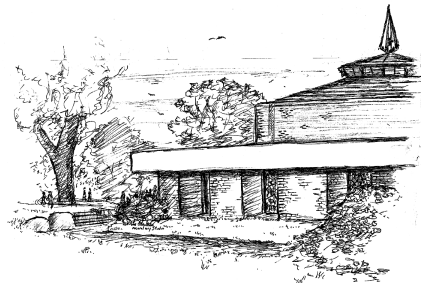


BALLINTEER PARISH NEWSLETTER



EASTER 2009

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

St. Paul



When Pope Benedict XVI announced this year of St. Paul, Apostle, to be celebrated from June 28th 2008 to June 29th 2009, he stressed the fact that Saint Paul *“lived and worked for Christ, for him he suffered and died. How timely his example is today!”* And so began the bi-millennium Celebration of St. Paul's birth. As a way of commemorating the special Jubilee Year, the Pope indicated that *“special publications on Pauline texts will also be promoted in order to make ever more widely known the immense wealth of the teaching they contain, a true patrimony of humanity redeemed by Christ”*. Even in Ballinteer we have been studying the “Journeys of St. Paul” over the Mondays in Lent in order to become more familiar with St. Paul and his writings. Our earliest study was the great mystery of his conversion from persecutor to Apostle. It was on a dusty road leading to Damascus that Saul, until then a passionate enemy of the cross

of Christ, met in a blaze of light the very One who was nailed to the cross on Good Friday. Stricken blind the sightless Saul could only see Christ and the very first words that Saul was to hear from Christ was about the cross: *“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”* (Acts 9:4). Saul's blindness lasted three days before the scale-like coverings over his eyes fell away. He was utterly changed; from now on Saul the persecutor was Paul the Apostle of the Gentiles.

Paul's love of Christ impelled him to action, action he describes repeatedly in terms of a holy battle in which we *“put on the armour of God”* (Eph. 6:11) to fight the good fight of the faith. It is at one and the same time a battle for personal holiness and for the salvation of mankind, according to the will of God, who wishes all people to be saved (1 Tim. 2:3-4). Stressing that *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”*, Paul considers his own conversion to be wrought by the mercy of God as an example to encourage others to conversion (1 Tim. 1:15-16).

The remarkable event of Paul's conversion has so changed the world that the expression “Damascus conversion” has become a common saying. Now in heaven with the *“king of kings who dwells in unapproachable light”* (1 Tim. 6:15-16), St. Paul continues to intercede that all men and women may become *“children of the light”* (1 Thes. 5:5) as he did on that road to Damascus.

Preparing for Easter

Penitential Services

Marley Grange:	Mon. 30 th March at 8.00 pm
Meadowbrook:	Mon. 6 th April at 7.00 pm
Dundrum:	Tue. 7 th April at 7.00 pm
Ballinteer:	Wed. 8 th April at 8.00 pm

Confessions in Ballinteer

Holy Thursday:	6.00 to 7.00 pm
Good Friday:	After all Ceremonies.
Holy Saturday:	11.00 am to 12.00 noon and 3.00 to 4.00 pm

Good Friday Appeal

Last year parishioners responded very generously to an appeal by the ‘Heart to Hand’ Charity founded in 1991 by Kieran Byrne, a Wexford Transport Haulier. The charity's trucks still travel to Albania and Romania with much needed aid. The following are the types of non-perishable food gifts which would be greatly 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, Incontinent Pads and Nappies would be most welcome.

Please bring what you can when coming to Church Ceremonies on Good Friday.

Website: www.hearttohand.net

Ballinteer Padre Pio Group Pilgrimage to Holy Land

25th October to 3rd November 2009.
Cost €1250 p.p.s. plus insurance.
Includes taxes, half-board and coach to/from Dublin Airport. Visiting all major shrines including Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth.

Team Leader: Tom Ryan, Tel. 01 298 6889.
Spiritual Leader: Canon J P Battelle.

