



Newsletter

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART
DONNYBROOK



BEES AND CHRISTMAS

It was the belief of people in the Middle Ages that on Christmas bees woke up and hummed songs of praise for Jesus. Psalm 100 was among their repertoire. Find it in your bible and read the beautiful words of praise. However, only people who were holy enough could hear the humming!

In rural parts of England some still believe that bees buzz lullabies on Christmas Eve. Bee Keepers in some places decorate their hives with holly and toast their good health with mugs of hot spiced cider. (Let me know if you would like the recipe!) A similar tradition has been part of German life. In those days many people believed that bees came from heaven. They were seen as symbols of tireless activity. Besides providing honey, they pollinate flowers and many important food items enjoyed in Christmas celebrations.

Bees have a reputation of being in a hurry, but they slowed down to interact with the birth of Jesus.

Advent is a wonderful time for us to slow down our pace of life, to listen a little more carefully and spend more time in quiet conversation with God.

Declan Gallagher CC



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

The priests of the Parish and the Newsletter team wish you a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fr Pat Carroll PP



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

As Eucharistic Adoration takes a Christmas Holiday break, all who support this beautiful devotion to the Blessed Eucharist would like to thank most sincerely all who continue to participate in this devotion to our Blessed Lord. We are so grateful to all who supported the lovely decoration of the Adoration Chapel, and we look forward to many years of prayerful reflection in our beautiful, calm and peaceful Chapel.

The Christmas Holiday break will begin at 5.00 p.m. on TUESDAY 22nd December and RESUME on MONDAY 12th January at 9.00 a.m.

Usual hours for Adoration will continue from MONDAY 12 January 2009

- MONDAYS 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
- TUESDAYS 7.00 a.m. - 9.00 p.m.
- WEDNESDAYS 9.00 a.m. - 8.00 p.m.

THANK YOU

PARISH LOOP SYSTEM, PARISH RADIO, RENOVATION OF THE ADORATION CHAPEL AND RENOVATION OF THE KITCHEN IN THE PARISH CENTRE.

I wish to express my sincere thanks for the generous donations received from the parishioners in respect of the above improvements. This support and the accompanying letters of encouragement are deeply appreciated.

Fr Pat Carroll PP

CHURCH MAINTENANCE

The Church Maintenance collection is in urgent need of support. The upkeep of the Church, light, heat, insurance, altar requisites, misselettes, day to day repairs and more extensive repairs such as the roof are funded by way of the weekly envelope collection, direct debits and by individual donations.

None of the collections at Mass or the Christmas or Easter dues are applied to the maintenance fund.

I wish to thank the 425 families and individuals who support this collection, the weekly collectors and the Monday night group who generously give of their time to process the collection.

There is considerable goodwill towards the upkeep of the Church but many are unaware of the situation, or may not have been invited to contribute. The Parish Finance Committee will be seeking the support of parishioners in helping to re-organise the Church Maintenance /Family Offering Collection. The members of the committee are Eugene McCague (Chairman), Brendan Carrigy, John Donnelly, David Horkan, Caroline O'Shea, Barbara McKenzie, Michael O'Connor and Dr. Niall Tierney.

Fr Pat Carroll PP

AVILA CARMELITE CENTRE NEW PRIOR AT AVILA

Bloomfield Avenue, Donnybrook

I was born in Broadford, Co. Limerick, in 1941. I entered the Carmelites in 1959 and was ordained in 1966. After further studies in Rome, I was assigned to the Philippines in 1973 where I worked until 1988, when two others and I were assigned to start the Carmelite mission in Nigeria, which by 2007 had grown to the point where I felt superfluous to requirement. In 2007 I returned to a vastly changed and different Ireland to the one I left in 1973, and was assigned at Avila Carmelite Centre, where in June 2008 (for my sins) I was made Prior.

Avila exists to promote Christian living and spirituality. We have an open door with mass at 6pm Monday - Friday, 12 noon Saturdays and Sundays. All are welcome to join us at Evening Prayer immediately after the 6 pm mass. We run retreats, courses, lectures; we provide spiritual direction and guidance in the ways of prayer and other means of being open to the fullness of life Christ offers us. We are parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish, Donnybrook, and we cherish our long-standing spiritual bonds with the priests and people of the parish.

