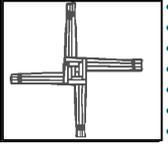




St. Brigid's Parish, Killester

Parish Newsletter April 2013



Dear Friends,

Habemus Papam! We have a Pope, one Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio! The eyes of the world were trained on the chimney above the Sistine Chapel. Below in St. Peter's Square, tens of thousands stood in the pouring rain waiting to hear news from the Conclave. I remember thinking that in our very technological age the signs and apparatus for the election of a new Pope seem timeless. Then, finally plumes of white smoke gushed out of the chimney and the great Bells of St. Peter's began to peal. The Cardinals had on the fifth ballot come to a decision. Cardinal Tauran eventually emerged on the Central Balcony of St. Peter's and announced the Baptismal name of the new Pope, and the name by which he would be known, Francis. Within a few minutes the new Pope appeared dressed simply in a white cassock and his first words were informal and gracious, 'Brothers and Sisters, good evening!' He understandably wanted to pay tribute to his predecessor Benedict XVI and asked the crowds to pray for him in his retirement.

Before he gave his first blessing as Pope he called the crowd to silence and asked them to pray to God that he would be blessed by him. In the days that have since passed, Pope Francis is showing the world that his Papacy will be one of simplicity. Also it appears that he will certainly be his own man! He decided for the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday to leave the Vatican and go to a local Youth Detention Centre where he washed the feet of young men and women! There will be exciting and changing times ahead. The Holy Spirit has once more influenced the choice of the Cardinals. Please keep our new Pope Francis in your prayers that God will give him good health as he begins his ministry as Bishop of Rome and successor of St. Peter as head of the College of Bishops. Until the next time, Fr. Michael.

OUR PARISH

Some years ago the famous Irish Author Alice Taylor published a book entitled 'The Parish'. It was a book which was full of her characteristic wit and realism as she described the ever changing nature of parish life in the early years of the Twenty First Century. She is very insistent on the importance of community and even quotes the old saying of the Blasket Islanders, "*Ar scath a chéile a mhaireann na daoine*" (we live in the shelter of each other). In the book she gives a very concise definition of what kind of people make up any parish community, including those who believe 'it is their God-given right to do nothing', and 'those movers and shakers' who ensure that things happen.

Here in our parish we are happy that we have more of the latter, people who give of their time and talents to enable our parish to thrive. Many of the people who come into either the Church or the Resource Centre are not necessarily parishioners in the strictest sense of the word, but they feel here a warmth of welcome, experience prayerful Liturgies, and hospitality for which the parish can be rightly proud. We owe not only to those who have gone before us but also to the generations to come to ensure that our Parish continues to be experienced as a prayerful and welcoming place, where we literally do live in the shelter of each other.

When asked a number of years ago what she thought Jesus would say if he saw the state of Irish Christianity today, Alice replied "I think if Jesus was to come back today he'd say to us: 'What have ye done to me?' Then I think he'd say, 'come back to me'; finally I think he'd say - which is very comforting - 'Ye have begun the journey back to me' ". Hopefully the journey has begun for all of us. Fr. Michael.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The members organising committee for our Eucharistic Adoration are very happy with the progress made in respect of the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. They would like to remind adorers of the need to sign the book when they arrive for their hour. Adoration times are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Monday and Wednesday | 10.30 am to 3 pm |
| Thursday | 7 pm to 8 pm |
| First Fridays | 10.30 am 3 pm (concluding with Benediction) |





“Christ is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia”

Easter is the oldest and the greatest of all our Christian Feasts. The Easter Vigil, which we celebrated recently, is at the very heart of the Church’s Liturgical Year. Our forty days of Lenten preparation are now completed, and so “with hearts and minds renewed” we celebrate the Easter Feast. This Feast extends over *fifty* days and concludes with the Feast of Pentecost. The Church sees this time of rejoicing as “*One Great Feast Day*”. In earlier times fasting was excluded, kneeling forbidden, and the Christian faithful always prayed in a *standing position* during this period as a sign of the Resurrection.

The Good News of Our Lord’s Resurrection is remembered in our liturgy not only as a past event, but as an “*ever-present reality*”. The Paschal Candle, that large studded Candle lit at our Easter Vigil, has the year 2013 carved on it. This is the Church’s way of reminding us that Christ’s life and death are not past events to be filed away historically, but that through his Resurrection, He is gloriously alive in our Church today. It is this *Risen Christ* whom we meet for example in our Mass, where he nourishes us with his Body and Blood. Similarly, it is the Risen Jesus who today forgives us our sins in Confession, and who heals us in mind and body in Holy Anointing. It is He, whose Spirit pulsates through our Church creating of it the *Body of Christ*—a living *organism*, and not a mere corporate propaganda organisation—a view often proposed nowadays in the media. Yes, the Good News is that Christ is alive in His Church today. Let us rejoice and be glad, Alleluia, Alleluia!

EASTER REFLECTION

Some people think that if you have enough faith, life will be plain sailing for you. But this is not so. The fact that we can swim doesn’t prevent us from being knocked about by the waves. In the same way faith doesn’t shield us from the hard knocks of life or death.