Ballinteer St. John's GAA Easter Camp 2009

Monday 6th April to Thursday 9th April. For Boys and Girls aged 6-12. At the Club Pavilion and Marley Park from 10.00 am to 2.30 pm each day. Lunch: 12.00 to 12.30 (supervised). Fun games and drills, learning the skills of football, hurling and camogie in a fun environment. Cost per child is €60. Bring a healthy packed lunch, water bottle, suitable playing gear, rain jacket/gloves, change of gear on wet days, warm clothes. No jewellery. To book contact: **Nora Stapleton 085 132 7032.**
E-mail: nora.stapleton@games.gaa.ie

Pastoral Worker

Geraldine O'Keeffe is our third Parish Pastoral Worker in Ballinteer. She is a native of Dublin and has been living near us in Marley Grange parish for 36 years. She has two daughters and four grandchildren. She completed a BA in Pastoral Theology in 2001 and a Masters Programme in Applied Spirituality at the Mater Dei Institute in 2004. In 2006 she completed a two year training course in Spiritual Guidance. She is pleased to have been assigned to our parish and hopes to make a contribution before she is appointed to another parish in June.

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Five nights from 18th August 2009. Hotel Agena, close to Shrine. Cost €747 per person. It includes full meals, coach to/from Airport, free insurance and government levy. Single room supplement of €35 per night. Spiritual Leader: Fr. Richard Behan. Bookings on Monday evenings in Church Conference Room from 7.00 to 7.30 pm.

Faith & Light Ballinteer

We are frequently asked "what happens at a Faith & Light meeting?"

The community meets once a month for a meeting called a "Fiesta". The three parts of the Fiesta or meeting are when we pray together, we talk together and we play together. Ideally one third of the community should be people with a mental disability, one third are parents and one third are friends. Friends are not necessarily from the family of the person with the disability. They offer moral support and friendship to the parents and to the people with the disability.

The Ballinteer Faith & Light community was founded in the Autumn of 1988 and will therefore celebrate its 21st anniversary later this year.

Why not visit us and find out more. There is a meeting on Sunday 19th April in the Church Conference Room at 3.00 pm

For the dates of other meetings you can telephone Marie on 087 271 3265 or email soceallaigh52@hotmail.com

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

All are welcome to come along and join in the adoration at any time.

Child Protection Issues

In 2006, the Government set up a Commission of Enquiry to investigate the handling by the diocesan authorities of child sexual abuse by clergy working in the Archdiocese of Dublin. The Commission is expected to present its report to the Minister for Justice within the next few months and the report will be published. It will bring to the surface once again many things we would prefer to forget, but we can't afford to forget them. As Jesus once remarked "the truth will set you free." I am writing this now because I don't want people to be taken unawares when the report is published.

It will be a painful time for all of us, priests and parishioners alike. Our instinct may be to distance ourselves from it, and say it has nothing to do with us. By accepting the pain, however unfair it may seem, we will be in solidarity with the many children whose innocence was stolen from them, and with their parents and all who love them. Their pain is surely far greater than ours.

Archbishop Martin has devoted an enormous amount of time and energy to ensuring that children are safe-guarded in all activities associated with the Church. From time to time, he has also provided an up-date on child-protection issues in the Archdiocese of Dublin. The most recent update includes statistics which indicate that *during the period from 1940 up to the present time:*

- Allegations have been made against 77 priests of the Diocese.
- Suspicions have been raised concerning 9 priests of the Diocese.
- Allegations have been made against 54 Religious priests or priests from other Dioceses who held an appointment in Dublin.
- Allegations have been made against 9 Religious priests or priests from other Dioceses, which related to their doing supply work in Dublin.
- Suspicions have been raised concerning 3 Religious priests who held appointments in the Diocese.

These statistics date over a period of 68 years. Since 1940 over 1,350 Diocesan priests have served in Dublin and around 1,450 priests from Religious Congregations have held appointments from the Archbishop of Dublin.

These statistics include all the allegations made *irrespective of the eventual outcome* of the investigation. It is the policy of Archbishop Martin that all allegations and suspicions be reported to the civil authorities, in accordance with the Policy Document *Our Children Our Church*. Eight priests have been convicted in the Criminal Courts. Two Dublin Diocesan priests have been the subject of allegations of child sexual abuse which are currently before the courts.

