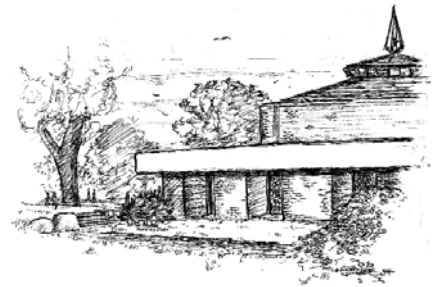


# BALLINTEER PARISH NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2008

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

## Saints Peter and Paul

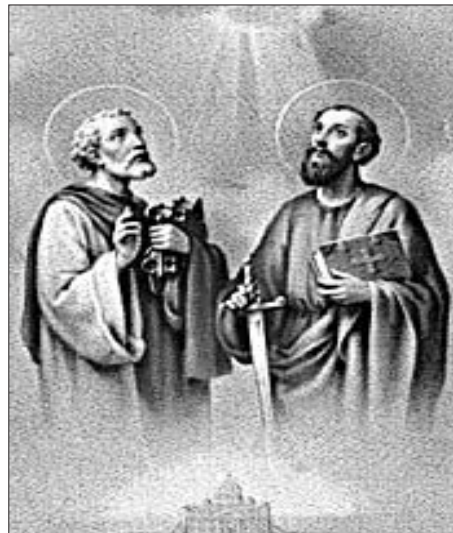
Many people will remember the feast of S.S. Peter & Paul, 29<sup>th</sup> June, as an old holy day of obligation and in some countries it still is because of the importance of these two Saints in the life of the Church. Referred to as the twin columns of the Church of God, Saints Peter & Paul have been celebrated together on this day since at least the fourth century. It is believed that Peter may have been martyred two years before St. Paul and it is generally accepted that Paul suffered death in the year 67 A.D.

Traditionally, St. Peter died by crucifixion upside-down, St. Paul by beheading – as a Roman citizen he would have been exempt from the more ignominious form of death.

St. Peter's name appears 154 times in the New Testament; other times it appears as Simon, which was his original name, while 9 times it is reported as Cephas, in Aramaic. With so many references one can even trace out a biographical sketch of the man.

Within the Gospels, we have the story of a fisherman, suddenly faced with the call from Jesus on the shore of the sea of Tiberias. We notice him on the mountain at the Transfiguration. He is also present at that decisive moment when Jesus proclaims those surprising words: "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church". (Mt. 16,18).

In the New Testament the symbol of the rock is only used in reference to Jesus and to Peter: a symbol which in the Old Testament is reserved for God as the source of hope and security for the believer. Christians have in Christ their perfect foundation stone (1 Cor. 3,11) while Peter has the role of making visible this solid hope which can weather any storm and is not afraid of



death: around Peter "the rock", Christians find stability and unity in Christ.

Those keys and that power "to bind and to loose" represent the mission of Peter, the solid rock where peace is found in the forgiveness of sins, the word of life and participation in God's kingdom.

Peter's personal story is that of the disciple who is conscious of his own shortcomings. The betrayal during that night when Jesus gave himself up for us, makes him very much one of us, able to understand our weaknesses. But it also transforms him into an example to be followed when on the shore of that lake which first saw him as a fisherman, he meets the Risen Christ who asks him "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these others do?" and Peter gives an answer which is intense and simple at the same time "Lord, you know everything, you know I love you" (Jn.21,15,17). Thus Peter returns to be fully the shepherd of the Church who has the role of "strengthening his brothers and sisters in faith" (Lk. 22,32).

If Peter is the rock, then Paul is the mouthpiece. He himself tells us what

his mission is: "the duty of announcing Christ" (1 Cor. 9,16). One of the great Fathers of the Church describes St. Paul in this way: "He moved from one place to another without stopping, pressing some, reaching out to others, faster than the wind. He governed as if the whole world were one ship, lifting those who were sinking, helping those who were falling, ordering the sailors. Sitting on the stern he kept watch on the bow, pulling the ropes. He manoeuvred the oars, stretched out the sails with his eyes on heaven, acting as boatswain, controlling the sails and the ship". Thus St. John Chrysostom describes St. Paul the tireless evangeliser, making his way along the roads and seas of the Roman Empire, firmly believing that his duty was to announce Christ. Deeply united with his Jewish roots, after his conversion he brought with him total dedication for Jesus; it is enough to recall that out of 535 uses of the word "Christ" in the New Testament, at least 400 are to be found in St. Paul's letters.

