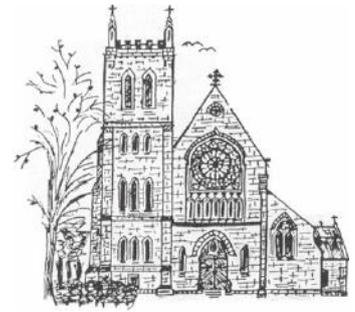




Newsletter



Church of the Sacred Heart, Donnybrook

Christmas 2016

ISSUE 82

The Nativity Window

Church of the Sacred Heart, Donnybrook

This two-lancet window behind the Reredos, is the work of the Earley Brothers' Studio of Camden Street, and was donated by the Corballis family.

It depicts the Adoration of the Shepherds, who, in the Gospel of Luke (2: 8-20), are the first to worship the newborn Christ-child, announced to them by angels as they watched their flocks near Bethlehem.

Theologians have said that the Nativity is the great window of the year, which opens our eyes to eternity and the promise of salvation. This stained-glass two-light window displays imagery and iconography true to that statement in many subtle ways.

The artist has divided the action appropriately into two worlds, adjacent but very different. In the right lancet, we have three figures, Mary, Joseph and Christ and in the left, the three shepherds, representing the heavenly and earthly domains. All focus on the Christ-child who radiates light and holiness, raising his right hand in blessing. His death is seen in his halo, tinged with crimson and portraying the limbs of his cross. His white and blue clothing represent his innocence and perfection while, on the ground, we see the sacrificial lamb - a gift from the shepherds, which links the child to the

Old Testament sacrificial lamb of the Passover feast (Isa1:36 and John1:29). This is the lamb, perfect and without blemish, who will suffer and die for the sins of humanity.



The three shepherds represent all humanity, and are also images of the three ages of man—young, middle-aged and elderly. Mary unwraps the child to display his full humanity, the denial of which had led to schism in the early church. A sheaf of wheat, below the manger, is a further reference to the Eucharist and Christ's sacrifice. Three small purple passion-flowers beside the base of the manger

also refer to forthcoming Passion of Christ.

Behind them is a sheltering oak tree in full leaf, with acorns. The oak tree was always regarded as a symbol of endurance and faith, worshipped in pagan times but adapted by Christianity to become a symbol of strength and endurance in Christian faith against every adversity. The acorn, with the potential grow to become a strong oak, represents the growth of the Christian faith.

Barely discernible in the lower right of the panel, behind Mary, is seen an ox. It is not mentioned in any Gospel narrative, but has been depicted traditionally as the link between the Old and New Testaments. Jesus is the Christ, promised to the Jews since the beginning of their narratives. In Isaiah 1:3, there is reference to the ox, which had come to be interpreted as the patient awaiting of the Messiah by the nation of Israel.

Colette Pegum

Happy Christmas

The priests of the parish wish our parishioners and all who attend our church a Happy Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.

School Blessing



Ella McGrath's address

My name is Ella Mc Grath. I am one of the 6th class representatives on the Student Council. I have been in St. Mary's since I started Junior Infants in 2009.

When I first came to St. Mary's there were less than 250 students in the entire school. There were no interactive whiteboards instead, there was one TV for the whole building!

Now in this new school alone, there are over 250 pupils. There are touch screen white boards and even a lift so the upstairs floor is accessible to all pupils.

But of course there is more to a school than just its facilities. Throughout my years in St. Mary's I have had the most amazing teachers anyone could ask for, most of whom are here tonight.

Ms. Finnegan, Ms. Doyle, Ms Kiernan, Mr. Crosby, Ms D' Arcy, Mr. Cronin, Ms. O' Sullivan and Ms. Murphy. It is especially good to see Mr. Cronin here this evening. He was a great inspiration to me in 4th class. His Science lessons were always exciting!

Teachers have come and gone in this school but they all have something in common. They all care about the pupils and put so much effort into making sure every child is happy here. All of these teachers have taught me not only my work but to be kind, be a good friend, to help each other and to be proud of our school.

And of course, how could I mention the teachers without mentioning our principals. None of us could imagine

what St. Mary's would be like without Ms. Kinsella when she retired. We were all sad to see Ms. Kinsella retire from St. Mary's. She cared about each and every student and put so much work into her time at St. Mary's. Now that we have got to know Ms. Purcell we are all delighted to have her as our principal. She has managed to maintain all the great things we love about St. Mary's and even add some new ones such as after school choir and her love of Music. She always has a smile and time for us all.