One thing we can do is to ensure that our parish Child-Protection procedures correspond with best practice. With this in mind, we have printed our Parish Child Protection Procedures. They have been distributed to all groups in the parish working with children and vulnerable groups. Copies are available to parishioners in the parish office and an outline of procedures is posted on the Notice Boards in the Church and on our website. In the meantime, can I ask you all to be vigilant and, if you become aware of any indication that children may be at risk, *please don't remain silent*. I am sorry that you will have to have to go through all of this again, but I am all the more sorry for the pain that has been caused to children and their families through the actions of a number of priests or, in some cases, the failure to act by the Church authorities.

Fr. Richard

Parish Child Protection Procedures

The parish commitment to dealing with child sexual abuse is based on the Archdiocese of Dublin's Child Protection Policies.

It is based on certain guiding principles including the following:

1. All parishioners have the right and duty to ensure that children are protected in every possible way as they participate in the life of the parish and exercise a ministry in it.
2. Giving a prompt response to all allegations of child sexual abuse.
3. Where it is known or suspected that a child has been abused by a clerical or lay person serving the Church, the matter will be reported to the relevant Church and State Authority.
4. Care being given to the emotional and spiritual welfare of those who have suffered abuse and their families.

If you have any concerns regarding Child Protection please contact:

1. Dublin Diocesan Child Protection Office 01 836 0314
2. Garda Síochána: Dundrum 01 666 5500 or Rathfarnham 01 666 6500
3. H.S.E. Principal Area Social Worker, 01 268 0500 Vergemount Hall, Clonskeagh, Dublin 6
4. Parish Child Protection Representative c/o Parish Office 01 499 4203

Parish Schools

Congratulations to the girls and boys who made their First Confession on the 28th February. Preparations are on-going for Confirmation on Sat. 25th April and First Holy Communion on Sat. 23rd May.

The recent 'Open Day' in both schools was a great success. Pupils who are four years on or before 30th September are eligible to enrol in the schools.

The boys in 3rd and 4th class are taking part in an exciting art project as part of the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown/Blackrock Education Centre "Artist in Schools programme". A local artist, Caroline Lynch, is visiting the classes every week and working with the boys on a nature-based project. Caroline will be using the environment of Marlay Park where the boys planted a tree in their first session. Later they made tribal masks using natural materials and got great enjoyment from it. Caroline is a former pupil of Our Lady's Girls' School.

The Girls' School is very proud to be numbered among nine schools who have three 'Green Flags'. At present they are working towards their fourth Green Flag. The theme is "Travel". A guest speaker from An Taisce recently spoke to parents about Health and the Environment. This was with a view to launching W.O.W. - Walk on Wednesdays after the Easter Holidays.

Excitement abounds as the Girls' School enters a team in the Cumann na mBunscol Camogie League. Many thanks to Nora Stapleton and Philip Browne (St. John's G.A.A.) for the time and support that they are giving to Miss McGinley and her team.

Thank you to all who contributed to the €800 raised recently in aid of the Niall Mellon Trust. We wish Michael Nuding (a former Girls' School parent) every success in Capetown where he will spend a week helping people who were not fortunate enough to be born into this world with the advantages that we have.



TAIZÉ....July '09.....

Invitation to our Young People!

Taizé ? Who? What? Where?!!

"Ah, Taizé, this little springtime"
as John XXIII called it.

It's an ecumenical community of Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant brothers situated in Burgundy, south of France, not far from Cluny. Each summer thousands of young people from around the world travel to the little village of Taizé to spend a week with the brothers and share in their life of work, prayer, silence and song! The frequent meetings of young people, generally between 17 and 30 years, usually last from Sunday to Sunday. I invite the young people of our parishes in the Pastoral area of Dundrum/Ballinteer/Meadowbrook to consider making this pilgrimage in July (dates to be finalised), a pilgrimage that will change your life. Information evenings will be held in each of the parishes after Easter. Contact Fr. Kieran at 298 4348; or, for further information about Taizé, visit the community web site at www.taize.fr. It is an opportunity for you to stop and reflect on your life in a very non pressured way; to learn and understand more about your faith and to deepen your own relationship with God. It is more than just quiet time in the south of France; you will meet young people of your own age and experience from the countries of the world, who will also want to learn about your experiences and life in Ireland.

