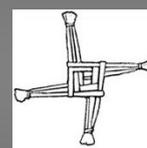


St. Brigid's Parish, Killester, Dublin 5

Parish Newsletter

May 2018



'Yes' or 'No' we must defend life!

At this time people are canvassing our votes for the forthcoming referendum on the 8th Amendment to our Constitution. For us the question is a matter of life or death. I will find myself having to decide on this issue. How do I vote on the proposed introduction of unrestricted abortion for the first 12 weeks of pregnancy? Will my voting 'Yes' or voting 'No' defend life?

Opinion polls suggest a sizeable lead for the removal of the equal protection of life for mother and the unborn baby at present enshrined in our Constitution, removing the only right that these unborn enjoy.

Should the measure be passed, the inevitability is the introduction of widespread abortion in our country such as exists in many other countries. In that case **we as Christians cannot be expected to abandon unborn children and their mothers and simply fade away.** As Christians in other lands, and as we have sought to do up to now, we must instead boldly love, defend and protect both.

Fr. Liam

Held Over

I was preparing a good-news announcement that would have been the lead item of this month's newsletter. I have been asked to keep it back for next month's newsletter. While I would have liked to lead with the item, I have acceded to this request. *Fr. Liam*

New feast of Our Lady announced by Pope Francis.

Pope Francis has added a new feast of Mary, Mother of the Church to the Universal Calendar. Essentially, what has been included in the Roman Missal since 1975 as a votive Mass 10b "Mary, Mother of the Church," has been upgraded to a memorial. The official title of this new feast is the "Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church". Pope Francis has spoken in the past on several occasions on how the Church is like the mother of a family who cares for all her children. On 3rd September 2014 he said:

"We understand, then, how the relationship which unites Mary and the Church is so deep: by looking at Mary, we discover the most beautiful and most tender face of the Church; and by looking at the Church, we recognize the sublime features of Mary. We Christians are not orphans, we have a mama, we have a mother, and this is great! We are not orphans! The Church is mother, Mary is mother."

Pope Francis has ordained that this feast be **celebrated each year on the Monday after Pentecost.** (This year Monday 21st May), and hopes that this may enkindle in us a new appreciation of the feminine face of the Church, as our Mother, and a new devotion to Mary appropriate for our time.

Pope Francis calls us to holiness

A few months after his election as Pope in 2013, Pope Francis issued a call to action, *Evangelii Gaudium* (In English: *The Joy of the Gospel*) on the Church's primary mission of evangelization in today's world. In it he calls for the entire Church to carry out "a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything." And to do it with pastoral creativity and openness. On Monday 9th April, Pope Francis issued another call to action (Apostolic exhortation) called *Gaudete et Exsultate* (*Rejoice and be Glad*). He begins by saying that Jesus wants us to be saints and not settle for a bland and mediocre existence. So, the Pope's aim is to "re-propose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time".

Much of his teaching is based on the 'Sermon on the Mount' – the teaching of Jesus we find in chapters 5 to 7 of St. Matthew's Gospel. Holiness, the Pope makes clear, is not about "swooning in mystic rapture". Instead, Pope Francis speaks of five great expressions of love for God and neighbour that are authentic signs of holiness for today's culture. Instead of the sense of anxiety, the violence, the negativity and sullenness; self-content bred by consumerism; individualism; and all those false forms of spirituality of today's world, the Pope speaks of "perseverance, patience and meekness" to keep going and even be able to face hostility. Next, he speaks of "joy and a sense of humour", before urging us to "boldness and passion" like that of the apostles after Pentecost.

Pope Francis goes on to speak of holiness as "a journey into community", not as something in isolation. Finally, he stresses the importance of prayer. "I do not believe in holiness without prayer", he states. "It need not be lengthy", he says, and quotes St. John of the Cross: "Try to be continuous in prayer, and in the midst of bodily exercises do not leave it. Whether you eat, drink, talk with others, or do anything, always go to God and attach your heart to him". For each disciple, says the Pope, "it is essential to spend time with the Master, to listen to his words, and to learn from him always. Unless we listen, all our words will be nothing but useless chatter."

This challenging but most helpful document is available from Veritas at just €4.99. Take and read!

Heating Project

The Heating Installation Committee has met on several occasions during February, March and April and has discussed several options for a suitable heating system for our Church. Their deliberations will continue into May and June this year.