We have also been lucky to have some great priests over the years. I have happy memories of Monsignor Sherry coming to our class every week helping to prepare us for our First Confession and First Holy Communion. We now have visits from Monsignor O'Brien who is helping us all to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation.

The new school has more space, lovely new classrooms and lots of new resources that the old school didn't have. But, despite this, it is still the same school that I started in eight years ago. It is still the same school we learned how to read, write and have fun. I hope that any child that ever passes through this school will be as welcomed and be as happy and proud to be a student of St. Mary's as I have been.

The Blessing of the refurbished St. Mary's NS on Belmont Avenue took place on October 26th. We were thrilled when the Archbishop of Dublin accepted our invitation to perform the blessing. This was a wonderful event for the school community. Over two hundred representatives from the school community gathered in the hall for the Blessing Ceremony. The ceremony was enhanced by the beautiful singing of the school choir. Representatives from the Student Council and 6th Class participated in the ceremony. Ella McGrath, a member of the Student Council, read a narrative reflecting her memories and experiences in St. Mary's NS.

The Archbishop blessed a beautiful wall hanging depicting Our Lady and the Infant Jesus in the foyer which was donated to St. Mary's by Mater Dei Institute of Education. Everybody was then invited to tour the refurbished school.

We are absolutely delighted with our refurbished building. The bright colour scheme of warm yellows and pastoral greens creates a stimulating yet calm environment. The new tall windows allow the natural light to flood through the building illuminating the classrooms and corridors. Our newly extended General Purpose Hall has a beautiful floor covering which, allied with the yellow walls, makes us feel as though we're bathed in sunshine even on a dark, dreary November morning. All our classrooms are equipped with the most up-to-date Interactive Flat Screen Televisions. The brightly coloured noticeboards act as a wonderful backdrop on which to showcase the children's work.

We are extremely grateful to all those involved in bringing this project to fruition. They have gifted us with a beautiful building where teaching and learning can flourish and where we all will be very happy, le cúnamh Dé.

In the words of the school choir on the night:

"Bless this school O Lord we pray, Make it safe by night and day."

Anne Purcell
Principal St. Mary's NS

Young Adult Ministry.

The setting up of a Young Adult Group is one of the most exciting and encouraging developments in our Parish this year. This is an initiative of Mauricio Mantoane, a Brazilian Doctoral Student at UCD, Emanuele Bosoni, an Italian Doctoral Student at Trinity College and Dr. Paul Brady, from Donnybrook and a member of the Parish Pastoral Council, who has been involved with the Family Mass. Mauricio represented the parish at World Youth Day this Year.

They reached out to those in the 18 – 35 age group in the parish and have contact with over thirty young parishioners. There is an active core group of 11 young adults from the parish who decided to establish a presence at the 5.30 evening Mass on Sundays. At that Mass they proclaim the Word of God, lead the Prayer of the Faithful, present the gifts of bread and wine provide the congregation with a personal response to the Gospel as a Communion Reflection.

To close the Year of Mercy, they arranged a simple ceremony at the evening Mass on Sunday the 20th of November, at which there was great participation by the whole congregation. They will also plan other activities, both spiritual and social.

The group also provides an opportunity for young adults to meet after the 5.30 Sunday evening Mass at the parish centre for which they provide refreshments. We hope that many young adults will join them and shape the Sunday evening Mass in a way that reflects the concerns and interests of young adults.

Their invitation to all young adults in the parish, is the invitation of Jesus, Come and See.

Mauricio Mantoane.

Mauricio, one of those who started our Young Adult initiative is getting married at home in Brazil on the 28th of December. We offer Mauricio and his fiancé, Christine, our prayers and good wishes for a long and happy life. Mauricio comes back to resume his studies in January, with his bride, Christine where they will receive a Cead Míle Fáilte.

Lesotho

This summer five representatives from Donnybrook Scout Group travelled to Lesotho as part of a five year partnership. The project was unique in that the responsibility fell to us Rovers all aged between 18 and 25.