Michael Fitzgerald OCD

AVILA ADVENT RETREATS PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday, 13th December
11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Joe Birmingham, OCD

Saturday, 20th December
11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Please bring packed lunch. Tea & coffee provided. Suggested donation: € 10

AVILA PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES ON SPIRITUALITY

Tuesday, 16th December 2008,
8:00 - 9:30 p.m.

THE LANGUAGE OF ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

Nicholas Madden, OCD

Avila Carmelite Centre,
Bloomfield Avenue. Phone: 01 643 0200;
fax: 01 643 0281 E-mail: avila@ocd.ie

DONNYBROOK CHRISTMAS TREE

Beechill and Donnybrook community will light the Christmas tree on Monday the 8th of December at 7pm. All are welcome. Neighbours who have lost a family member in the past year can bring a candle or other item to place on the tree in memory of their relatives. The Christmas tree is located opposite Kielys pub.

THE PASTORAL COUNCIL

The newly formed Pastoral Council has met twice in recent weeks to ensure that the progress made by the previous Council continues into the future.

Items that have been focused upon include:

Feedback from Parishioners concerning the Loop system and the Parish Radio. Great appreciation has been shown by a number of people, especially housebound parishioners who once again feel very much a part of the spiritual community of Donnybrook.

5 year Parish Development plan has been proposed and whilst this project is in its infancy it will be very worthwhile and will cover a comprehensive number of topics. Further details of this plan will be announced over the coming months.

The Parish Website is still progressing and should be in place in early 2009.

A Youth / Folk mass is being seriously examined by the Pastoral Council and volunteers will be sought to assist with this very important project. So if you are aged between 15 and 25 years of age and feel that you would like to participate then please leave your details into the Sacristy or the office in the Parish Centre.

Chairperson = Vincent Keaveny

Secretary = Tony Macdonald

President = Fr. Pat Carroll

Other members are: Fr. Declan, Sr. Bertha, Marie Brady, Deirdre Leonard, Lil O'Leary, Geraldine Frame, Crona Sheehan, Agnes McCourt, Kenneth Carroll, Grainne Davitt, John Donnelly, John Holohan.

Vincent and myself remain in office until the end of this year and in January an election for the chairperson and secretary will be held.

Tony Macdonald
Hon. Secretary

THE TERESIAN ASSOCIATION PERU SALE

Thank you to all who came along and supported our annual fund raising sale for the Teresian Association Projects in Villa El Salvador, Peru, on Sunday 23rd November. Thanks to your generosity we raised €2,635 which will go directly to Villa El Salvador. Thank You! *Inez Neira*

A BIG THANK YOU

Mary Malone would like to thank everyone who prayed for her and sent her good wishes during her illness.

PARISH SHOP

The Parish Shop or Repository has recently received a number of seasonal items such as Advent calendars and prayer books, children's Christmas books, cribs and not to forget our Parish Christmas Cards.

The shop of course also facilitates Mass Cards, has an expanding lending library, and sells Catholic periodicals and items such as Fairtrade goods.

The committee are currently looking for people to join them both in the organisation and stocking of the Shop and in the day to day running with the possibility of providing a service before weekday Masses.

We see the Shop as an important faith and education resource in our Parish and urge you to support it.

Daragh Mulvagh, Shop Committee

Fr Pat Carroll PP

BALLSBRIDGE, DONNYBROOK AND SANDYMOUNT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thursday, 11 December 2008

The Annual General Meeting and Members' Evening giving our members an opportunity to talk about an item of historical interest.

If you wish to give a short presentation (5/6 minutes), please contact Gail Wolfe by text or call to her mobile phone.

Venue: St. Mary's National School, Belmont Avenue, at 8.00 p.m.
Parking is available.

Anyone wishing to join can obtain an application form and details of events at Pembroke Library, Anglesea Road or can visit the Society's new website at www.bdshistory.org

YOUTH CORNER

CONGRATULATIONS to our overall winner, Rebekah Murphy, age 14, from Mount Anville, who receives a €50 book token. Michelle Blake, age 13, Róisín Mac Dermott Casement, age 13, Grace de Bláca, age 14, and Helen Birmingham, age 17, all from the Teresian School, each receive €20 book tokens. Thank you to all those who submitted excellent essays and poems. We encourage all the youth of the parish to submit further essays, on any subject that might interest our readers, to newsletter@vodafone.ie

CHRISTMAS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

If some one would walk into a Christian house during the month of December they would look around at many things: a Christmas tree in the corner dripping with decorations, a wreath hanging on the door and a Nativity Scene featuring the birth of the Christ surrounded by the Virgin Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Three Wise Men. All of these Christmas features are all related to the Christian faith and they help us to remember why we celebrate Christmas.