Why not give it some thought!

Parish Youth Team

June 21st at 'Mad 2009' Irish Music Festival,
Glenealy, Co. Wicklow

Tickets €10 if we book now!!!

Why not come with us! www.mad2009.com

We will be involved in Family Mass of Last Supper
on Holy Thursday at 7.30 pm and Pentecost and
Exam Mass at 6 pm on Saturday 30th May.

Can you help with...

• **Catch the message 09! on Sept 5th.**

Parties for 4th class to 6th years who help in the
Church.

• **14 to 90! A fun, community-building, teen-
led, multi-activity Summer Camp.**

See parish website.

**Tarny Reilly (087 262 7424) or
tarnyreilly@eircom.net**

Funeral Liturgy Team

Arising from the Parish Assembly in October last, I have established a Funeral Liturgy Team. The team will assist the priests of the parish with the preparation and celebration of funeral liturgies and will also be part of the Ministry of Consolation and support to the bereaved in the period around the death of a loved one.

This is a very special Ministry requiring great sensitivity, empathy and a capacity to be supportively present to those who are experiencing the pain of loss. I would like to invite any parishioner who feels a calling to this Ministry to leave his/her name, address and telephone number with the Parish Office (01 499 4203).

Fr. Richard

New Timetable for Masses in Ballinteer

Looking at the decrease in the number of priests available to him for ministry and the age profile of the clergy, the Archbishop has designated our area of the diocese to be run as a Team Ministry. Last summer he created the pastoral area of Dundrum, Ballinteer and Meadowbrook to be run as a team ministry with each priest being co-responsible for each of the parishes. For us priests this is a very new and different way of approaching ministry. Up until now the parish priest's world was law in his own parish, however, we now have to work together for the benefit of the pastoral area and not just for our own parish. Over the past six months we have been meeting regularly to discuss how best to arrange the three parishes so that we could manage as a unit with just three priests present at one time. In order to facilitate this we are going to have one Mass per day in each Church at 10 am. This means that for Ballinteer our morning Mass will move from 9.30 am to 10 am. The move to 10 am means that any funerals can take place at that time whereas, before, it was felt that 9.30 am was too early and a second Mass was celebrated. 10 am will become the normal time for funeral Masses in each parish.

For some time now it has become very difficult to maintain the 7.30 pm daily Mass in Ballinteer and with responsibility for all three parishes now shared, it was agreed that the 7.30 pm Mass in Ballinteer be discontinued. This will take place after Easter and I have informed the Episcopal Vicar, Mgr. Enda Lloyd, of the team's decision. I have, however, asked for an exception to be made of the 7.30 pm Mass on Mondays for as long as Canon Battelle wishes to celebrate it. Over the years he has developed a great devotion locally to Padre Pio and the Padre Pio devotions are well attended, so we will keep the 7.30 pm Mass on Monday evenings. I will celebrate it when Canon Battelle is away. This will also give us the opportunity to celebrate the Miraculous Medal devotions on Monday evenings.

In the area there are Masses to be celebrated in the Churches, schools, nursing homes, houses and for weddings etc., so we are trying to facilitate as many places and occasions as possible with very reduced staff. There are now only four full-time priests between Dundrum, Ballinteer and Meadowbrook, whereas in 2006 there were eight. So, as you can imagine, we will have to look closely at the Sunday Masses for all three parishes in the near future.

A word of thanks to the retired priests who enable us to keep going with a busy Sunday Mass schedule. Thanks is especially due to Canon Battelle for all he has done over the past few months in Ballinteer. Without his generosity we could not have managed.

Fr. Richard



Mass Timetable

Weekend:

Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm

Sunday: 10.00 am, 11.00am, 12 noon, 5.30 pm

Weekdays:

Monday: 10.00 am, 7.30 pm

Tuesday – Saturday 10.00 am

Holy Days (Working days):

Vigil: 7.30 pm,
10.00 am, 11.00 am

Father Kizito S.J.

