

Newsletter

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART
DONNYBROOK



DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Springtime is for all of us a wonderful time of year, a season full of hope and promise. Nature comes alive again, the weather improves and the long evenings stretch invitingly before us.

It is also a special time for Christians as we gather together in Holy Week to celebrate the Paschal Mystery, the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. At Easter time we recall with gladness and joy the triumph of light over darkness, of life over death, for the Cross far from being a symbol of defeat is rather an emblem of victory!

The Easter Season is a 'Spiritual Springtime' in our Christian lives, a time for new beginnings as we strive to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, putting into action the values He articulated and lived out in His life.

But this is also a Springtime overshadowed by dark clouds in the life of the Irish Church. The Pope's Pastoral Letter to the Catholics of Ireland has just been published, and we pray that it will mark the beginning of a new Springtime, a time of radical renewal for the Church on this island.

This is not a time to be despondent, nor is it a time to be complacent. Rather it is a time to renew our faith in Jesus Christ our crucified and risen Lord and to proclaim with joy that 'We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our Song'!

My fellow-priests join with me in wishing you and your families all the blessings of the Easter Season.

Fr Martin Clarke PP



*We are an Easter People
and Alleluia is our Song!*

SACRAMENTS

Confirmation will be held in our church on Sunday 25th April 2010 at 3pm.

Communion for the Teresian School will be held on Saturday 8th May 2010 at 11am and Communion for St. Mary's National School will take place on Saturday 15th May 2010 at 11am.

Morning Mass on the Communion days will be celebrated at 9:30am.

CONSULTATION ON SUNDAY MASS TIMES

At recent meetings, the Parish Pastoral Council has been discussing Sunday Mass times in Donnybrook.

At present, we have six Masses every weekend – the Saturday Evening Vigil Mass, four Masses on Sunday morning and the Sunday evening Mass. The total attendance is an average of c1800, or c300 people at each Mass, in a church that seats c900.

In the light of these figures, it appears timely to review our Weekend Mass Schedule. In particular, the timing of the four Sunday Masses at 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am and 12.30pm puts pressure on the worthy celebration of the liturgy and also creates significant car-parking problems.

As a first step, the Parish Pastoral Council has organised a count of Mass attendance to be made at all the weekend Masses in March. This will form the basis of a consultation with parishioners after Easter as to what changes, if any, should be made in the current arrangements. In particular, it would seem practical to reduce the number of Sunday morning Masses from four to three.

In addition, the possibility of introducing a weekly Family Mass (on Sunday mornings) geared towards young children and a Young Adult Mass (on Sunday evenings) will be explored.

Finally, a review of Holy Day Mass Times will also be undertaken.

Your observations and suggestions are not only welcome but important!

Fr Martin Clarke PP



MONSIGNOR MICHAEL NOLAN

The following is an extract from Dr. Sherry's homily at the Requiem Mass for Monsignor Nolan, a friend and contemporary, who died last December. The full piece is a fitting tribute for a "faithful servant of the Lord".

Ordained in Rome in 1951, he was a distinguished and challenging pupil, who subsequently did his doctorate in theology, and studied psychology in Cambridge. In time, he earned the chair of psychology in UCD. He belonged to a generation of Dublin priests who made a magnificent contribution to Catholic scholarship in University College, Dublin. In addition, he served as President of the Mater Dei Institute of Education. Reflecting on his experience as diocesan exorcist - "it was never easy".

His immersion of St. Thomas Aquinas had a life long effect on his thinking. He was fascinated by the story of our origins, our ideas on God and our views on original sin. He deplored our failure to use our imagination to deepen our understanding of faith".

In spite of his busy schedule, he was generous with his time, full of warmth, concern and good humour.

He loved to pray and reflect in our church, sitting quietly beside Harry Clarke's wonderful stained glass windows.

Inevitably there comes a defining moment for each of us when we reach the boundary that divides time for eternity. One of us has to go forward to open the gate and then turn and say goodbye.

A great light has gone out in society.
Rest in peace.

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY TEA DAY

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is holding its annual Tea Day on Thursday 6th May 2010.

There are over 44,000 people in Ireland living with Alzheimer's disease. The Alzheimer Society is the leading dementia-specific service provider in Ireland and must raise €5 million a year to continue providing much needed services.

Alzheimer's Tea Day is an opportunity for people to come together and raise funds by hosting a Tea Day Party in their home, office or school. Participation is easy and funds raised are allocated to the closest service/branch of The Alzheimer Society. All money raised locally, stays locally.

Every year on Alzheimer's Tea Day, thousands of good people all over Ireland come together to share a cup of tea, and remember the lives of loved ones with Alzheimer's disease, you can be one of these people.

Make this Tea Day a real Day to Remember!

Additional Forthcoming Fundraising events include The Cuba Cycle Challenge in May and the Mini Marathon in June.

On behalf of the Society may I thank you for continuing generous support.

Niall Tierney. Thank you

PADRE PIO

On the first Tuesday of the month at 7:45pm in the Convent chapel, Sisters of Charity, Donnybrook. Consists of Rosary, Mass and blessing with the relic. All are welcome.

