



Newsletter



Church of the Sacred Heart, Donnybrook

Christmas 2017

ISSUE 86

Christmas, Home and Family – A Reflection

Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, is the great festival of family and of home. At Christmas, we gather together as families and friends. We gather around a family, Mary, Joseph and their child, Jesus. We gather in the place or places we call home.

The child Jesus was a child of promise. Every child is full of promise. The realisation of that promise requires sustaining structures. It requires a home. Home is where dreams are sheltered and given space to grow. Home is where everyone has a place at the table. Home is where difference becomes strength. Home is where we hold things together against the odds.

Christmas brings us back to where we began, to the place that launched us into life and from where we set out on our own personal journey. Coming home is joyful. Coming home renews the bonds between us. Coming home strengthens our step for going on.

May our Christmas bring us home to families and friends and to the God who, at Christmas, sent us his Son. Jesus assures us that God is at home with us and that each of us is cherished in the heart of God. God our Father shelters our dreams and gives them space to grow. We all have our place at his table. God delights in our

difference. Nothing can loosen or shake us free from God's loving embrace.

The outstretched arms of the child in the manger invite us to discover that anew, to come home, to the home that is God, Father, Son and Spirit.

Mgr. Lorcan O'Brien, Adm.

What time is Midnight Mass?

Our Christmas Mass times this year will be: the **Christmas Vigil Mass at 6 p.m.**, the **Night Mass at 10 p.m.**, the **Dawn Mass at 9 a.m.**, the **Family Christmas Mass at 10.30 a.m.** and the **Day Mass at 12 noon.** Over 200 people returned the questionnaire asking for your preferred time. Over 80% chose 10 p.m. for the Night Mass. Just under 10% chose 11 p.m. and just under 10% chose Midnight.

10

Some will regret the ending of the long tradition of Mass at Midnight in Donnybrook. At an earlier time probably people regretted that the Dawn Mass was no longer at 7.30 a.m. However, we will still have all the four different Christmas Masses,

Vigil, Night, Dawn and Day. The Parish Choir will sing the oratorio 'all is Calm' before the 10 p.m. Night Mass, beginning at 9.15.

Child and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding and Protection



The Parish had a training course for Parish Staff and those who work with children and vulnerable adults on Saturday 2nd of December, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Parish Centre. The course was given by Garry Kehoe, a trainer from the Diocesan Office for Safeguarding and Protection. Many members of our parish have received training in this area in connection with their work. The parish training course dealt with the areas of engagement we have as a parish with children and vulnerable adults to ensure we will carry them out in a way that ensures the safety and protection of those we serve. The course also enables us to be more aware and alert to signs of possible neglect or abuse and how to respond appropriately. We are very grateful to those who took the training course in the service of our parish.

Donnybrook Scouts celebrate their 90th

Having had a year of 90th Anniversary celebrations and special activities aimed at our young members on November 11th in Thomas Prior House it was the turn of the adult volunteers. 160 past and present members, parents and dignitaries donned the glad rags and traded tents for dinner tables. The evening was hosted by RTE's Derek Mooney who kicked off proceedings by asking the current Group Leader, Andrew Bishop to join 4 decades of previous Group Leaders - Ronan Mason, Brendan O'Gorman, Stephen Bruton & Colin



Corcoran to cut the birthday cake.

As guests of all generations caught up and swapped photos and stories the Chief Scout, Christy McCann, complimented the group on its strength, heritage and community involvement - giving healthy and wholesome outdoor and developmental programme to 180 local young people from 6-26! The Chief Scout & Andrew Bishop made some very emotionally received awards: firstly, Donnybrook neckerchiefs and badges - a symbol of lifetime membership were presented to 2 members from the 1950's Paul Good and "Big" Mick Staines, the Chief then turned the tables on Andrew Bishop and made a surprise presentation of his Woodbeads, a symbol of Adult Training to him. The surprises continued, Ronan Mason, was rewarded for his untiring work and dedication with a 25 year Service Medal which was followed by Susie Lynam being flabbergasted by the presentation of a Gold Medal of Merit for her "Outstanding Services to Scouting" but the best was yet to come... The Order of Chu Chulainn, the highest possible award in Scouting, was presented to one of the pillars of Donnybrook Scouting, a

presence and a guiding light for the last 50 years, Colin Corcoran.

With crowds now on their feet for the ovations the DJ seized the opportunity and dancing til the wee hours was next on the agenda.