As we came into the 21st Century a lot of changes have been occurring. Many people believe this holiday is about obtaining the perfect present among other things. Modern life has overshadowed our ancient traditions and this may be one reason why people feel the need to ask the question: Has Christ been left out of Christmas in the 21st Century? But I believe that just because people have more priorities to cover during this holiday does not mean that their main priority has been forgotten. They still have Jesus in their thoughts during this time.

One of the reasons that I believe this is that if you go into any church around

the Christmas season you will notice that how the church is filled twice as much then any other time in the year. This tells us that peoples faith burns brighter then ever at this time as they listen to the stories of Jesus and watch as one candle is lit on the Advent wreath every week nearing the time of Jesus's birth and the founding of a new religion.

If our parents generation think back to their memories of Christmas they can tell you that the main tradition that has changed is that thirty years ago not a single shop would have been open on Christmas Day and many remained closed on St. Stephen's Day. We can see how this has drastically changed in the 21st Century. Many people have their own assumptions but I believe that the reasons for this change is that Ireland used to be prominently a Christian country. In the last twenty years many different religions have migrated into Ireland so in result of this all holidays cannot be based on the Christian calendar.

Although people have the responsibility to keep Christ from being forgotten during Christmas season it is also the responsibility of the schools, the parents

and the Parish to not allow our faith to be clouded over by the materialistic side of Christmas. They are doing this in many ways. The primary schools have been doing nativity plays to teach children why we have Christmas and why Christ's role is so important in it. In the secondary schools they perform Carol services to remind students of the story of Christmas. Parents have the greatest influence on their children and can help them understand why Jesus Christ is so important by bringing them to church here the Parish plays their role by preaching to the parishioners and trying to do so in a way that all will understand.

In conclusion I believe that Jesus Christ has not been left out of Christmas but it is our responsibility to make sure that the religious side of Christmas remains alive throughout this holiday by realising that times have changed. This does not mean that our faith has, and, with the help of the parish, parents and schools, Christ will remain the prominent person in this holiday for future generations.

By Rebekah Murphy

SVP

The Annual Collection for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society will take place at the Vigil Mass on Saturday 13th and all Masses on Sunday, 14th December.

FAMILY MASS

The next Family Mass will take place at 10.30am on Sunday, 14th December. There will also be a Family Mass on Christmas Day at 10.30am.

TOY SUNDAY - 14TH DEC

Gifts of toys to be distributed to needy children can be brought to the 10.30 mass on 14th December or any other mass that day. They should be wrapped with a suggested age marked on the gift.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

The Penitential Service will be conducted at **7.30pm on Tuesday 16th December**. There will be a number of visiting confessors.

CAROL SERVICE

The Parish Carol Service will take place on Sunday 21st December at 7.30pm and involves the Parish Choir and the pupils of St Mary's National School, Belmont Avenue.

MONSIGNOR MICHAEL NOLAN

Monsignor Michael Nolan is making a good recovery following his recent illness and the priests and people of the Parish extend their good wishes and assure him of a remembrance in prayer.

FATHER BOYERS

Archbishop Martin has appointed Fr John Boyers as Parish Chaplain in Donnybrook with effect from 14th October. We extend a warm welcome to Fr Boyers and wish him every blessing and happiness in his ministry in Donnybrook.



DONNYBROOK NEIGHBOURS

For information on Donnybrook Neighbours call 01-269 5049 or contact the Parish Office.

HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING SEPT 18TH

Thanks to all who attended and to those who sent contributions. The figure raised was €2,085 and the Hospice is most grateful. Thanks also to the following local businesses who gave raffle prizes: Butler's Pantry, Courtyard Restaurant, Donna Flowers, Donnybrook Pharmacy, Dunnes Master Butchers, Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club, Roy Fox, Hampton Books, Khans Balti House, Lyknu Cleaners, Longs Pub, Madigans Pub, Molloys Fish Shop, Montrose Hotel, Morehampton Pharmacy, Nutley Newsagent, O'Brien's Fine Wines, Radisson Hotel, Revive, Rosanna Crothers Beauty Salon, The Pharmacy Woodbine Road, Tesco Merrion, Tony Walsh Pharmacy.