Padre Pio invites us to have a smile for God, for our neighbour and for ourselves. It costs us nothing. It does not impoverish the person who gives it and it enriches the person who receives it. Let us all have a happy smiling Easter!

THANKS

Thanks to Jacqueline Smyth and her team for the lovely flowers at Christmas and throughout the year.

THANKS

There were a number of special collections in our Parish church recently.

The total amount raised before Christmas for the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) was €39,900

The appeal for Haiti raised €17,330

And Accord, the Catholic Marriage Care Service, raised €6,438.

We are most grateful for these very generous responses.

MUCKROSS PAST PUPILS' UNION FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL DINNER

Friday 23rd April 2010 @ 7:30pm in the Stillorgan Park Hotel, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Tickets €45.

Bookings not later than 16th April to Muckross Park PPU, 57 Ann Devlin Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.

PPU MASS IN MUCKROSS

1st Sunday of February, March, April, September, October, November and December at 11:15am in Muckross Park.

D.A.R.A NEWS

Congratulations to the Art Group on their recent successful Art Exhibition. On March 27th the active retired are going to an evening of Rogers and Hammerstein by the R and R in the National Concert Hall. Forthcoming D.A.R.A. events include on April 6th a Talk by Brian Siggins "Some Dublin Characters You May Remember". On April 20th a Talk by Seamus O'Connor "From Auld Dunleary to modern Dun Laoghaire".

On Sunday April 25th Springtime in Cork, a 3 day trip to the southern city with excursions to local attractions staying for 3 nights with dinner in the Imperial Hotel, and a lunch in the famous English Market.

May 11th: "Concern for the world"
Speaker: John O'Loughlin Kennedy.

May 25th: Stretching - Alison Galbraith.

The Donnybrook Active Retirement Association meets regularly in the Parish Centre for further information contact Mona Stanton 2691320, or Christine O'Nolan 2196006.

PARISH CHOIR

Our Parish Choir was established in 1980 and is celebrating thirty years in the parish. An event to mark this anniversary will be announced later in the year. The Choir, together with our parish community, will feature in a live broadcast of Mass for Holy Thursday on RTE Radio 1; this will take place in Sacred Heart Church on Thursday 1st April at 7.30pm.

Michael Quinn

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

The Service of Reconciliation will be held at 7.30pm on Spy Wednesday 31st March. Details of other times of confession over Easter can be found on the back page of the newsletter.

CURA

Unexpected Pregnancy is hard to face.
Talk to Cura (free & confidential)
Phone: 01 671 0598 or 1850 622 626
Web: www.cura.ie

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration in the Adoration Chapel concludes at 5.00pm on Spy Wednesday 31st March and resumes on Monday 12th April.

YOUTH CORNER

SENIOR CUP FINAL

Congratulations go to the boys and coaches at St. Michael's College who made it through to the SCT final in RDS on St. Patrick's Day. Although overcome by Clongowes (32 - 20), St. Michael's played a plucky and inventive game,

JUNIOR CUP FINAL

Unfortunately it was not to be St. Michael's year. Soundly beaten by Terenure College.

Margaret Whitla

PEACE MASS HOMILY - EXTRACTS

On the World Day of Peace, January 1st, 2010, the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Diarmuid Martin presided at Mass in Donnybrook.

The homily was given by our Parish Priest, Fr. Martin Clarke. His address attracted much favourable comment.

From feed-back received in the Parish, we are encouraged to share some of Fr. Martin's thoughts:

"In reviewing the state of the world on this first day of the New Year, I would suggest that there are two mindsets we need to avoid - despondency and complacency. It is easy to become despondent when we hear endless reports of unresolved conflict in so many locations. But we must surely recognise the peace that has been achieved and sustained in so many parts of the world. The European Union, for instance, is an extraordinary testament to the determination of countries ravaged by two World Wars to ensure that such events will never happen again. And here on this island of Ireland, the enduring success of the Northern Ireland Peace Process and the Good Friday Agreement remind us that, with perseverance, seemingly intractable conflicts can be resolved.

Equally, we can so easily become complacent about the state of our world, somehow allowing ourselves to accept that there will always be conflict and that there is nothing much we can do about it. But every Christian has an obligation not only to pray for peace but also to make his or her contribution to the establishment of peace on earth. And so often, this begins with our own individual relationships where we can improve communication, deepen understanding and offer forgiveness. Someone once said 'I love Mankind: it's People I can't stand!' We can be starry-eyed and emotional about our desire for world peace while overlooking the need to be reconciled with those closest to us. In the Beatitudes, Jesus says Blessed are the Peacemakers, they shall be called children of God (Mt. 5:9) but as one commentator noted 'the blessing is on the peace-makers, not necessarily on the peace-lovers. The peace which Jesus calls

blessed does not come from the evasion of issues: it comes from facing them, dealing with them and conquering them' (Barclay).

The Message of Pope Benedict XVI for World Day of Peace 2010 takes up this theme. The thrust of his Message is summed up in its title: If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation. Pope Benedict says that 'the environment must be seen as God's gift to all people, and the use we make of it entails a shared responsibility for all humanity, especially the poor and future generations'. He reminds us that 'our present crises - be they economic, food-related, environmental or social - are also moral crises, and all of them are interrelated'.