Fr. Kizito, from Rwanda, who regularly celebrates Mass in our Church, is engaged in PhD studies in ecumenics at the Irish School of Ecumenics attached to Trinity College. We asked him to write for us on his visit home to Rwanda for Christmas. This is what he wrote:

Dear brothers and sisters,

I would like to share with you how I spent the Christmas holiday in Rwanda and to thank you for your help and prayers. I am happy to be back in our parish of Ballinteer and to pray with you.

I have been to Rwanda for 2 months: December 2008-January 2009. As you know, I went there to greet my family, especially my nephews and niece who lost their mama, my sister, last August. It was a good time to meet them after two years of separation, even if we were mourning. That is life!

My family sends greeting to you. 'Everybody knows' that Ballinteer is my parish in Dublin. My parents would have written a letter to you but they do not speak English. They asked me to convey their warmest greetings. They promised that they are praying for you.

My nephews and niece who lost their mama are now at school. They are doing well. In order to study they need my financial support especially for the school fees. I always try to find out how to help them with your support and the care of our Parish Priest, Father Richard. Thank you all. I am impressed by the sense of solidarity with the poor which our Parish has. That is a gift from God which you have. Faith and Charity are connected. Christian values are grounded on that connection. We are brothers and sisters in Christ because we support each other. I wish you a very Happy Easter! God bless you!

Father Kizito Niyoyita, S.J.

Tax Benefit on Donations

"Thank you" to all who signed and returned the Certificates for Tax Relief on Donations made in 2007. The Parish can now get the tax benefit of those donations as a result. This assists the strained Parish funds and is of great benefit to us.

If you got our letter and Certificate and did not return the Certificate, but would still like to be associated with this fund-raising effort, please return the form, signed, to either Fr Richard or the Parish Bookkeeper, Jim Kelly, at the Parish Office as soon as possible. If you did not receive the letter or Certificate, but feel your contributions to the Parish would qualify for the tax benefit under the scheme, then please contact the Parish Office, by telephone 01 499 4203, or call in Monday to Friday between 10.00 am and 12 noon.

Parish Mission Statement

"I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear my fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. My command to you is to love one another."

John 15:15-17

Inspired by these words in the Gospel of St. John the Evangelist, Patron Saint of our Parish in Ballinteer, we strive to follow Jesus by:

- Building a community which gives expression to our faith in Jesus where each person feels welcomed, accepted and valued in their own right.
- Promoting a greater sense of togetherness and participation as we gather in our Church.
- Spreading this togetherness in church out into our Parish Community in a way that is inclusive and all embracing.

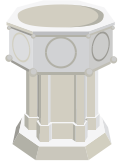
BAPTISMS - November 2008 to March 2009

We welcome into our Christian Community:-

Ben Samuel Jackman McGarry
Daniel Thomas Conlon Horgan
Niamh Mary Kavanagh
Charlie Christopher Mullan
Vanessa Josephine O'Brien
Clodagh Martina O'Donoghue
Eve Susan Small
Shane Daniel Singchi Carroll

Alacia Bianca Scalon Molloy
Robert Luke McGuinness
Lily McRudden
Ross Aidan Carey
Tara Louise Williams
Oisin Patrick Hurrell
Mita Oonagh Dargan
Molly Jane Cleary

Lloyd William Kennedy
Daniel Hugh Sheridan
Frederick Leonard Patrick Morley
Rebecca Mary Keane
Fionn Steven Healy
Liam Julian Duffy
Clare Jean Rickard



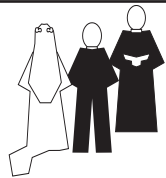
Congratulations to the proud parents.

DEATHS - November 2008 to March 2009

Lord, grant eternal rest to:-

Maureen Fitzgerald, Broadford Drive • Niall Torpey, Ballinteer Drive • Tom Croke, Pine Valley Avenue
Harry Robinson, Pine Valley Way • Jean Dixon, Ballinteer Crescent • Kay Farrington, Ballinteer Park
Bridget Malone, Ballinteer Park • Larry Humphreys, Ballinteer Crescent

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



WEDDING

Congratulations and best wishes to

Kieran Shorten, Heather Drive
and Lorraine O'Reilly, Dundrum,
who wed on 12th February 2009.