*Mary McDonogh, Marian Horgan,
Grainne Davitt.*

LORETO PAST PUPILS UNION

Thank you to everyone who attended our cake sale on 16th November. The amount raised was €900.

Murial Fitzpatrick, President

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

- There will be an Ecumenical Carol Service in Christ Church Sandymount on Sunday, 14th December.

- Church Unity Week will take place in the first week of January

- A 'Walk of Light' took place on Sunday 23rd November including members of 9 Christian denominations in preparation for Advent. Each year the walk takes in 3 different churches. This year it moved from Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church to the Methodist Centenary Church Leeson Park to St Mary's Catholic Church, Haddington Road.



MARRIAGES

We congratulate

John Hennessy and Sarah Fanning
James Kelly and Una Kennedy
Damyan Jaksic and Karen O'Grady
Enda Leaney and Iseult Coolahan
Simon Kenny and Mary Elizabeth Dunne
and wish them every happiness



BAPTISMS

We welcome the following, recently baptised to the Christian Community in Donnybrook.

Abigail Johanna Foy Holland Keoghan

Fiona Amelie Farsi

Liam Adrian Farsi

Sarah Catherine Brodie

Genevieve Mary Prendeville

Molly May O'Connell

Ciara O'Farrell

Matilda Charley O'Donohoe and

Madeline Catherine O'Donohoe

Izabelle Brigid O'Callaghan

Lucy Mary Angela Bueckert

and Diana Mary Elizabeth Bueckert

Christian Conor Gerard Murphy

Eva Grace Ryan

Lucy McGarry

Yumo Curtis Duignan

Elsbeth Julie Mohan

Jacob Finán Megyeri

Alex Ryan Donohoe

Ella Lavelle-Hayes

Robyn Boynton Lavelle

Zac Tam Looney

Caoimhe Ann Dalton

Daisy Jo Costello

Daniel George Thomson

Henry Michael Keane

Sarah Elizabeth Brazil



DECEASED

We extend the sympathy of the parish to the families of the following who died recently.

Mary Maloney

Noel Conway

Paula Barry

Tony Gleeson

Michael Lynch

Sive O'Hart

Pamela Brennan

Brendan Francis Merry

Eavan Sutton

Billy Fitzpatrick

Noni O'Cathain

Nance Byrne

James Kirwan

Philip O'Connor

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE

6pm and 12 MIDNIGHT.

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30am

The Church Parish Choir with soloists and orchestral players will sing the MIDNIGHT Mass and the 11.30am Mass on Christmas Day. The 10.30am Mass on Christmas Day will be a Family Mass.

There will be no evening Mass in Donnybrook on Christmas Day. The only evening Mass on Christmas Day is celebrated at 8pm in Francis Street.

The weekday Masses after Christmas Day are celebrated at 11am instead of the usual 10am. The regular timetable returns on Wednesday 7th January.

Masses for the Feast of the Epiphany - Tuesday 6th January will be celebrated at 9.30am, 10.30am, 1.10pm. and 6pm.

There will be a Vigil Mass at 6pm on Monday 5th January.

PRIESTS OF THE PARISH

Fr. Patrick Carroll, Parish Priest

Tel: 283 8311

Fr. Declan Gallagher, Curate

Tel: 269 2052

Fr. John Boyers, Parish Chaplain

Tel: 668 4356

Monsignor Richard Sherry,

Pastor Emeritus

Tel: 269 2102

PARISH TEAM

Pastoral Sister: Sr. Bertha

Tel: 269 3926

Director of Music: Catherine Killoran

Tel: 087 233 1797

Organist: Michael Quinn

Tel: 085 362 3128

PARISH CENTRE

Mon - Fri 10.30 - 2.30 pm: Mrs. Cassidy

Tel: 269 3926 Fax: 269 3903

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coreen Dennis 269 4852

Mary McDonogh 269 2338

Peter Dunn 668 3074

Gaye Fallon 283 9059

Daragh Mulvagh 269 4482

Mary Plunkett 668 3407

Correspondence to the Parish Centre.

SPONSOR

Thanks to Eva and Mary Briscoe who have kindly sponsored this edition of the Newsletter. We are most grateful for their generosity.