at €157,704. To date €160,000 has been repaid off the loan of €860,000 leaving a balance to pay of €700,000. The repayments are €8,000 per month. We are very grateful to those who continue to subscribe to the collections.

Marian Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

2nd May 2008 for seven nights

€609 fully inclusive

Departing Dublin Airport

Spiritual Director: Fr. Lar Lynch O'Carm

Contact: Liam Cotter 087-6381157

Website: www.marian.ie

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina (praying with Scripture) will take place on the Thursday nights of April in the Oratory from 8.00 to 9.30 pm. We will pray with selected passages from the Book of Revelation (Apocalypse). All are welcome, even on an occasional or once-off basis.

Guided Prayer Retreat with Scripture

This will take place in September. If interested, watch out for announcements or contact Fr. Jim O'Sullivan.

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.

Congrats!

Our Parish Priest, Fr. Richard, has been appointed Vicar Forane ('Dean') for the 11 parishes in the Donnybrook Deanery of the Archdiocese. He can now add V.F. to his P.P. tag.

Parish Archives

Following an appeal in a Newsletter last year, Parish Secretary Ann Greene was given some old Newsletters but she is only at the beginning of having a complete collection of old numbers. If you have any, please leave in sacristy for her or bring to Parish Office, Mon-Fri. 10.00 - 12.00 noon.

New to Parish?

Welcome, if you arrived in the past year or so. Please make yourself known to one of the Priests or a member of the congregation

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who looks 'settled'. Feel free to make suggestions or to volunteer your services. We can do things better with more helpers!

An invitation from Your Parish Youth Team!

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Last Supper

The Mass of the Last Supper at 7.30 pm will be a family Mass with drama from our new Parish Drama Group and our Children's Church and music from our new youth group, "Echo"!

The Stations of the Cross, Good Friday at 12 noon.

Drama group members will read during the Stations of the Cross.

Easter Sunday

Music from youth group "Echo" at 11 o'clock Mass.

We'd love you to join us!

Confirmation for Irish Schools

Ar an 6ú lá de Mhárta chuaigh 82 páiste ó Scoil Naithí, Scoil Bhríde agus Gaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna faoi láimh an Easpaig i Séipéal Naomh Eoin Soiscéalai i mBaile an tSaoir. An t-Easpag Fiachra Ó Ceallaigh a bhronn Sacraimint an Chóineartaithe ar na páistí. Chan cór Scoil Naithí ag an Aifreann agus sheinn tuismitheoirí agus páistí ó Scoil Naithí ceol uirlíse i rith an tSearmanais.

Ócáid an-speisialta a bhí ann agus bhain gach duine taitneamh as an lá.

International Choral Concert

Saturday 19th April 2008 at 8.00pm
St. John the Evangelist Church, Ballinteer

Featuring:

- *The Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir*
 - *Mouezh Paotred Breizh*
(Male Voice Choir from Brittany, France)
 - *The Ballinteer Male Voice Choir*
(www.bmvc.ie)
- Tickets €15.00 each.

Bookings can be made through the Parish Office, Open 10.00am - 12 noon, Monday to Friday, or in the Church Conference Room from 10.00am - 12 noon on Saturday 29th March, Saturday 5th April and Saturday 12th April.

Update on Parish Youth Team

Sincerest thanks to all who have helped us in any way; we have achieved a lot!

- We have put together a **team of students** to work on parish initiatives.
- We have gathered about **40 volunteers for youth!!**
- We launched a **new youth music group "Echo"**.
- **Youth Mass** in October.
- **Dublin Gospel Choirs 'Night of Soul'** in November.
- A new **church drama group for 10 to teens**.
- **Interparish "thank you" event** for young people who are involved in church events even once a year!
- Teen group of '**Friends of the Elderly**', who will research and write the life stories of some of our older parishioners.
- Established **working group of local youth workers**.
- Exploring options for dealing with escalating antisocial behaviour.
- Researching possibility of monthly **music venue for teens** and other music events.
- Booked a very **popular community-based Summer Camp for 10 to 12 year olds for the week beginning 7th July**.