What, then, does faith do?

It gives us bearings and thus enables us to live in a topsy-turvy world without giving in to despair. Just as swimmers trust that if they don’t panic, and if they do a few simple things, then the power of the sea will uphold them, so believers entrust their lives to a power greater than themselves, a power greater than us all.

This power is the power of God, who brought his Son, Jesus, back from the dead.

YOUTH CLUB

Killester Youth Club got up and running in May 2012 following almost a year of preparation by a number of parents working with the priests of the parish. We have 150 members with ages ranging from 11 to 16 years, a group for 5th and 6th class students and a group for older students from 1st year up. We are affiliated to the CYC and 40 volunteers have received their child protection training and support from them. We are in the process of affiliating with CDYSB, (City of Dublin Youth Services Board) at the moment. Having such great support from the parents, volunteers and the parish we are now in the position of providing youth club 3 nights a week, Fridays for the younger group using the facilities of St. Paul’s in Artane, Saturdays for the older group currently using the Resource Centre and then on Wednesdays we have a table tennis league for the older group using the facilities of the Irish Wheelchair Association in Clontarf. Competition is heating up in this league with some great results being achieved.

We have had a number of table quizzes for both groups, workshops in water-colours, pottery, drumming, music and rap composition, drama and cartoons. The results from the cartoon workshop were on display in the hallway of the Resource Centre and showcased the budding talent of some of our members. Our Christmas outing was on the 14th December to see “Beauty and the Beast” pantomime at the Helix and a great night was had by all. We had a very successful church-gate collection in December for which we were most grateful. This has allowed us to deliver a wide range of activities to our young people. The older group are completing a film course having scripted, directed, filmed and starred in their own short films.

Check out our website: www.killesteryouthclub.com for details of upcoming events.

Recently deceased - please pray for the souls of:

Maureen Butler, Ennafort Park
Dick Gannon, Maryville Road
Mary Callely, Howth Road
Lily Bickford, Haddon Court
Maura O'Dwyer, formerly Abbey Park



Ellen Gannon, Harmonstown Road
Thomas Toolan, Howth Road
Frances Whelan, Rosevale Court
Mona Wall, Vernon Drive

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

Ross Carroll Sheedy, Lymewood Mews
Mathew Mark McKenna, Balrothery Gardens
Leah Christine Curley, Maypark
Anna Grace Kiernan, Brookwood Avenue
Aidan Bernard Daly, Ennafort Park

Faye Margaret Kelly, Claremont County Roscommon
Oisín Derek Friel, Royal Canal Park
Olivia Josephine Fagan, Middle Third
Conor Raymond Daly, Ennafort Park



Wedding—Our congratulations to:

Elizabeth Donnelly and Joseph Mooney Maryville Road

Resource Centre News

OLD KILLESTER SOCIETY

A new project is starting in the Centre. A new group coming together to learn as much as they can about old times in Killester. We want to talk to anyone who can tell us about events and happenings years ago; so much better if you have old letters, documents and photographs from that time. We want to see everything. You might think it is unimportant - we might find it invaluable and help us to bring together the story of Killester long ago. Talk to Pauline 01 853 4030.

Cupla Focal

Do you half remember your school Irish? Would you like to speak our native language again? It will all come back to you.
Come along and meet like-minded people at 11.30 am every Tuesday in the Coffee Dock.
Make new friends and have fun trying to remember the correct focal.

MINDFULLNESS

This is a wonderful course of eight weeks learning to live in the present. It gives you emotional wellbeing, peace and relaxation, decreases stress and anxiety, and more. Class starting on Thursday 11th April at 10.30 am. Talk to Noreen at 086 399 9969.

St. Brigid's Parish Shop, Killester.

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

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 now also put in place at our Shrines prayer and novena booklets for the many devotional prayers taking place in the Church.

The Following books are available from the Church Bookshop:

1. Prevailing Light: a book of poems about the goodness of everyday things and God's presence in life, There are pieces with local resonance, like Clontarf, Howth Peninsula, and the Dublin Mountains.
2. Harmony of the Faith. Poems and Prose dealing with the whole experience of our Catholic Faith; the Creed, Sacraments, Commandments, and Prayer. This is a helpful book for families or any group or individuals; especially in this Year of Faith.

Both Books are by Fr. Eamon Flanagan CM from St. Paul's.

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: resourcekillester@eircom.net

**Resource Centre
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Open Sunday to Friday
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Saturdays 9.30 am - 3.00 pm
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26 Killester Park D5
Contact Lina 087 9662 609 / 846 5507

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Children's Dancing Classes
Venue 126 Abbeyfield
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3.30 p.m. onwards
Contact Jacqueline
at 831 8654 and 086-256 1000

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087- 9787380

**St. Brigid's Resource Centre, Killester
Every Wednesday Evening**

17:00 - 18:00 **Junior Higher**
18:15 - 19:15 **Leaving Ordinary**
19:30 - 20:45 **Leaving Higher**
20:45 - 22:00 **5th Year Higher**

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