There have been a number of visits to several churches to ascertain at first hand if their systems would be ideal for us. An initial meeting has also taken place with a representative from the Building Services function of Archbishop's House who indicated that they will give us all the help and advice where necessary. Overall I consider a good start has been made and I will continue to keep you informed of progress. *Fr. Liam.*

St. Clement rescued from the rubbish!

Fragment linked to martyred pope of found after London bin collection.

A small leather case containing a fragment of bone claimed to be a relic of St. Clement, a pope who was martyred almost 2,000 years ago, has been found in rubbish collected from central London.

The waste disposal firm is now appealing for suggestions from the public for a more suitable final resting place for a saint than a bin.

The box, originally sealed with red wax and tied with crimson cords, contained a scrap of bone under a glass dome, with a faded strip of paper labelling it "Oss. S Clementis" – bone of St. Clement.

The little box ended up in the hands of the Enviro Waste firm, which collects both commercial and domestic waste. The case was found after a run that included several different sites in central London, and so the firm cannot pinpoint where the relic came from. It was spotted when employees were sorting through the load to separate out anything that could be recycled.

The firm is seeking suggestions for the relic. "You can imagine our amazement when we realised our clearance teams had found bone belonging to a pope", said the firm's owner, "it's not something you expect to see, even in our line of work."

Recently Deceased—please pray for the souls of:

Elizabeth O’Hanlon—Vernon Rise



Mona O’Neill—Ennafort

Parish Resource Centre News

Recovery Ireland

Recovery Self Help Method Ireland is a Community Mental Health Organisation that offers a self-help method of will training. Whether you or someone you know is suffering from specific fears or phobias or is finding it hard to sleep because of stress or are dealing with anger issues, Recovery Self Help Ireland can and will help. All Recovery Meetings are confidential and the information is kept within the group. Why not drop in sometime, you will be most welcome. Recovery meetings will be every Tuesday here in the Resource Centre starting May 8th.

For more information go to the Recovery website www.recoveryireland.ie or visit our Facebook page:

RecoveryMethod.

St. Brigid’s Seniors (S.B.S.)

S.B.S has had a very busy spring. The calendar was very varied. It included talks on the natural world and local history. Entertainment was provided by local thespian Charlotte Bradley; and a discussion morning to air our opinions! These in-house days were interspersed with day trips, a 3 day Spring Break away and for the first time an afternoon Tea Dance!

We will welcome the summer with our Garden Party on Wednesday 13th June.

Community Employment

Two caretaker positions have become available for the Resource Centre and church.

Hours are 9.00am – 1.00pm and 1.00pm – 5.00pm, If you are eligible for community employment you can apply by contacting:

Susan Daly in St. Monica's Y.C on 01-848 0829 or Karol Stout in the Resource Centre on 01-853 4030.

Killester Men’s Shed

Killester Men’s Shed have a beautiful selection of photography on display in the coffee dock, images such as the Clontarf Castle, Dollymount beach, St. Anne’s park and other local scenery. These images are for sale with all proceeds going to help the running of the Men’s Shed.

Coffee Dock is open daily till 1.30 pm if you wish to drop in .

Karol

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please note that Eucharistic Adoration now takes place on **Mondays** and **Tuesdays** from 10.30am until 3.00pm each day in the Adoration Chapel on right hand side of Church near Saint Brigid’s altar. Adoration on **Thursday** night takes place in our Church from 7.00pm until 8.00pm. If you are prepared to “watch for one hour” per week you will be very welcome.

We also invite you to spend some time – even a few minutes in our Church in prayer and reflection. Each **Thursday** night for the coming months we will be praying for peace in the Middle East and for the Pope’s intentions.

Please note that the Annual Mass for our Adorers will take place on Thursday, 7th June, at 7.30 pm. Fr Liam will host a reception afterwards in our Pastoral Resource Centre.

All Parishioners are welcome

St. Brigid's Parish Shop

There is now in our shop a large selection of First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards together with a wide range of rosary beads, rosettes, prayer books and other items associated with these sacraments on display together with Mass cards, Mass Bouquets and signed Mass cards.

So why not call into the shop and see this lovely display for yourselves before you go anywhere else. The shop is located at the car park side of our Church. *All proceeds go to Parish funds.*

We have also put in place at our Shrines, Prayer and Novena booklets for the different devotional prayers and ceremonies taking place in the Church.

Parish contact details:

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Parish Office: 01-833 2974 Parish email: killesterparish@eircom.net

Parish Website: www.killester.dublindiocese.ie

Resource Centre Ph. 01-853 4030 email: resourcekillester@gmail.com

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19:30 - 20:45 **Leaving Higher**
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