St. Paul's life had as its centre the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, without which "our preaching is without substance, and so is our faith" (1 Cor. 15,14).

Paul's witness is still alive among us today through his letters, written as he says, "not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on stone tablets but on the tablets of human hearts" (2 Cor. 3,3).

*Lord our God,*

*Encourage us through the prayers of Saints Peter & Paul.*

*May the apostles who strengthened the faith of the infant Church help us on our way of salvation.*

*We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

## Pilgrimage to Fatima

There will be a Padre Pio Prayer Group pilgrimage to Fatima (with 3 nights in Estoril) from **25<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October**. Spiritual Director: Canon Battelle. €800 per person. Booking in Church Conference Room on second Monday each month from 6.45pm to 7.30pm or contact Mr. Tom Ryan (Tel. 01-2986889).

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## Guided Scripture Prayer Retreat

*October 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> (Sunday to Friday)*

Your chance to make a short individually guided retreat while continuing with your normal daily activities!

What does it involve?

1. *Attending a meeting of the whole group – Prayer Guides and participants - on Sunday and Friday nights at 7.30.*

2. *Meeting for 1/2 hour, one to one, with the Prayer Guide assigned to you from Monday to Thursday evenings at an agreed time between 7.30 and 9.00. Your Guide will help you to select Gospel passages and pray with them and allow you to talk as openly as you wish about anything relevant.*

3. *Praying each day with a scripture passage for an agreed period of time.*

Previous experience of Praying with Scripture is not necessary; however places are limited and early application is advisable.

Enquiries and Applications to Fr Jim O'Sullivan at 4944163.

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## Spiritual Guidance

Fr Jim also offers both prayer and spiritual guidance, one to one, on an ongoing basis; also the possibility of doing the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius while continuing with normal daily living. He will be happy to hear from anyone interested.

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## Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina (praying with Scripture) resumes in Church Oratory on Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup>.

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## Parish Assembly

The Parish Pastoral Council is planning a Parish Assembly for Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008. The venue will be the School Hall. More details will be announced early in September.

*Fr. Richard Behan, P.P.*

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## International Male Voice Choir Festival

This took place in our Church on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April and was a great success. The organisers, Ballinteer Male Voice Choir, have kindly donated €1,000 to parish funds. Thank you to BMVC and all who supported the concert.

## Parish Website

[www.ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie)

The number of people accessing our website has greatly increased during the past year. We make every effort to keep the website up to date with all aspects of our parish life but we cannot do it without your help.

If you wish to have details of your Group, Club, Social event, Birthdays, etc. displayed on our 'Bulletin Board' page please send your details by e-mail or drop them into the Sacristy or Parish Office addressed to Jimmy Finlay and, remember, the service is completely free.

As well as finding information about our Parish Community on the website you may also look up our 'Links' page which has information on our neighbouring parishes and over 40 links to some very interesting websites both in Ireland and abroad.

You may contact us by e-mail by clicking on the "Email our Parish" box on the Home Page or at [editor@ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie](mailto:editor@ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie).



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## Eucharistic Adoration in Oratory

Adoration hours are:

*Tuesday - 10am to 10pm*

*Wednesday - 10am to 1pm*

*Thursday - 10am to 1pm*

*Friday - 10am to 10pm*

Some six months ago the hours for Eucharistic Adoration were extended after consultation with parishioners. The response has been excellent and we wish to thank all those who have contributed their time to making this Devotion a success.

Now that the summer is upon us with its holiday commitments, we are asking existing participants to continue their support and to invite others to volunteer some time to this Devotion.

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## Ballinteer Active Retirement

We had our last weekly club meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June before our July/August summer break. We will be resuming at 10.15am on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September in Ballinteer St. John's GAA Pavilion. We have an interesting programme of events, talks, outings etc. planned for the autumn. New members, aged 55+, are always welcome.

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## Bereavement Support Group

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon. each month: 2pm - 3pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. each month: 7pm - 8pm in the Church Conference Room by appointment through the Parish Office (Tel: 4994203).

