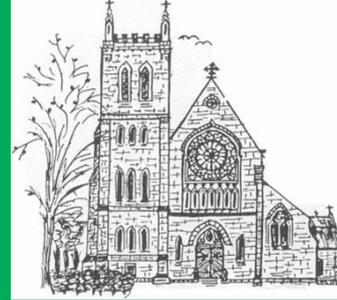


Newsletter

Church of the Sacred Heart
Donnybrook



Year of Mercy Logo

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Lk. 6:36).

The Motto and the Logo together provide a fitting summary of what the Jubilee Year of mercy is all about. The motto, “Be merciful just as your Father is merciful” serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (Lk 6:37-38).

The logo, the work of Jesuit Fr Marko Rupnik, presents a small *summa theologiae* of the theme of mercy.

It represents an image quite important to the early Church: that of the Son having taken upon his shoulders the lost soul, demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion the mystery of his incarnation culminating in redemption.

The logo expresses the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of

humanity and does so with a love, with the power to change our life. Note that they share an eye. While the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam, through the mercy of God, comes to see with the eyes of Christ.



The scene is captured within what is called a ‘mandorla’ (the shape of an almond). In early and medieval iconography, the

mandorla calls to mind the two natures of Christ, divine and human.

There are three concentric ovals, with colours progressively lighter as we move outward, suggest the movement of Christ who carries humanity out of the night of sin and death.

Conversely, the depth of the darker colour suggests the impenetrability of the love of the Father who forgives all.

The figure of Christ bears his wounds and behind him there is the dark shadow of the cross on which he prayed, “Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.” (Lk.23.34)

The two quotations are from the Gospel according to Luke, the Gospel we will hear at Sunday Masses this year.

Paris Remembrance

An Ecumenical Service of Remembrance for those killed in Paris on Friday 13th November 2015 [Months' Mind]

Sunday 13th December at 3:00pm

In Attendance

His Excellency Jean-Pierre Thébaud
[French Ambassador to Ireland]

Archbishop Charles John Brown
[Papal Nuncio]

Address by Archbishop Michael
Jackson [Church of Ireland]

Music led by the Choir of the Sacred
Heart Church, Donnybrook, directed
by Catherine Killoran, The Garda Male
Voice Choir, organist Michael Quinn
and soprano Pauline Graham - With
movements from Fauré's Requiem

60 Years service



Congratulations and thanks to Tony Malone who has as collector, voluntary sacristan and Minister of the Eucharist for over 60 years.

Shopping Run

The Friday shopping run is now in its ninth year and has resulted in many friendships growing between drivers and shoppers. The shopping run takes place in the afternoon and evening each week. The preferred location of the shoppers the Merrion shopping centre.

We have capacity to take on additional shoppers and if you feel that you or someone you know may benefit from this "service" then please let me know.

I can be contacted on my mobile 083 4733437

Tony MacDonald

The Synod on the Family

The Synod called to reflect on The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelisation, which began last year, concluded in Rome the 24th of October.

The Synod published the results of its reflections in a final document which can be read in full in its English Translation on the Vatican Website.

The final statement is in three parts;

- Listening: The Context and Challenges of the Family
- Looking at Christ: The Gospel of the Family.
- Facing the Situation: Pastoral Perspectives.

The introduction concludes "we have gathered together the results of our reflections and our discussions..., looking at the situation of the family today in all its complexities, both lights and shadows; looking, our gaze fixed on Christ to re-evaluate..., what revelation, transmitted in the Church's faith, tells us about the beauty and dignity of the family; and facing the situation, with an eye on the Lord Jesus, to discern how the Church and society can renew their commitment to family."

In responding to the context and challenges of the family today the Synod recognised the need for courageous pastoral choices. While strongly reconfirming their faithfulness to the Gospel of the family and acknowledging that separation and divorce are always wounds which cause deep suffering to the married couple and to their children, the synod fathers felt the need to embark on a new pastoral course.

The synod fathers recognised the need for discernment in responding pastorally to the realities of people's lives and responding pastorally will require accompanying people with respect in their current situation. "In accordance with Christ's mercy, the Church must accompany with attention and care the weakest of her children who show signs of a wounded and lost love, by restoring in them hope and confidence.."

