

Newsletter

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART
DONNYBROOK



PASTORAL CHALLENGES FACING THE FAMILY

In October of 2013, Pope Francis took the unusual initiative of inviting Catholics all over the world to participate in a consultation on the Pastoral Challenges Facing the Family. The particular context of this consultation was the next Synod of Bishops, which takes place in Rome next October. Shortly after Christmas, adapting the language somewhat, the Parish Pastoral Council put some of the key issues to parishioners in the form of an on-line survey. In keeping with the original intention of Pope Francis, this was not an opinion poll on the teaching of the Church. The intention was to explore how the teaching of the Church on marriage and the family was understood by Catholics; what concerns Catholics have about the challenges facing marriage and the family in contemporary culture, and how the Church, both universal and local, might respond more effectively to those challenges. Within the limits imposed by a very short article, I want to unpack some of the key trends emerging. A total

of 232 people participated in the consultation, 60% of whom were women. Slightly over 40% of respondents were over 65 years of age, and slightly over 20% were under 45 years of age.

Parishioners were asked “how do you rate your familiarity with and understanding of the teaching of the Catholic Church on Marriage and Family Life”. The majority of men rated their understanding as “good” or “very good”, whereas women were more inclined to rate their understanding as “average” or “good”. Younger respondents were, on balance more inclined to consider that they had a good understanding.

Participants were invited to indicate what they understood to be the essential purposes of Marriage according to the teaching of the Catholic Church. While responses were quite varied, a significant number identified two essential purposes, one being the union of the couple in mutual love and the other being the procreation of children who are the fruit of

that love. Surprisingly, however, there were quite a number of responses in which either the union of the couple or the procreation of children was the only purpose mentioned. When asked if they personally subscribed to the Church’s teaching as they understood it, “68%” said “yes” and 24% said “partly”. While the numbers of respondents were significantly lower in the 26-35 age group, this was the group which had the highest percentage of “yes” responses. Clearly this can be interpreted in different ways.

Of particular interest in our parish, because of the significant under-provision of primary school places, was the question regarding the choice of school. Participants were invited, if they had children of school going age, to indicate what kind of school they would choose for their children. Six options were given, one of which was “A Catholic School”. If one takes out of the equation those who indicated that they do not have children in the relevant age bracket, the preference

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among Catholic parents to send their children to a Catholic school is not far short of 80%. This bears closer examination and I am currently preparing a more detailed consultation of parishioners who had children baptised in Donnybrook in the past five years. Meanwhile, there was significant positive response to the active inclusion of children in the liturgy in our parish.

Over 40% of respondents indicated that they did not know “any Catholic couple under forty who did not live together before they were married”. This is consistent with the experience of priests meeting couples preparing for marriage and is clearly an enormous cultural shift in the space of one generation. It would be interesting to explore the reasons underlying that phenomenon and whether it has consequences for the stability of subsequent marriages. It would also be interesting to know what motivates people eventually to choose marriage rather than to simply continue living together.

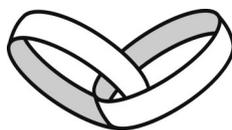
On both the question of a pastoral response to couples who have divorced and remarried and the question of couples living together in same-sex unions, there was a wide diversity of responses. Many responses recognised in one way or another that both of these situations posed challenges in relation to the teaching of the Church that were not easily resolved. Overall, there was a clear desire that the Church would respond with compassion and understanding towards people who, while wishing to live as Catholics, found their personal situation at

variance with the teaching of the Church.

The above is only a tiny flavour of the responses and I want to finish by thanking all who took the time to respond so openly and so fully to the consultation. Given the rich diversity of the responses, I believe it would be helpful during the coming months to provide an opportunity both for dialogue and for further exploration of the church’s teaching in some of the key areas. I would be happy to hear any suggestions as to how we might go about this.

Fr. Kevin Doran

MARRIAGES



We congratulate

David Cummins and
Chihiro Alston

David Flynn and
Criona Nangle

Steven Radford and
Elaine Mulligan

Oliver Cavanagh and
Laoise O’Shea

Arthur Williams and
Jane Sullivan

who were married recently.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Ballsbridge, Donnybrook & Sandymount Historical Society is now in its eighth year and continues to present a wide variety of lectures



on local and national historical subjects, together with outings to places of particular interest to members. The Spring Programme has included lunchtime talks in Pembroke Library by Charles Lysaght on *Merrion*, Ged Walsh on *Classon’s Bridge, the Dropping Well and Milltown* and Kurt Kullmann on the *Battle of Clontarf*. The next lecture by Beatrice Doran on *Donnybrook* will be on Thursday, 10th April 2014 at 8.00pm in Elm Park Golf Club.

The Summer Programme has not yet been finalised but will be published on the website by the end of April. The website address is: www.bdshistory.org. There is a membership form on the website or in Pembroke Library where you can join the Society for €10 a year.

<http://www.bdshistory.org>

DONNYBROOK: A HISTORY

Congratulations to Beatrice Doran on her recently published book “Donnybrook: A History” The book was launched last November by Fergus D’Arcy, Professor Emeritus in modern history in UCD.

YOUTH FORUM

During Catholic Schools Week Muckcross hosted a 'Youth Forum' in the school and students from The Teresian School, Gonzaga College and Marian College attended. The keynote speaker was Dr Mark Dooley, a renowned philosopher, author, journalist and broadcaster. He gave an inspirational talk on the 'Search for God and Meaning' and provoked some interesting questions from the floor. The special guest of honour later that morning was the Archbishop of Dublin Dr Diarmuid Martin. The students, in preparation for this visit, had gathered together a list of questions which they wanted to put to him and the Archbishop responded to each one generously and thoughtfully. He did not evade or avoid the 'difficult' questions which were put to him and the students appreciated that. He joined the students in the canteen afterwards and they found him to be both friendly and approachable. The visiting teachers and students from the three other schools enjoyed the morning and found it to be a good and worthwhile learning experience. We would hope to have a similar forum in the coming years during Catholic Schools Week.