## Parish Schools

**First Holy Communion:** On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 32 boys and girls received their First Communion in our Church. They were:

*Matthew Boyle, Emma Johnson, Ruairi Browne, Kelly Irwin, Karl Doyle, Molly Flanagan, Alan Emanuel, Isobel Curran, Leon Fox-O'Brien, Katie Ball, Ryan Gough, Rachel O'Shea, Ciaran Graham, Louise O'Mahoney, Jack Hogg, Josh Kerrigan, Grace Pierce, Filipe Moore-Simas, Laura Lee, Jack Murphy, Emer Kilkeny, Cian Nolan, Emma Muldowney, Ellen Maher, Ben O'Leary, Ellen Menton, Matthew Roche, Rachel O'Reilly, Rokas Valadka, Sinead Walsh, Jake Walker, Matthew Rosenkranz.*

The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Richard Behan, P.P. and Canon Battelle, P.E.

Many thanks to the Parents' Association who hosted a lovely reception in the school hall afterwards.

**John Furlong:** The Boards of Management, staff and pupils of both schools wish to convey a special word of thanks and best wishes for retirement to John for his assistance and kindness over many years.

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## GIRLS' SCHOOL NEWS

### *Junior Infants 2008-2009:*

As our numbers are growing, we will have two Junior Infant Classes in September. As a result, we have a few places left. If there are any children who will be four years by the 30<sup>th</sup> September, they are eligible to enrol on their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Tel. No. 4944052 or e-mail: [ballinteergrns.ias@eircom.net](mailto:ballinteergrns.ias@eircom.net).

**3<sup>rd</sup> Green Flag:** On the 20<sup>th</sup> May we received our Third Green Flag at an awards ceremony in An Taisce headquarters. To mark this outstanding achievement we have invited Mr. Tom Kitt, T.D., to raise our Third Green Flag for us.

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## BOYS' SCHOOL NEWS

### *Digital Schools Award:*

The Minister for Education and Science, Mr. Batt O'Keeffe, visited the boys' school on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June to present the school with the Digital Schools Award. This award has been given to only around 56 schools in Ireland since it was launched in 2006. It recognizes a school's excellence in the use of ICT in teaching and learning.

### *Discover Primary Science Excellence Award:*

The school has received this award for the second year running.

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## Good Friday Appeal

The 'Heart to Hand' charity conveys thanks to Ballinteer parishioners who responded so generously to above appeal. Their trucks continue to travel to Albania and Romania with food aid mainly. Website: [www.hearttohand.net](http://www.hearttohand.net).

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## Golden Wedding

Congrats to two special parishioners, Michael and Una Keane, Broadford Avenue, who recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with their daughter Carmel, her family and friends. Michael and Una, from Galway and Offaly, met while both were telephone operators in the Office of Public Works. Michael is a former All-Ireland Chess champion and represented Ireland abroad.

## Papal Honour

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June at the 6 o'clock Vigil Mass the 'Benemerente' medal was presented to retired sacristan John Furlong. The award was in recognition of John's dedicated service to the parish and was presented by Most Reverend Raymond Field, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, who was the principal celebrant at the Mass. At a reception in the School Hall afterwards, Fr. Richard made a financial presentation to John on behalf of the many parishioners who contributed generously. In addition, he was given a sketch of the Church commissioned from local artist Dermot MacGowan.

### John Furlong says 'Thanks'



John writes 'I would like to say thank you again to everyone who helped organise my retirement Mass, to Fr. Behan for putting my name forward for the Benemerenti medal, to the choir for their wonderful singing, to the altar server, to Dermot MacGowan for his beautiful sketch of the Church, to everyone who contributed so generously to the collection, for all your cards and touching words, to all who attended the Mass and function afterwards. I know that a lot of time and effort went into the evening and I am truly grateful. When I learned that Fr. Behan had put my name forward I felt truly privileged. To receive this medal is a great honour for me and it marks the end of 22 very enjoyable years as sacristan. I wish the new sacristan, Tommy, the best of luck.

Thank you to my family, and my late wife Colette, without whom none of this would be possible, as they stood by me and allowed me to devote so much time to the church.

Thank you all for your friendship and support over the years. In thanksgiving I have arranged for the celebration of a Mass for all of your intentions'.

