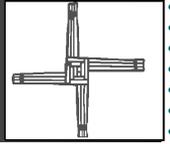




St. Brigid's Parish, Killester

Parish Newsletter July/August 2013



Dear Friends,

Summer has come and I hope you will have the opportunity of a well deserved break. I was fortunate to spend a fortnight in Italy - a week in Rome followed by a week in Montecatini in Tuscany. While in Rome, thanks to the helpful intervention of Msgr. John Kennedy, I had a delightful seat close enough to Pope Francis at his general audience in St. Peter's Square on Wednesday 5th June. There were approximately 100,000 people present and the Pope spent over 40 minutes moving through the crowd in the popemobile, stopping and blessing little children and babies before addressing us in Italian. It was a lovely occasion, held in glorious sunshine.



The new Pope is full of little surprises. He continues to live in St. Martha's in the Vatican, a hotel-like building with many other residents, for whom he celebrates Mass each morning at 7 a.m. Apparently he wishes to live in a community type situation and so has not moved into the Papal apartments. He shares a short reflection at Mass each day with the congregation made up of workers, Swiss guards, sisters, security and few clergy. His thoughts for the day are simple and clear and tend to emphasise living out our Christian calling rather than merely talking about it. Another small but pleasant surprise is his request that St. Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary, be mentioned in each Eucharistic prayer at Mass and this will now become standard practice.

The Italians are delighted with Pope Francis. The only slight reservation I gleaned was the headaches his free and easy manner and movements might be creating for the Swiss guards and the Vatican security police! Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's surprise resignation and the choice of Pope Francis are wonderfully reassuring reminders that the Holy Spirit remains full of surprises and is alive and active in the Church today. Thanks be to God!

Fr. Alex

Tom "Our Great Sacristan" 1992 – 2013

The news that Tom, our great Sacristan, was retiring, while understandable nevertheless took us all by surprise. A few words on this man would be appropriate.

He was born in Cappamore, Co. Limerick in 1930, one of a family of six. After his leaving certificate Tom initially remained at home before leaving for London in 1953. Two years later he returned and began working in Dublin, first at the Institute of Industrial Research and Standards and later in Adhesive Tapes, Ireland where he remained until 1989.

Tom met May his future wife in 1957 and they were to marry in July 1961 at St. Cronan's Church, Balla, Co. Mayo. They were blessed with four children: Micheal, Tim, Mairead and Anna, and they are now proud grandparents.

They chose to live in Killester in the 1960s where Tom got involved in Killester/Artane Community Development and also in Neighbourhood Watch. He became involved in our Parish Church particularly with the commencement of the Planned Giving Campaign. Tom became a helper thanks to an invitation from the late Paddy Gillick. Canvassing, calling to houses, etc. for funds became part and parcel of his weekly routine. He became even more involved as a member of the Parish Fundraising Committee as well as assisting on Sundays with the Church collections. However this was not all he was engaged in.

In 1974 Tom became a member of KARE (Killester, Artane, Raheny, Edenmore) Social Services whose work included: Home help, meals on wheels, provision of information, and fundraising. He later became Treasurer of this organisation and still remains a Board member. He also was the Archbishop's Nominee on the Board of Management for St. Brigid's Girls' School for a number of years. Subsequently he was on the Parents committee and involved in fund raising for St. Mary's Secondary School.

In March 1992 Tom began as an assistant Sacristan to the late Paddy Cafferkey, and a year later became full time at the request of Fr. Leahy, PP. Since that time Tom's role has expanded and thanks to his financial expertise began to assist with the management of Parish finances. In 2000 Tom, working with Fr. Leycock, helped oversee the construction of our lovely Parish Resource Centre and the beautiful Peace Garden. As a Board member of the Resource Centre his contributions have been insightful and his knowledge and memory recall have been second to none.

Over the years Tom has been the ever present and dependable face of Killester Parish. His warmth, good nature, and approachable manner have been the hallmark of his years of service here. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him. Now that he will no longer be present on a daily basis will require adjustment on all our parts!! Knowing Tom however, he will not be going away altogether and hopefully, will still be a significant presence in our Parish. Should a crisis arise we know he will only be a phone call away !!