How to do this gave rise to more questions than answers. There is a journey still to be travelled. However, the direction has been set, supporting families in the realities of their situation to lead them to know God better and enable them to respond as best they can to where God is calling them. The synod fathers presented the fruits of their work to Pope Francis and asked him to continue the journey on which the Church has set out to be true to the Gospel.

Parish Shop

Last September the parish shop reopened after a brief closure for revamping.

The upgrading and restocking of the shop has allowed us to provide a wider range of items that reflect the current needs of our parishioners. We are interested in receiving feedback from customers as we wish to continue developing the shop and the products which we stock.

Currently amongst the goods for sale



we are offering Advent and Christmas items.

There is a comprehensive selection of books, Bibles and cards as well as candles appropriate for most occasions.

Reading material covering the Year of Mercy as well the year 2016 is available for purchase.

There is an area dedicated to children. Included in this section area items suitable for various ages.

What we would like to see is parishioners calling in and seeing for themselves what we have on offer.

Church architecture: side altars

Altar of St. Joseph

This marble altar, to the left of the high altar, is dedicated to St. Joseph, foster-father of Jesus, husband of Mary, and patron of a happy death, the church, workers, carpenters, migrants, fathers and husbands; he has been venerated as a saint since the ninth century. In the sixteenth century his cult was revived by St. Teresa of Avila (1515 -1582), following a vision given to her of the Holy Family, and also by the Society of Jesus, who helped to promote his cause. This led to his title of Protector of the Universal Church, given by Pius IX in 1870. He is usually portrayed as an elderly man with a flowering staff in his hand, in reference to his purity of heart and also to the legend attributed to him.

According to this legend, the suitors of Mary were invited by the High Priest to leave a staff in the sanctuary of the Temple; the owner of the staff which grew flowers would be chosen as her bridegroom. The following morning only Joseph's had flowered, The staff is connected to the staff of Aaron, brother of Moses; Aaron was a member of the tribe of Levi. Joseph is portrayed in the central statue holding his staff and carrying the Infant Jesus.

We see the marriage of the Virgin to St. Joseph in the panel to the right of his statue. The High Priest, in the centre, is identifiable by his robes, Turban, Breastplate and Ephod – which references the twelve tribes of Israel. Joseph is here carrying his flowering staff, while Mary stands submissively on the right of the High Priest.

The panel on the left portrays the Holy Family on the flight into Egypt. Joseph, warned in a dream by an angel, has taken Mary and the holy Child to escape Herod's Massacre of the Innocents— male children under the age of two—in Bethlehem. In this panel we see Mary seated on a donkey with the Baby in her arms and, overhead, a palm tree, which, according to legend, bowed in homage to allow the travellers to pass.

The frontal sculpture on the altar depicts the death of Joseph in the presence of Jesus and Mary and attended by angels descending from heaven. This sculpture is flanked on



either side by flowers in jars as a further reference to the purity of heart of St. Joseph.

This altar was dedicated and consecrated on 19 July 1923 by Archbishop Dr. Edward J. Byrne. The relics enshrined in this altar are those of St. Protus, martyr, and St. Eugenia, Virgin and martyr, who were martyred 257/258 AD. Since the Second Council of Nicaea, 787 AD, it has been decreed that every altar should have relics buried within, as a link to the early church; religious ceremonies, possibly early forms of the Mass, took place on the tombs, in the Catacombs, of the early martyrs, who were revered as the foundation saints of the early Christian church.

This altar was erected in memory of Mrs Fannin and family in 1866.

St. Joseph is honoured with two feast days: March 19th and May 1st. The latter feast was instituted by Pius XII in 1955, in response to May Day celebrations sponsored by the Communist Party.

Colette Pegum,
December, 2015

Donnybrook's Fundraising and Development Plans

Progress Report

Contributions and commitment pledges are still coming in. Just over €2,300,000 has been contributed or committed over a five year period, 92% of our goal.

Implementing our plans has begun, beginning with the Parish Pastoral Centre and the car parking on the south end of our church grounds. A design team has been put together and a fee structure agreed, which has been submitted to the Diocesan Authorities for approval.

We have sufficient cash on hand to proceed with this part of our overall plans.