Together we worked with the Lesotho Rovers developing their national campsite. We made all planning decisions with materials sourced locally. We built a toilet, painted the training hall, planted trees, made hammocks and created an obstacle course.

We also participated in cultural exchanges; hiking haggling in markets and the highlight - a 3 hour Mass extravaganza, with beautiful singing and dancing from the whole congregation! We even joined the prayers of the faithful!

We thoroughly enjoyed our trip and look forward to travelling to Lesotho again next summer.

Naoise Kelly & Carla De Brun

Donnybrook's Dome

Donnybrook Lawn Tennis Club completes new Airhall for 3 Indoor tennis Courts

Our local tennis club Donnybrook LTC located on Brookvale Road has just completed the development of a new Airhall which will provide 3 indoor tennis courts for 6 months each year (October through to March) . The Airhall or dome has a green and white finish and looks very smart . It is well set back from the main road but is visible to passers by. It is supported by air created by powerful fans located in an adjacent plant room . The club has also relaid 3 new courts with the



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

SVP Annual Appeal, 10th & 11th December 2016

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (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 Conference of the Sacred Heart, Donnybrook, focuses on assisting individuals and families in the local area, who are struggling with 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, back in 1881. 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 the main source of income for the We accept donations at any time.

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



popular Tigerturf – artificial grass court surface. The development has been financed by club members with assistance from government by way of a Sports Capital Grant.

BAPTISMS

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



Dylan Cullen
Caroline Black
Alexandre Diaz
Rosie O'Loughlin
Veronica Malavé Freeman
Lucas Aguado Coppinger
Oisín Coyle
Alice Hurley
Clara McColgan
John McGuire
Rose Craig
Chloe Sparks
Prince Maniago
Eve Granville
Róisín Golden
Suki O'Donohoe
Maximillian Doran
Brody Downes
Matthew Wallace

MARRIAGES



We congratulate
Gregory Owens/ Anna O'Donnell
Timothy McKeown/ Anne Carmona
Morales
who were married recently.

Parish office

Parish Centre (behind the church)
Office Hours:
Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 1.00 pm
Parish Secretary: Oonagh O'Toole
Tel 269 3926 E-Mail:
secretary@donnybrookparish.ie

Newsletter Team

Coreen Dennis, Joseph Leahy, Niall Loftus, Anne Mescal, Daragh Mulvagh, Margaret Whitla

Parish Pastoral Centre and Church Upgrade Update

Last month we were notified that our application to Dublin City Council for planning permission for our new Parish Pastoral Centre was successful. Regrettably, there have been objections lodged to An Bord Pleanana. An Board Pleanala will now consider our application. It will be some months before we learn the outcome.

The upgrading of the heating system of the Church has now been completed. This Winter, we should notice an improvement in the heating of the Church and also in our gas bills.

RTE Televised Mass on Christmas Eve from Donnybrook Church

The Christmas Eve Mass from RTE will come this year from our parish Church at 11 p.m. rather than the usual time of Twelve Midnight. Please be in your place by 10:30.



DARA Art exhibition

Priests of The Parish

Monsignor **Lorcan O'Brien**,
Administrator,
Tel: 087 240 8975
obrienlorcan@donnybrookparish.ie
Fr. **Conor Harper** S.J., Curate,
Tel: 01 218 0244
charper@clongowes.net
Fr. **John Boyers**, Parish Chaplain
Tel: 01 668 4356

DEATHS



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

Margaret (Gretta) Morrison
David Rea
Walter Allwright
Bill, Harry and Jack Grace
Aine Shields
Pauline Gavin
Donal McCarthy
Daniel Dillon

May they rest in peace

Thanks

Our thanks to Highway Markings
The Car Park Markings on the front car park were a gift to the Parish for its 150th from Daniel Murphy of Highway Markings, Enfield, Co. Meath.

We had had engaged Highway Markings to do the work. We are very grateful for their gift.

Carol Service

We are holding a candle lit Advent Carol service (very similar to last year) on Sunday 18th December at 3pm followed by mince pies and hot chocolate in the Parish Centre.

This year we will be joined by St. Mary's School Choir. Like last year, we will need lots of volunteer readers (and parents to help out on the day with candles, tinsel and supervision of smaller people).

Any older children who are no longer sing with the Choir on Sundays due to sports or other commitments are very welcome to participate in the Advent service as readers or singing or both!