Fr. Alex

St. Mary Magdalene – Feast day 22nd July

With the exception of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, few women are more honoured in Scripture than Mary Magdalene or Mary of Magdala, a town on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee near Tiberias. She has always been regarded as the example of a most repentant sinner. She has been deemed a prostitute and identified with the unnamed sinful woman who anointed the feet of Jesus in St. Luke's Gospel (7:37-38). Later on in the same Gospel a woman named Mary Magdalene is identified as a lady whom Jesus "freed from seven devils" and who with other named women, travelled around with Jesus and from their means supported the Twelve (8:2). However, being "freed from seven devils" in our Lord's time did not necessarily mean that the person had been a prostitute. On the contrary, it was understood as referring to a severe illness such perhaps as epilepsy. The identifying of Mary Magdalene with a sinful, fallen woman is not Scriptural and so a brief explanation as to how this came about may be helpful.

The situation in great measure is due to Pope Gregory the Great who gave a famous sermon at San Clemente in Rome in 591. The Pope was seeking an example to illustrate the *forgiving nature* of Christianity and so he wove together a number of Gospel stories linking together Mary Magdalene, Mary of Bethany, and the anonymous sinful woman who anointed Jesus' feet in the home of Simon the Pharisee. In two sentences he wrote:

She whom Luke calls "the sinful woman", whom John calls Mary, we believe to be the Mary from whom seven devils were ejected, according to Mark. And what did these seven devils signify, if not all the vices? It is clear brothers that the woman previously used the perfumed oil to anoint her body for her sinful acts.

Pope Gregory's inaccurate, if well intentioned presentation has passed down through the Western Church for almost 1400 years. Thanks to advances in Scriptural studies, the Church has recently begun to correct this error in respect of Mary Magdalene. In 1969 the Prayer of her Mass in the Roman Missal which previously identified Mary Magdalene as the sister of Lazarus whom Jesus called back to life four days after his death, was changed to read:

"Father, your Son first entrusted to Mary Magdalene the joyful news of the resurrection..."

Moreover, the gospel for the Mass was also significantly altered when it was changed from the story of the anonymous sinful woman anointing the feet of Jesus, to that of Mary Magdalene's encounter with the Risen Lord. Our Missal and Lectionary overturn the centuries old but unwarranted identification of Mary Magdalene with the anonymous prostitute. This new emphasis is now taking hold. Mary Magdalene, who stood at the foot of the Cross, is the woman to whom the risen Jesus first appears and so she became the first Apostle of the Good News to the Apostles. High honour indeed!

Could it be that Saint Mary Magdalene has been the most maligned woman in our Gospel history? The Catholic Churches of the East have always had a high regard for Mary Magdalene and have never seen her as she has been portrayed in the Western Church. Mary Magdalene is now seen as a compassionate woman who ministered to Jesus during his preaching and who dared to be present at the Crucifixion when everyone else, bar his Mother Mary and St John, had abandoned him. And very significantly she was also the first to receive the Good News of the Resurrection.

So much for Dan Brown and the Da Vinci Code's presentation of our Saint!!.

Fr. Alex.

Thanks to our Parish Volunteers

One of the outstanding features of our Parish is the number of dedicated volunteers who help build up the Community in so many different ways. It is only right that every so often their invaluable contribution should be acknowledged. One such occasion was on Thursday 27th June at Parnell's GAA Club Coolock. A gathering of over 120 volunteers shared a most enjoyable evening with a delightful meal which was followed by music and dancing. It was a really pleasant experience in a relaxed and jovial atmosphere.

It also provided an opportunity for all of us to acknowledge the wonderful contribution that Pauline O'Regan, our Resource Centre Manager, makes to our Parish. Indeed, recently Pauline was one of the 5 recipients of the Lord Mayor's Award for her services to the Community, and this was celebrated with a small presentation.

The planning and organisation of such a successful night was due to a small group of dedicated workers to whom we are all most grateful.

Frs. Alex and Michael.