<http://www.muckcrossparkcollege.com>

AILBHE KING SWIMMING GOLD

Congratulations to Ailbhe King, sixth year student in Muckcross Park College, who won three Gold and one Silver Medal in swimming at the World Dwarf Games in 2013 which took place in Michigan, USA.



Archbishop Martin answering questions at the Youth Forum

TERESIAN BASKETBALL

Basketball has been extremely triumphant this year. U19 finished 3rd in the All-Ireland Competition. U16A came 2nd in the All-Ireland Regions Finals (unfortunately only 1st place went to the semi-finals). This month: 2nd year A SBAI 'B' final and SDBL semi final, 2nd year B SDBL quarter final. U14B All-Ireland semi-final. 1st year A and B SDBL semi final.

The Teresian School are the Leinster Senior 1 Hockey League Champions for 2014 after a fantastic win over Holy Child Killiney on Friday 7th March at Grange Road. The Teresian girls claimed their first senior 1 title by beating HCK 2-1 in normal time. Rachel Dillon & Evie Regan were the goal scorers for Teresian's. Fantastic day for the whole school to have experienced. On Friday 14th March the Teresian girls were narrowly beaten in the Leinster Senior Girls Plate Final by Loreto on the Green. All teams would like to thank everyone for their support.

BAPTISMS



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

Maximilien Geoffroy Van Den Brande
Senan James Flood
Alanna Lynne Whelan
Emilie Mae Mitchell
Zachary Luke O'Leary
Rachel Cecilia Phelan
James Peter Conlon
Feilim Victor McCabe
Samuel Joseph Radford
Chloe Ava McKeon-Egan
Anneliese Willow Gracie Nolan
Alexandra Mae Stuart
Eoghan John O'Reilly
Alana Kate Nagle
Thomas James Bakewell
Adam David Anderson
Ella Kate Neary
Eoin Michael McGrath
Thomas St John Conroy
Mark James Courtney
Robert Patrick Connolly
Chloe Eva Quinn
Sienna Josephine O'Donoghue
Elijah Meenan Monaghan
Zach Meenan Monaghan
Amelia Sophie Bowen
Alexandra Harrison Leopold
Zachary MacKenzie Kirwan
Serena Vanora Mary Reilly
Aliya Kate Egan
Conor Patrick Cunneen
Casper Kevin Fennelly
Mary-Kate Elizabeth MacDonnell
Donnacha Leo Bolger
Laura Ciara O'Brien
Elizabeth Nancy Bennett
Arthur Mocko
David James Craig
Meabh Carmel Barnes
Robyn Mary Foy-Holland Keoghan
Mary Elizabeth Bridget Brady
Cathan John Condon

DEATHS



We extend the sympathy of the parish to the families of the following who died in recent months:

Pauline Whelan
Patrick Ryan
John Byrne
Kevin Lynch
Dolores Delahunty
Nora Waters
Christine Flynn
Angela Halvey
Patricia D'Arcy
Anna Malone
Enda Fanning
Nancy Drumm
Déaglán Ó Hógáin
Mary Lenfestey
Mary Siababa
Patricia (Pat) Grogan
Baby Gia Boccarossa
Mary Ensor
Hilda Cullen
Maeve O'Dwyer
Hugh Hearty
Gerard Larchet
Colm Sweeney
Bridget Dowling
Thomas Finbarr O'Connell
Gertrude Kenna
Dr Gerard Gearty
Nora Grimes
John Francis Beggan
Eugene McTernan
Dr Kevin Macken
Mary Farrell
Carmel Burke
Nancy Donnelly
Ben McArdle
Mary Smullen
Dr Francis (Oki) O'Connor
Alice Finlay

May they rest in peace

A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Our Father in heaven
Whose love is divine,
Thanks for the love
Of a mother like mine –
And in Thy great mercy
Look down from above
And grant this dear mother
The gift of Your love –
And all through the year,
Whatever betide her,
Assure her each day
That You are beside her –
And, Father in heaven,
Show me the way
To lighten her tasks
And brighten her day,
And bless her dear heart
With the insights to see
That her love means more
Than the world to me.

Helen Steiner Rice

“Remembering mothers both here
or in heaven on this Mothering
Sunday”

THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Alzheimer Tea Day
Parish Centre

First Friday, 2nd May, 10-12 noon

Please support this great cause.
Gaye Fallon will be organising a
raffle for good prizes.

Marian Horgan
Mary McDonogh

ADULT CONFIRMATIONS

From earliest times, the Easter Vigil has been associated with Christian Initiation. This year we look forward to celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion for two adults at the Vigil. Dana (who will also be received into full Communion in the Catholic Church) and Alma have been preparing for the past six months. A longer article on the process, known as RCIA, will be published in the next edition.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation for Teresian School and St. Mary's National School on Sunday April 6th, 3:30pm

UCD – NEW PRESIDENT

The Chairman and Committee of the Greenfield Park Residents' Group welcome Professor Andrew Deeks and Dr Linda Deeks to University Lodge and send best wishes for a happy and fruitful stay in our locality.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coreen Dennis	269 4852
Niall Loftus	269 2063
Mary McDonogh	269 2338
Daragh Mulvagh	087 973 6983
Mary Plunkett	668 3407
Margaret Whitla	260 0329

Correspondence to the Parish Office

SPONSOR

Gerard Purcell and Aisling have kindly sponsored this edition of the Newsletter and we thank them. Seamus and Phyl Purcell have been generous sponsors. We pray for them now at their anniversary times