



# Newsletter

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART  
DONNYBROOK



## DEAR PARISHIONERS,

The Christmas Season is fast approaching and it is a time of mixed emotions. Somehow, every Christmas brings into focus both the joys and the sorrows of the human experience.

For many, it is one of the most enjoyable times of the year. Children and young people look forward to Christmas with great excitement. It is a time for family reunions, and there is always great joy when the Irish diaspora, living and working abroad, return home to celebrate the feast. It is a time for friends to re-connect and spend some quality time together. It is a season when we can show our appreciation of one another through cards, gifts and little acts of kindness. In the depths of winter, we can offer hospitality to others and enjoy the hospitality which is offered to us in return.

But there are those who find it hard to enjoy Christmas. It can be a sad time of memories and nostalgia which can reinforce a feeling of loneliness. In some families there are tensions and pressures which come to the surface to make the days around Christmas difficult and stressful. For the bereaved, Christmas can be a particularly poignant time. And the present economic recession means that many families struggle to cope financially with the ritual demands of the Christmas season.



The Lighting of Donnybrook Christmas Tree on Sunday 4th December 2011, photographs by Joe Leahy



Whatever our personal feelings around Christmas, there is one thing we can all celebrate at Christmas: the birth of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who is for ever the Light of the World. In good times and in bad, He reassures us that the light will ultimately conquer the darkness in our world. His is a message of hope for the future no matter how difficult life may seem at present.

So this Christmas season, let us be sensitive to the struggles and feelings of those around us and let us rejoice at the birth of Emmanuel – a name which means God is with us!

I take this opportunity to wish you all the blessings of Christmas and a happy New Year.

*Fr Martin Clarke PP*



## HAPPY CHRISTMAS

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

## CENSUS UPDATE

The Parish Census was launched on the weekend of 5th/6th November when Fr Martin Clarke spoke at all Masses and members of the Census Committee distributed Census Forms to parishioners.

The response to the Census has been very positive so far. Over 1200 Census Forms were distributed in the church and to date over 400 households have sent back completed forms. Over 80 parishioners have kindly volunteered to assist with the completion of the census in the road/street/apartment block where they reside.

The next phase of the Parish Census will commence in January when there will be a pilot campaign to complete the census in selected areas of the parish. It is hoped to complete the census in the remainder of the parish by Easter 2012.

In the meantime, completed Census Forms can be left in the Sacristy or delivered/posted to the Parochial House.

## NEW MONTESSORI SCHOOL FOR DONNYBROOK

LITTLE STEPS MONTESSORI is now open in Beech Hill Estate, Donnybrook catering for children aged from 2½ years to 5 years. Free ECCE places available. Further information available from Elaine or Maria at (087) 278 2638.

## DONNYBROOK ALZHEIMER CAFÉ

The Alzheimer Café for Donnybrook was launched on Thursday 1st December in Avila Carmelite Centre, Bloomfield Avenue (off Morehampton Road). It is free of charge and open to people with dementia and their families. To find out more, contact (085) 277 9897 or e-mail [info@alzheimercafe.ie](mailto:info@alzheimercafe.ie)



The Christmas Photographs in this issue (by Joe Leahy) are of the Lighting of Donnybrook Christmas Tree on Sunday 4th December 2011



## NEW BOARD OF MANAGEMENT FOR ST MARY'S SCHOOL, BELMONT AVENUE

A new Board of Management for St Mary's School took up duty from 1st December 2011 for a term of four years. The members, in alphabetical order, are:

Fr Martin Clarke (Chairman & Patron's Representative)	Lucia Leahy (Community Representative)
Mary Curtis-Duggan (Parents' Representative)	Tom Millar (Patron's Representative)
Aoibhinn Finnegan (Teachers' Representative)	John McCloskey (Community Representative)
Rita Kinsella (School Principal)	Paul McGrath (Parents' Representative)

The first Meeting of the new Board of Management took place on Monday 12th December.

## KITALE VISIT - SEPTEMBER 2011



*The following is a condensed version of a very interesting article from Tony MacDonald.*

### DONNYBROOK ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

#### January Monday 9th:

Art classes resume. Details from Dolly Hickey at 2693262.

#### January Tuesday 31st:

Annual General Meeting 2.30 p.m., sharp in The Parish Centre re-re of the Church of the Sacred Heart Donnybrook. As this is an important meeting a full attendance is requested. Annual subscriptions will be taken up: €20.00.

For details of D.A.R.A. and further information please contact Mona Stanton at 2691320 or Christine O’Nolan, 2196006.

New members and visitors welcome.

### CURA CARES

Unexpected pregnancy is hard to face. Free & confidential, one to one counselling. See info in the church porch for further details.

Phone 01 671 0598

or Lo Call 1850 622 626

Cura, 30 South Anne Street, Dublin 2.