A member of the Parish Finance Committee who has the professional expertise required, is overseeing the process on behalf of the Finance Committee.

When the design team is approved we will have pre-planning consultations with the planning authorities.

Plans then drawn up will be put on display for your consideration and comments before they are finalised and submitted to the planning authorities for approval.

I am confident that we will achieve our fundraising target as there is a still a significant number of people who had indicated that they will contribute but have yet to document their commitment. However, I would appeal to them to do so as soon as possible so that we can conclude our fundraising.

I thank all who have so generously supported our development plans and I will keep you informed of progress.

Mgr. Lorcan O'Brien Adm.
29th November, 2015

DEATHS



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

Stella Nyhan
David Kelly
Michael O'Flanagan
Marguerite Flanagan
Joan Cashin
Liam Healy
Judge Paul Carney
Beatrice (Betty) O'Connor
Kate Muldowney
Derek McGrath
Therese Birthistle
Sheila Dawson
James Reid
Anne Kelliher
Teresa Cooke
John Lambert
Joan O'Donnell
James Kevin MacGoris
Patrick (Paddy) O'Hara
Pearse O'Brien
Elizabeth Kenny
Edwina Mullen
Margaret (Peggy) Walsh
Frances (Feena) Finn
Joe Wyse

May they rest in peace

Priests of The Parish

Monsignor Lorcan O'Brien,
Administrator,
Tel: 087 240 8975
obrienlorcan@donnybrookparish.ie
Fr. Conor Harper S.J., Curate,
Tel: 218 0244
charper@clongowes.net
Fr. John Boyers, Parish Chaplain
Tel: 668 4356
Monsignor Richard Sherry,
Pastor Emeritus
Tel: 269 2102

BAPTISMS



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

Daniel John Dillon
Hans Zachariah Purser
Noah James O'Sullivan
Hana Chemonara O'Sullivan
Tuula Maria Prendergast
Evie Maria Fitzgerald
Vivienne Lisa Lillis
Patrick Joseph Jeffers
Katherine Ada Dockry
Lauren Mary Cubitt
Daniel Aleksander Skrobol
Lily Susan Evans
Billy Brendan Byrne
Lauren Valerie Gastor
Hugo Edward Duignan
Sofia Grace Brozzu
Sophie Rose Lynch
Emily Christina Mulligan
Rory Anthony McCloskey
Thomas William Bennett
Sorcha Philomena Walsh
Bébhinn Cushla Duffy
Aoibhinn Ide Fogarty
Sylvia MaryBueckert
Leonardo Campani
Robert Patrick Governey
Logan Jan Jaszczynski
Eamonn Donald Richardson

DARA

Donnybrook Active Retired
Carols on 15th December at 2.30 in the Parish Centre.
AGM on 19th December at 2.30 in the Parish Centre.
New members are very welcome.

Newsletter Team

Coreen Dennis, Niall Loftus, Anne Mescal, Daragh Mulvagh, Mary Plunkett, Margaret Whitla

MARRIAGES



We congratulate

Timothy Joseph Ryan and
Mary Elizabeth Brett
Brendan Cahill and Aoivean Brennan
Barry Anthony McArdle and
Niamh Mary Lynch
who were married recently.

SVP Annual Appeal

12th & 13th December 2015

The SVP has a long history in Donnybrook and the conference has traditionally enjoyed great support from members of the parish.

While the SVP is involved in a wide range of social activities both nationally and internationally the Donnybrook conference focuses on assisting individuals and families in the local area who are struggling with the basic necessities – for example food, heating, health and education costs.

Donnybrook's location so close to the city centre means that it experiences significant amounts of such social problems as homelessness and overcrowding. Unfortunately such problems would also be familiar to the original conference members. The problems may be less visible than in the past but they still exist today. It is your support which allows the conference to assist in these and other areas and I would like to thank you for your very generous support for our annual appeal last year.

Our annual appeal is our main source of income for the year and I would please ask you to be as generous as you can again this year.

Finally on behalf of the conference I would like to wish you and your family a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Colm Regan, SVP

Parish office

Parish Centre (behind the church)
Office Hours:
Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 1.00 pm
Parish Secretary: Oonagh O'Toole
Tel 269 3926
E-Mail:
secretary@donnybrookparish.ie