Donnybrook Tidy Towns

It has been a very successful year for Donnybrook Tidy Towns — we have been awarded 13 additional points in National Tidy Towns competition, exceeding our own expectations this year and are well on target for our "Towards 290/2019 Programme"

Donnybrook Tidy Towns scooped two Gold awards at the Dublin City Neighbourhood Awards competition 2017. A highly commendable achievement. We had a great response to our "Don't Leaf it to Others" campaign. The initiative is to facilitate residents to help themselves and their environment, by providing them with blue bags for the gathering of autumn leaves outside their properties. Our new "Swap your sandwich board for planter board" initiative has been launched with Eoin O'Neill Property Advisers in the first of what we hope will be many more. See www.donnybrooktidytowns.ie for more details. Finally a big thank you to all parishioners for supporting Donnybrook Tidy Towns in 2017.

Church Cat—"Puddles"



Many years ago, a cat appeared on the Church grounds and adopted us! Our caretaker Paddy, other staff members, and parishioners became very fond of this cat which we named 'Puddles'. Everyone fed and kept Puddles happy for over 4 years! We recently sent Puddles to the Vet as we knew she was pretty old and to our amazement, the Vet informed us the cat was in good shape and we - as a Parish - were very good to look after a stray cat. But the plot thickens! Our cat 'Puddles' was micro-chipped! Puddles has aliases – first 'Feebie' then 'Honey' owned by a person in DunLaoghaire and then Brookvale Road! However, we have not seen Puddles in over three weeks now, we are guessing she got wind of our new Parish Centre Development, packed up her furs and whiskers and moved on to pastures greener! Take care and so long Puddles!!!

DARA, the Donnybrook Active Retirement Association currently has 70 members and meets every second TUESDAY at 2.30 pm in the Parish Centre behind Donnybrook Church. Meetings cater for an eclectic mix of interests.

The AGM is on 16 Jan 2.30. New members are welcome and the first regular meeting of the new year is on 30 January when Ciaran Woods talks about the Yeats Family.

Pat O'Sullivan

Paris2Nice

On Friday 15th September, Gillian McMahon headed off to Paris, France to embark on her biggest challenge yet – cycling 720km in 6 days from Paris down to Nice all in aid of ARC Cancer Support Centres.

“I met the 42 other cyclists that evening who, unbeknown to me, would soon become my new best friends. Each cyclist was allowed to choose their own charity to cycle for. It was truly fascinating to hear everyone’s unique story on why they decided to take on this feat. For myself, it was for a colleague, Audrey Mullan, who sadly passed away in 2015 from cancer. ARC hugely supported her husband, 3 small children, extended family, and some of my other fellow colleagues in Deloitte. The ‘Paris2Nice’ (P2N) charity cycle seemed most fitting to remember Audrey, as she loved cycling everywhere!

Day 1: Saturday – P2N jersey day – Paris to Montargis

We were all split into cycling groups based on our average pace. Day 1 was 125km filled with a route through Paris that resembled an obstacle course, beautiful countryside on the outskirts of Paris, a horrendous HAILSTORM that has actually bruised my legs(!), a snapped wire on my gears, and a successful peloton to Montargis.

Day 2: Sunday – ‘Whatever you want’ jersey day – Montargis to Nevers

Day 2 was 145km with a lot of hills (1000m climb!) and a lot of rain...at least it wasn't hailstones. My hailstone bruises from the previous day started to turn from looking like I had chicken pox on my legs, to looking like someone shot me numerous times with a paintball gun. Our cycling group christened ourselves as ‘Geoff and the Supremes’. We seemed to click really well together, we definitely had the best craic, and we supported each other the whole way.

Day 3: Monday – ARC jersey day – The road to Carpentras

This was only a mere 95km spin. Cycling through endless vineyards, at a

brilliant pace, with a mountainous backdrop was breathtaking.

Day 4: Tuesday – Deloitte jersey day – Carpentras to Aix-en-Provence

A very windy 107km mountainous route with 1700m climbs.

Day 4 was the day I was crowned “Queen of the hills” leading the pack up all the mountains. I’m not one usually to be great at climbing mountains so I put it down to everyone’s thoughtful prayers for me (thank you!), and of course Audrey, pushing me the whole way up those mountains!

Day 5: Wednesday – ARC jersey day – Aix to Sainte Maxime

A 130km stunning route through more vineyards and mountains to Sainte Maxime despite struggled with excruciating pain in my shins and hamstring.