[www.cura.ie](http://www.cura.ie)

Most of us will remember Fr. Julius Shiabanda, who was curate in Donnybrook during 2009 - 2010. In September last I visited Fr. Julius’ parish in Kitala in Kenya.

Throughout my visit, the Kenyan hospitality was evident everywhere. Wonderful meals and conversations made me feel immediately at home. Religious belief is very strong and saying grace before meals is simply an integral part of normal routine.

In Fr. Julius’ parish, Kachibora, the school has 280 children and, in addition, provides a food programme and each day the children are given very nutritious food. In spite of having no school books, except copy books and pencils (which are shared), the children show a love of learning.

When Fr. Julius knew of my visit, he mentioned that I might bring some footballs. The appreciation from the children was incredible. In addition, when I showed them photographs I took of them, (see the sea of smiling faces) there was great delight.

Money is in very short supply; local building projects are unfinished. Doors and windows remain absent, waiting to be finished in some houses. Luckily the temperature is kind.



The new church, which will accommodate 1,200 people (standing) is nearing completion. More money is needed however.

In spite of all of the above, the people of Kitala remain very positive. While I was there, I was invited to plant a tree in the church grounds – a symbol of new life. This is a very important gesture by the people and represents their hopes for the future.

One saying I learned in Kenya “Pole, Pole” – Swahili for slowly or gently, which represents the locals approach to life. Maybe we could learn from it.

*For the full article please see our parish website: [www.donnybrookparish.ie](http://www.donnybrookparish.ie)*





## BAPTISMS

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

Alexandra Marie Catherina Mulligan

Anthony Raphael O'Reilly

Chloe Natalia Jaksic

Regan Alice Florence Murphy

Joseph Mathew O'Carroll

Luisne Doon Duffy

Mason James O'Donovan

Clíodhna Madeleine Cunniffe

Anna Rose Maloney

Síofra Ellen MacMahon

Peter Timothy McGuirk

Genevieve Rose Doody-Lucey

Emilie Charlotte Dillon

Francis Cian Mee

Jessica Haugh

Rosaleen May Clery

Isabelle Katie Louwrens

Marlayna Ivy Nolan

Amber-Rose Noreen Patricia McGettigan

Grace Mai Susan McLaughlin

Andrew Michael Talbot

Natasha Inna Tynan

Tom Sweeney



## DECEASED

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

Maria Fagan

David Timlin

Una Crowley

Damien Whitston

Alice (Lily) Carroll

Helen Kirrane

Nuala Wallace

Marcella (Sally) Kerin

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME 2011

### Monday 19th December

Penitential Service in preparation for Christmas at 7.30pm with opportunity for individual Confessions

### CHRISTMAS EVE – Sat 24th Dec

Usual morning Mass at 10.00am

6.00pm – Vigil Mass for Christmas

12.00am – Midnight Mass (preceded by Christmas Carols from 11.30pm)

### CHRISTMAS DAY – Sun 25th Dec

Masses at 9.00am, 10.30am (Children's Mass) & 12.00noon (with Parish Choir)

No evening Mass on Christmas Day

### Monday 26th to Saturday 31st Dec

One morning Mass only at 11.00am

### Saturday 31st Dec/Sunday 1st Jan

Saturday Vigil Mass at 6.00pm

Sunday morning Masses at 9.00am, 10.30am & 12.00noon

No evening Mass on Sunday 1st January

### Monday 2nd January 2012

#### (Public Holiday)

One morning Mass only at 11.00am

### Tuesday 3rd January 2012

Normal Mass times resume



## MARRIAGES

We congratulate

Roy McKeown & Tara O'Connor-Cox

Jonathan Kirwan & Thea MacKenzie

Robert Quigley & Jessica O'Brien

who were recently married and we wish them every happiness.

## CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

### Saturday 17th December:

10.30am to 12.30pm

### Monday 19th December:

Service of Reconciliation at 7.30pm

### Saturday 24th December:

10.30am to 12.30pm

## PRIESTS OF THE PARISH

Fr. Martin Clarke, Parish Priest,

Tel: 283 8311 / 087 220 8044

E-mail: mclarke@donnybrookparish.ie

Fr. Conor Harper S.J., Curate,

Tel: 218 0244

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:

Fr Martin Clarke, P.P.

Parochial House, Church of the Sacred Heart, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.

Tel: 087 220 8044

mclarke@donnybrookparish.ie

## PARISH TEAM

Pastoral Sister: Sr. Bertha

Tel: 269 3926

Pastoral Sister: Sr. Fiona

Tel: 086 169 7677

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 445 4973

Margaret Whitla 260 0329

Correspondence to the Parish Centre.  
email: newsletter@donnybrookparish.ie

## SPONSOR

Anonymous donors have very kindly sponsored this edition of the Newsletter. We are most grateful for their generosity.