## Our Lady of Lourdes Statue for Parish Grounds

This year we are celebrating 150 years since the apparitions of Our Lady at Lourdes, France. There have been pilgrims and arranged pilgrimages to Lourdes from Ballinteer since the beginning of the parish (1973). The early pilgrimages were under the spiritual direction of the late Fr. Michael Loftus.

I propose to erect a Lourdes shrine at the Broadford entrance to the Church and to dedicate it to the memory of Fr. Loftus and all those deceased who have participated in and arranged these pilgrimages.

If you would like to contribute towards this shrine, please leave any donations into the Sacristy or the Parish Office.

*Fr. Richard Behan, P.P.*

## Chiara Lubich

One of the great spiritual leaders of our time died recently in Italy. She was a native of Trent in Northern Italy who, through a special grace given to her by God, founded the largest lay movement in the Church called Focolare (Hearth). Its official name is Opus di Maria (the Work of Mary).

The writings of Chiara Lubich have been an inspiration to millions around the world, including myself, and her influence on the world stage and for Christian Unity and dialogue between the religions has been profound. On hearing of her death Pope Benedict XVI described her as 'a woman of intrepid faith, a messenger of hope and peace'. Shortly before she died she wrote 'My Testament' and I have included it in this Newsletter as an inspirational witness to her life.

*Fr. Richard Behan, P.P.*

### My Testament

Were I to leave this earth today, and were you to ask me for a final word about what our Ideal is, I would have to say, certain that it would be understood in its deepest sense: 'Be a family.'

Are some among you suffering from spiritual or moral trials? Be understanding to them, as a mother would, and even more. Enlighten them through your words and through your example. Do not allow them to lack the warmth of a family, but rather increase it.

Are any among you in physical pain? May they be our preferred brothers and sisters. Suffer with them. Try to understand their pain completely. Share with them the fruits of your apostolic activities so that they know that, more than anyone else, they have contributed to them.

Are any among you approaching their final moments of life? Imagine you are in their place, and do for them what you would want done for you, until their very last breath.

Are any of you rejoicing because of an achievement, or for any other reason? Rejoice with them, that their consolation may not fade nor their hearts close, so that their joy may belong to everyone.

Are some moving to another place? Do not let them leave without filling their hearts with a single inheritance: the sense of a family, so that they may take it with them wherever they go.

Never place any kind of activity, whether spiritual or apostolic, before the spirit of being a family with the brothers and sisters with whom you are living.

Wherever you go out to bring Christ's ideal, to spread this immense family of the Work of Mary, you will do no better than to try to create the spirit of a family with discretion and prudence, but with solid conviction. It is a humble spirit; it wishes the best for everyone; it is not proud...in a few words, it is true, total charity.

So were I to leave this world today, I would let Jesus in me repeat to you: 'Love one another... so that all may be one.'

*Chiara Lubich*

## Cleaning the Church

Since the opening of the Church we have been fortunate that so many volunteers – mostly women but a few men also – have given of their time each week to help keep it 'spick and span'. Thanks to all. Some additional help is required just now. If you could give up to 2 hours from 10 am to 12 noon on a Monday, the Cleaning Team would love to have your assistance.

Earlier this month the Team lost its most faithful member, Betty Moore, R.I.P., of Ballinteer Park. At her funeral Mass, Monsignor Dan O'Connor, Ballinteer Gardens, recalled that 33 years ago when he and a colleague came to the Church to rehearse for their ordinations, Betty was cleaning the floor and made them wait. She would have treated a bishop in the same way! Betty was a trojan worker who, though slight, could flick over heavy seats without a bother. Recently on her way to 9.30 am Mass she wheeled in the Parish Priest's black bin from the road, as was her custom. She didn't notice that it was still full to the top! Polishing the tabernacle was Betty's favourite job. Betty was also the person who delivered Christmas and Easter Parish Newsletters in 'Old Ballinteer'. She will be sorely missed. In remembering her, we pray also for the happy repose of the souls of those deceased parishioners who, like her, gave of their time to the care of our Church.