One thing that is fantastic about long distance cycling is time for contemplation. I spent a lot of time on Day 5 thinking about Audrey and her family, thinking about all the wonderful people I met in Donnybrook parish during my fundraiser coffee mornings, thinking about my colleagues in Deloitte who have supported me, thinking about my family who supported me with my bake sales, and thanking God that I am actually able to do this cycle for those who can’t.

Day 5 was also the day I officially raised €5,000 for ARC so fighting through the all the pain was worth it!

Day 6: Thursday – P2N jersey day (again) – Sainte Maxime to Nice

On the final day, we finally arrived in beautiful sunny Nice very emotional after clocking up 720km in 6 days.

I want to say a massive thank you to all in Donnybrook Parish for all your prayers and for helping me raise much needed funds for ARC cancer support services. You kept me going when times got tough! A special mention has to be made to Msgr Lorcan O’Brien, Paul Brady (Parish Council), Oonagh O’Toole (Parish Secretary), and my friends from the Young Adult Parishioners group here in Donnybrook for all their amazing support. It is HUGELY appreciated. I

cannot thank you enough! My official grand total raised was **€5,527.69** for ARC which will continue to allow ARC provide all their services completely free of charge for cancer patients and their families. Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

This piece has been edited, the full version is available on the website www.donnybrookparish.ie

Young Adult Group

The Young Adult Parishioners group continues to meet up every Sunday after the 5:30pm mass in the parish centre. We would like to welcome all the new joiners this year to date! Anyone from the parish is welcome to join, or to simply come and meet the group. Please feel free to pop along to the parish centre after any 5:30pm mass for some tea and chats to help improve things for young people in our parish community.

During the summer, the group introduced music into the 5:30pm masses which received some great feedback. They are currently in need of instrumentalists and singers. If you would like to help transform the 5:30pm masses by contributing to music by either playing an instrument or singing, please feel free to contact Gillian at gtsmcmahon@gmail.com. You don't have to be available every Sunday. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Last year, the Young Adult Parishioners group invited a young priest to Donnybrook one weekend for confessions which was received well in the parish. This is something the group is looking into doing again this year so stay tuned!

Some members of the Young Adult Parishioners group have signed up to volunteer for the 2018 World Meeting of Families which is to be held in Dublin from 21-26 August 2018. The World Meeting of Families is the Pope's international event of prayer, catechesis and celebration. Those also interested in volunteering, please sign up online: <http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/Get-Involved/Volunteer>

BAPTISMS



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

Dillon Griffin-Bates
Sophia Leamy
Arianna de Bromhead
James Hayes
Ciara O'Connell
Zoe Stafford
James Kerrigan
Lola McKeown
Alison Jones
Jessica O'Hanlon
Robyn Bohan
Luke Costello

Room at the Inn - Parish Pastoral Centre Update

We are required by Diocesan Regulations to obtain the approval of the Diocesan Buildings Committee and Diocesan Finance Committee to sign the contract to build our Parish Pastoral Centre with the construction company we have chosen. Our application has been submitted to both committees. The Buildings Committee met at the end of November and the Finance Committee a week later at the beginning December. Our Parish Finance Committee has met with both committees prior to their meetings. We await their approval to proceed which we hope to receive before Christmas and to be in a position to start building at the beginning of the New Year. Please God, we will have a Parish Pastoral Centre for Christmas 2018.

MARRIAGES



We congratulate

Martin Dowd and
Deborah Maher

Peji Areglado and
Yasutake Kimberly Midori

who were married recently.

DEATHS



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

Olive Clarkson
Margaret Farrell
Damian Poder
Cassie O'Malley
Sheila Walshe
Michael Heather
John Kerrigan
Bernadette (Bernie) Feely

May they rest in peace



The Parish Children's Choir singing at the 10.30am Family Mass with Tabitha Wood conducting and Michael Quinn on piano.

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

Joseph Leahy, Niall Loftus, Anne Mescal, Daragh Mulvagh, Margaret Whitla.

Priests of The Parish

Monsignor **Lorcan O'Brien**,
Administrator,
Tel: 087 2408975
obrienlorcan@
donnybrookparish.ie
Fr. **Conor Harper S.J.**, Curate,
Tel: 01 2180244
charper@clongowes.net
Fr **Pat Sheary S.J.**, Parish
Chaplain, Tel: 01 2180255
Fr. **John Boyers**, Parish Chaplain,
Tel: 01 6684356