But there is a sense in which the message of Jesus Christ is for us, His followers, 'an inconvenient truth'. The Gospel, evergreen in its relevance to the human experience, constantly challenges us to take stock of our lives and to ask ourselves what it is that our God is calling us to be and to do. As has often been said, Christ's message comforts the disturbed and disturbs the comfortable. On this World Day of Peace 2010, He calls us not only to be bearers of peace and reconciliation in our own lives but also to reflect on the present state of our planet and how we are going to shape its future. He provokes us to review our lifestyles so that others - particularly the poor and future generations - may benefit.

In our Eucharist today we celebrate the birth of Jesus, His reconciling death and His hope-filled resurrection. May this New Year's Day Eucharist truly be a 'Banquet for the World': expressing our commitment to Peace on Earth, reflecting our reverence for God's Creation and anticipating with joy the great Banquet of Eternity.

And may Mary, the Mother of Jesus, guide and sustain us throughout this New Year."

We are lucky to have such a good shepherd looking after our parish in these difficult times.

Fr Conor Harper SJ Curate



BAPTISMS

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

Anita Branna Ryan
Sadbh Rose Power
Matilda Elaine Shine
Brian Fredrick McMahon
Sophie Anais Barrett
Vanessa Catherine Tierney
Jack William Bohill
Molly Anne McGloughlin
Sophie Ann O'Connor
Patrick Thomas O'Dwyer
Elina Christine Comerford
Jed Terence Dinawanao Malabo
Harrison Peter Owens
Ellen Lisa Marsh
Sadbh Imelda Treacy
Kieran Angelo Herradura
Méabh Kate Twomey
Amy Jennifer Dolan
Harry Niall Maloney
Miller Hanoria Columb
John Marco Catapang
Clara Isobel Brodie



DECEASED

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

Teresa (Terry) Byrne
(Christopher) Noel Doyle
Mary Carolan
Maeve Antoinette Farron
James (Jim) Sheerin
Peter Ellison
Cecily Normoyle
Monsignor Michael Nolan
Donal Buckley
Rita Roche
Blánaid Irvine
Geraldine Keohane
Nuala McLean
Ita Fahie
Mary Smith
Dudley Joynt
Vivienne (Vi) O'Dowd
Michael Fitzpatrick
Eileen Hackett
Richard (Dick) Tiedt
Brian Mathews
Eamon (Teddy) Davis
Tommy Taylor



MARRIAGES

We congratulate

Jonathan Cooney & Clare Horgan
John Harrington & Sophie O'Connor
and wish them every happiness.

BALLSBRIDGE, DONNYBROOK AND SANDYMOUNT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Historical Society finishes its Spring series of lectures on Thursday 15 April 2010 with a lecture entitled: From Baggot Street to Pembroke Road by John Maiben Gilmartin.

Venue: 8pm on Thurs 15th April, St. Mary's National School, Belmont Ave.

HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY 28th March
Blessing of Palms at all Masses (including Vigil Mass on Saturday evening)

SPY WEDNESDAY 31st March
Eucharistic Adoration in the Adoration Chapel concludes at 5.00pm and resumes on Monday 12th April
Penitential Service in preparation for Easter at 7.30pm with opportunity for individual Confessions

HOLY THURSDAY 1st April
No morning Masses
7.30pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper
9.00pm: 'Watch & Pray' at the Altar of Repose

GOOD FRIDAY 2nd April
No morning Masses
12.00 noon: Children's Way of the Cross
3.00pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7.30pm: Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY 3rd April
No morning Mass - No 6pm Vigil Mass
9pm: Easter Vigil & Mass of the Resurrection

EASTER SUNDAY 4th April
Masses at 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am (Choir), 12.30pm & 5.30pm

EASTER MONDAY 5th April
One morning Mass only at 11.00am

TUES 6th April to SAT 10th April:
One morning Mass only at 10.00am

HOLY WEEK CONFESSIONS

Spy Wednesday 31st March:
Service of Reconciliation at 7.30pm

Holy Thursday 1st April:
8.30pm to 9.00pm

Good Friday 2nd April:
4.00pm to 5.00pm

Holy Saturday 3rd April:
10.00am to 1.00pm

PARISH PRIESTS

Fr. Martin Clarke, Parish Priest,
Tel: 087 220 8044

Fr. Conor Harper S.J., Curate,
Tel: 218 0244

Fr Julius Shibanda
Tel: Curate 087 611 5660

Fr. John Boyers, Parish Chaplain
Tel: 668 4356

Monsignor Richard Sherry,
Pastor Emeritus
Tel: 269 2102

PARISH OFFICE

Pending appointment of a Parish Secretary all correspondence may be addressed to:

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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

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coreen Dennis	269 4852
Mary McDonogh	269 2338
Niall Loftus	269 2063
Daragh Mulvagh	269 4482
Mary Plunkett	668 3407
Margaret Whitla	260 0329

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SPONSOR

Thanks to Henry & Mary Crowley who have kindly sponsored this edition of the Newsletter. We are most grateful for their generosity.