We will be in contact with our other volunteers after Easter; please don't run away!

Tarny Reilly, 087 2627424 or
tarnyreilly@eircom.net

Bereavement Support Group

1st and 3rd Mon. each month: 2pm - 3pm
2nd and 4th Wed. each month: 7pm - 8pm
in the Church Conference Room.
Further details at Parish Office (Tel: 4994203).

In your 40's?

Looking to meet up with a group of Catholics in their 40's who have a regular programme of social and spiritual events in and around Dublin?

Initially open to those aged 40-45. Come along to the Trinity Capital Hotel, Pearse Street from 8.30pm on the first Friday of any month. Alternatively, if you would like to receive our programme of regular events phone 085-7767098 or e-mail dublin40somethings@gmail.com

Mother Teresa of Calcutta Advice

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centred;
FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;
BE KIND ANYWAY.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;
SUCCEED ANYWAY.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;
BUILD ANYWAY.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;
BE HAPPY ANYWAY.

The good you do today, people will forget tomorrow;
DO GOOD ANYWAY.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE ANYWAY.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;
IT WAS NEVER BETWEEN YOU AND THEM ANYWAY.

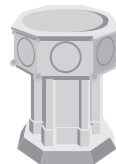
Which walk will you do?

Switzerland: 7th - 13th July 2008
Trek 'Little Tibet': 4th - 14th October '08
In aid of The National Children's Hospital, Tallaght.

For further info: Tel. 01-4142375
e-mail: trek@thenationalchildrenshospital.ie

BAPTISMS - December 2007 – March 2008

We welcome into our Christian Community:-



Lucia Anne Kelly
Ava Christine Celine Ennis
Hugh Padraig Toomey Murphy
Cormac Martin Carry
Ciaran Joseph Harrington
Daniel Philip King

Sean Patrick O'Flaherty
Aimee Béibhinn Dargan
Sophie Louise Carroll
Alex James Donlon
Anne Marie McGrath
Conn Douglas Clotworthy

Tadhg Trevor Smith
Megan Anne Kirwan
Cathal Ruairi O'Bric
Emma Jane Treacy
Saidbh Aoife Linden

Congratulation to the proud parents.

DEATHS - December 2007 – February 2008

Lord, grant eternal rest to:-



Bernadette Hickey, The Crescent, Woodpark
Vera Hudson, Pine Valley Ave.,
Flo Corless, Ballinteer Avenue
Maurice O'Connor, Mayfield Terrace
Clem Brett, Ballinteer Drive
Noel Harrington, St. Anne's Court, Woodpark
Mary Fairweather, Broadford Rise

Chris Ryan, The View, Woodpark
Mary Sein, Ballinteer Gardens
Liam Ralph, Broadford Hill
Jim Maher, The Walk, Woodpark
Jason Nolan, Kingston View
Ciaran McDonnell, Marlay View



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

WEDDINGS - January – February 2008

Congratulations and best wishes to

Timothy Richardson, Churchtown and Lisa Geraghty, The Rise, Woodpark
Paul Smith, Ballybrack and Amanda Curran, Ballinteer Park

May you have many years of health and happiness.



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. Our Seder Meal celebration this year is on Wednesday 19th March in the Parish Parlour in Marley at 9.15pm. 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 website or Church noticeboard for up-to-date Cell information.



Parish Walking Groups

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

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.

Parish Baptism Team

We are seeking new members. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office (Tel. 01-4994203), any of the priests, or team member Edel at 086-8468909.

Church Repository Shop

For all of your religious cards and gifts for: Easter, First Holy Communion, Birthday, Get well, Thank you, Sympathy, Wedding, New home and many other occasions.

Also:

Children's books, Catholic newspapers, magazines and helpful booklets on a variety of topics and devotions are displayed on tables at entrances.

Shop open after Saturday evening Mass and all Sunday morning Masses.

Date of Next Issue: June 2008

Happy Easter to all our readers