Church Repository Shop

For all your religious cards and gifts for:

**Confirmation • First Holy Communion • Easter • Birthday
Get Well • Thank You • Sympathy • Wedding**

Also Catholic newspapers, magazines, pamphlets

See display at all porches

Shop open after Saturday evening Mass and all Sunday morning Masses

Parish Library

A new library is now open in the Conference Room. There is a fine selection of books which were left to Fr. Richard by priest friends. Thanks are due to Sally Roche for arranging and cataloguing them. They may be borrowed after weekday morning Masses through the Parish Office.

Roof Fund

Following the monthly repayment of €8,000 for March 2009 the balance remaining on the loan of €800,000 is €688,000 inclusive of interest. The last church door collection on 15th March brought in €1,804. The next such collection will be held on Easter Sunday, 12th April. We are very grateful to those who continue to subscribe so generously. Go raibh mile maith agaibh.

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. Our Spring Break for 3 nights was in Sligo. In May we will be going to Barcelona for a week. New members, aged 55+, are very welcome.

Children's Church

Children between the ages of 4 and 10 attending 10 o'clock Mass on Sunday are welcome to join the Children's Church. They assemble at the end of the Church and at the start of Mass proceed to the Conference Room where the readings for the day are explained in terms that the children understand. Angela and her team are getting great theological insights from the children. Recent question: *How do we pray to God?* Answer: *Very politely!* The group returns to the main congregation at the Offertory of the Mass. Parents are always welcome to help.

Cancer Support Group

At 10.15 am on the last Monday of each month Kari Rosvall, 112 Ballinteer Close, hosts a get-together in her home for a cup of tea and chat for people who have been affected by cancer. She would welcome additional tea drinkers to her group. Thank you Kari for this initiative.

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 087 667 7749.

Bereavement Support Group

1st and 3rd Mon. each month: 2pm - 3pm
2nd and 4th Wed. each month: 7pm - 8pm in the Church Conference Room by appointment through the Parish Office (Tel: 499 4203).

Parish Cell Community

Our Cell Community was founded on the concept of 'The Acts of the Apostles' and is now more relevant in these times of great financial and employment uncertainty. We meet in homes in our parish every second Wednesday. We share praise and petition and there is a teaching on a chosen passage of sacred scripture. Most importantly, we can confidentially share our joys and our worries.

If you would like to join us you would be most welcome. We can be contacted on 085 778 8395 or check church notice boards or our parish website for more information.



Holy Week in Orlagh

A Holy Week Retreat will be held in Orlagh directed by the Orlagh Retreat Team, starting with tea on Thursday April 9th at 6.00 pm and ending at noon on Easter Sunday. The retreat will centre on the ceremonies of Holy Week with reflections on the readings in the liturgy. The cost for the retreat is €200 (residential). To book a place please contact Fr. John Byrne OSA, Orlagh Retreat Centre, Old Court Road, Dublin 16. Tel: 01 495 8193. E-mail: info@orlagh.ie

Visitors are welcome to Holy Week ceremonies on Thursday at 8.00 pm, Friday at 3.00 pm and Saturday at 9.00 pm. There will also be Mass on Easter Sunday morning at 10.30 am.

The Legion of Mary changes Lives!

The Legion, founded by Frank Duff in 1921, sprang into media attention recently with a report of a member of the notorious criminal gang, the Westies, turning his back on a life of crime and becoming an active member. However, it isn't just criminals and drug addicts who have found their lives changed but also millions of ordinary lay people. The Legion now has approx. 5 million active members in virtually every country in the world and being parish-based has kept the church alive through civil wars and times of turmoil. Pope John Paul II said that 'the church exists to evangelise' and the Legion of Mary takes his words to heart. The Legion also responds to the needs of the elderly, the lonely and the forgotten. A Praesidium of the Legion of Mary meets on Tuesday nights at 8.00 pm in the Conference Room at the back of the Church.

Happy Easter to all our readers

Date of Next Issue: June 2009