### Parish Youth Project: a busy year for youth!

- Parish Youth Team Teens, interparish "thank you" event team, Youth music group 'Echo', Church Drama Group, Children's Church team (more volunteers 15+ urgent!), Young Carol Singers, Christian Youth gatherings e.g. check out [www.mad2008.com](http://www.mad2008.com), new altar servers, Spirit Camp 2009, all had a good year and are dying to see some new faces (and a drummer!) in next school year!
- BCS teen group of 'Friends of the Elderly', recording the lives of the elderly. Still spaces for conversations with caring teens - leave details with BCS on 2988195.
- We won over €10,000 through AIB Better Ireland Awards for the employment of a youth worker to support voluntary youth work to date and to develop 'The Quarry', a monthly teen-run youth venue. (Thanks to information meeting with Mary White TD we have our management team in place, with first event this summer). Any ideas for a weekly venue?

Many, many thanks to all involved! Have a great Summer! [tarnyreilly@eircom.net](mailto:tarnyreilly@eircom.net) and see Parish Website.

### Leinster Fleadh Cheoil – 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> July

A week long celebration of traditional Irish music comprising competitions, workshops and concerts at Ballinteer and Dundrum venues. Artists such as Sean O'Shea, Martin Donohue & friends, Bruce Scott and friends and Andy Irvine. See posters or e-mail [dublin@comhaltas.net](mailto:dublin@comhaltas.net) for details.



## BAPTISMS - March - June 2008

*We welcome into our Christian Community:-*

Jennifer Marie Newell  
Sophia Aurora Morrissey  
Edward Patrick Thornton Quirke  
Rory David McDonagh  
Patrick Peter Carroll  
Tadhg Andrew Bartelink  
Rachel Pia Rigby  
Mark Edward Cosgrove

Michael Brian Jake O'Mahoney  
Conor Eugene McErlean  
Adam Tony Dixon  
Charlotte Amelic Quirke  
Grace Irene Payne  
Kayla Bridget O'Toole  
Cathal Michael Ramphul  
Cayleigh Reinne Marquez

Lucia Marie Hosey  
Alex Noel McCabe  
Megan Ellen Goggins  
Maximus John Michael Bottomley  
Leah Elizabeth O'Connor  
Niamh Kate Kelly  
Emily Mary and Cathy Julie Ginty



*Congratulation to the proud parents.*

## DEATHS - March - June 2008

*Lord, grant eternal rest to:-*

Paul Keeley, Kingston Grove  
Marie Duffy, Broadford Close  
Maura Ryan, Broadford Hill  
Daniel Charles Lamon, Broadford Drive  
Patrick Doyle, Ballinteer Park  
Joanne Goyle, Broadford Rise

Bernie Shorten, The Lawn, Woodpark  
Brid Fahey, Broadford Drive  
Patrick Murphy, The Glade, Woodpark  
Kathleen Hollowed, Ballinteer Gardens  
Betty Moore, Ballinteer Park  
Sean Farrelly, Broadford Rise

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

## WEDDINGS - March - May 2008

*Congratulations and best wishes to*

Sharon Rosemary Mulligan, Kellystown Road and Padraic Michael King, Churchtown.  
Deirdre McNally, Ballinteer Drive and Darren White, Broadford Crescent.  
Niamh Moore, Chestnut Grove and Jonathan Cherry, Cloverhill, Co. Cavan

*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. 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 Summer 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.*

### Church Repository Shop

*For all your religious goods:*

Rosary Beads • Holy water fonts  
Statues • Pictures  
Devotional Candles  
Bibles and Books for Adults and Children  
Pamphlets and Novenas  
Cards for every occasion

Open after Saturday evening Mass and all Sunday morning Masses

### 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.

### Trócaire

Trócaire thanks the people of Ballinteer Parish for their donation of €1,164 for their work with the world's poorest people.  
[www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)

### Roof Fund

The amount collected in the Church door collections stands at €170,857. To date €184,000 has been repaid off the loan of €860,000 leaving a balance to pay of €676,000. The repayments are €8,000 per month. A very big "go raibh maith agat" to those who continue to subscribe to the collection.

### Legion of Mary

We meet on Tuesday evenings in the Conference Room at 8 pm. We do nursing home visitation, home visitation and visitation with a statue of Our Lady. We hope to start a Junior Praesidium on Thursday afternoons in late September.

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation in Mary's and the Church's work.

**Date of Next Issue: September 2008**