Killester Youth Club

As we come to the end of June, Killester Youth Club takes a break for the Summer holidays. We've celebrated our first full year of activities which we hope the younger and teenage members of our parish have enjoyed. Activities such as workshops on drumming, cartooning, music making, song-writing and rapping were held. The older group got to shoot short films with BAFTA & IFTA award-winning directors, which was both a thrill and an eye-opening experience for everyone involved. We hope to have "Kill-Oscars" in the Autumn.

Group outings to ALSAA bowling and to Awesome Walls were very well attended. We raised €525 for Temple Street hospital with our Bake Sale during the year. A huge Thank You to Pauline O'Regan and the staff of the Resource Centre, Fr. Alex, and especially Fr. Michael for their support of our club during the year. We hope to recruit new members in September.

Check out our website: www.killesteryouthclub.com and Like our Facebook page!

Recently deceased - please pray for the souls of:

Ted Jones – Killester Park
Brian Whiteacre – Millbrook Avenue
Maureen Murphy – St Anne’s Avenue
Mary Lundy – Rosevale Court
James (Jimmy) McGraine – The Demesne.



Phyllis Preston – Brookwood Park
Helen O’Dea – Ennafort Park
Marie Nolan – Brookwood Avenue
Kathleen Farrell – Abbeyfield

Baptisms—We are happy to welcome into our Christian Community:

Adam Michael Dempsey – Harmonstown Road. Oliver Anthony Cox – Brookwood Abbey.
Maddalena Megan Gero Greene – Venetian Hall.

Wedding — our congratulations to:

Nicola Thomas and John Carey – Craigford Avenue

Resource Centre News

The Old Killester Society.

An Exhibition “Forgotten but not Gone” was held from 22nd to 30th June in the Centre. It was organised by the Old Killester Society in partnership with the students of “Cultural & Heritage Studies Class of 2013” from Killester College of Further Education, and Dublin VEC. A slide show was available throughout the event which featured photographs from as far back as the 1920s. The Old Killester Society would like to thank all who attended and were kind enough to share their stories and memorabilia. New members are essential to building a comprehensive history of our heritage. Contact Pauline at the Resource Centre for further information on joining us, at 853 4030.

Volunteers’ Night.

On June 27th we celebrated with our Volunteers in Parnell’s GAA club. What a wonderful night that was. Everything was superb. The company, the venue, the food, the Band “Fever”, and the Staff. It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves and getting to know one another. Parnell’s looked after us very well and we thank them for a very successful night.

S.B.S.

The Club finished up the season with a Garden Party, which was delightful. The Ladies and Gentlemen looked very well in their “Glamour and Sparkle”. They really responded to the occasion. The weather was very kind for the music and song in the Peace Garden. The lunch was supplied by Vivienne, and up to her usual excellent standard. Music and song were supplied by Jim Whelan and friends, with dance and enjoyment for everyone. The Club resumes again in September and we wish all our members a happy and relaxing Summer.

Pauline O’Regan

St. Brigid’s Parish Shop, Killester

There is now in stock a large selection of religious items including Mass cards, Mass bouquets, pictures, angel pins, crucifixes, holy water fonts, candles and christening candles, medals, rosary beads, prayer leaflets and a lot more. There are also in stock birthday, retirement, good wishes and get well cards. together with Willow Tree Guardian Angels by Susan Lordi.

Why not call into the shop and see for yourself the large array of goods available. The shop is open after all the Masses at weekends and is located at the side of the Church nearest car park.

At back of the Church there is now a large selection of Prayer and Reflection booklets including “The Power of an hour with Jesus” which is especially appropriate for use during Eucharistic Adoration now taking place Monday and Wednesday from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, and Thursday night from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

Parish contact details:

Monsignor Alex Stenson, P.P. 01-833 3793
Rev. Michael O’Grady, C.C. 01-853 3466
Parish Office Ph. 01-833 2974 Parish email: killesterparish@eircom.net
Parish Website: www.killester.dublindiocese.ie Resource centre Ph. 01-853 4030
Resource Centre email (new address): resourcekillester@gmail.com

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