



# St. Brigid's Parish, Killester

## Parish Newsletter

### April 2016



Dear Friends,

The Lord is Risen, alleluia alleluia! As a priest I always feel a sense of relief when the Easter Ceremonies have been celebrated, and when, thanks to so much support and co-operation they have gone well and without a hitch. Here at St. Brigid's we are blessed with a wonderful backup team. A special thanks to our sacristans Paddy and Larry, our team of Kati, Phil and Carmel who keep the Church in such excellent condition, our artistic and floral decorators Breda, Mary and Harrie, along with Paul and Dave who are always available, and of course Louis Gillick, all of whom contribute in a quiet and unobtrusive way to facilitate the smooth running of our Church. I am deeply grateful for all they do and I think it only right that their efforts be acknowledged. As usual the Choir under Eileen Dwyer's direction was superb and really enhanced our Liturgies, as did the music so generously provided by Eugene Dolan. But there are many others who play their part week in week out. I am thinking of our Readers, the Eucharistic Ministers, the Baptismal and Funeral Teams, and our Sunday Cantors Claire and Laura.

To all of them we owe a great debt of thanks for their willing and generous ministry in our Community. On your behalf, I wish to thank them all.

I met with the Archbishop recently and discussed the future of the Parish in a general way. I suggested that a new, younger Parish Priest might be appointed to replace me and that I might continue in an ancillary role assisting perhaps in our three schools, a ministry which I enjoy, but with no administrative responsibilities. It remains to be seen however what will materialise. There is a serious shortage of priests. Perhaps responsibility for the running of the parish will move towards our Parish Pastoral Council whose focus is moving on from the smooth running of the Pastoral Resource Centre which it did so admirably since its foundation to a broader vision embracing the whole Parish as a centre of evangelisation. There are interesting and challenging times ahead.

*Fr. Alex.*

#### **THE MOTHER**

(written in prison by Padraig Pearse)

I do not grudge them: Lord, I do not grudge  
My two strong sons that I have seen go out  
To break their strength and die, they and a few,  
In bloody protest for a glorious thing.  
They shall be spoken of among their people,  
The generations shall remember them,  
And call them blessed;  
But I will speak their names to my own heart  
In the long nights;  
The little names that were familiar once  
Round my dead hearth.  
Lord, thou are hard on mothers:  
We suffer in their coming and their going;  
And tho' I grudge them not, I weary, weary  
Of the long sorrow—and yet I have my joy:  
My sons were faithful, and they fought.

#### **THE FOOL**

(extracts from Pearse's poem)

For this I have heard in my heart, that a man  
shall scatter, not hoard,  
Shall do the need of today, nor take thought  
of tomorrow's teen.  
Shall not bargain or huxter with God, or was it a  
jest of Christ's  
And is this my sin before men, to have taken Him  
at His word?

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O wise men, riddle me this: what if the dream  
come true?  
What if the dream come true? and if millions  
unborn shall dwell  
In the house that I shaped in my heart, the noble  
house of my thought?  
Lord, I have staked my soul, I have staked the  
lives of my kin  
On the truth of Thy dreadful Word.  
Do not remember my failures,  
But remember this my faith.

## 1916 and the Church in Dublin

Archbishop William Walsh was Archbishop of Dublin during the 1916 Rising. A Dubliner born in 1841, he had been appointed in 1885 as Archbishop at the age of 44. He was 75 at the time of the Easter Rising and in poor health. Suffering from a viral form of eczema, it resulted in him being physically almost entirely cut off from outside contact during that year. Records show that doctors were visiting him regularly including a skin specialist right up to and including Easter week with the Archbishop ill in bed. Some interesting paragraphs in Morrissey's biography of Archbishop Walsh recall: *"A fire at Laurence's premises, Upper O'Connell Street, threatened the Pro-Cathedral". "The fire brigade", Curran recalled, "was ordered by the military not to go out". The administrator of the Cathedral telephoned Archbishop's House to request the Archbishop to procure the intervention of the Viceregal Lodge. The Archbishop permitted Curran to do so". "After consultation with General French, the Viceregal (representatives) agreed to do their best (to allow the fire brigade to save the Pro-Cathedral), but nothing was done about the matter". In the event, the Cathedral was saved by a change in the wind."* (p. 285).

Again we read: *"On 6 May all the newspapers paid tribute to the fearlessness of the Catholic priests in ministering to the wounded and dying, irrespective of the danger, in all the areas where the fighting raged. The papers, moreover, highlighted the problems in the Archbishop's parish, in the area of the Pro-Cathedral. Not only was there danger from fire on the nights of Thursday and Friday, there was the problem of dealing with refugees and their needs as they flocked to the vestry and cathedral seeking shelter "from burning buildings and shell and rifle fire". "Their terror was evident in their piteous appeals." Over forty were catered for in the vestry. "The fierceness of the fighting in and about Marlborough Street" was such "that no less than ten civilians were shot dead in the streets" . (p288) .*

In particular the Capuchins at Church Street were very caught up in the Rising and ministered to the wounded and dying. Some were given permits to travel freely through the city and visit the rebel prisoners. They also were to minister to them before their executions. Fr. Aloysius went to Kilmainham on Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> May and heard the final confessions of Pdraig Pearse and Tomas McDonagh but was not allowed stay for their executions. He protested and subsequently the policy changed. On Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> May, Fr. Columbus visited Edward Daly, Fr. Albert went to Michael O'Hanrahan, Fr. Sebastian to Joseph Plunkett and Fr. Augustine to Willie Pearse "whose hands were already tied behind his back". On Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> May they also attended to Con Colbert and Sean Heuston. Then on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May Fr. Aloysius was taken to Dublin Castle and heard James Connolly's last confession. He accompanied him in an ambulance to Kilmainham as Connolly was wounded and on a stretcher. He then stood behind the firing party as Connolly was placed on a chair and shot.

One of the factors that swung Irish public opinion in favour of the rebels after the Rising was its distinctively **Catholic** aspect. Much was made of the fact that the rebels had said the rosary every night. The leaders who were executed prepared themselves for death by fervent and devout reception of the sacraments. It is clear that the Easter rebels realised the need for recognising *spiritual realities* as well as material ones. It seems to me that little if any attention has been paid to this aspect in the State's and RTE's commemoration.

### Eucharistic Adoration

For the time being Eucharistic Adoration will continue to take place in the Prayer Room of the Pastoral Resource Centre on Mondays and Wednesdays after 10.00 am Mass, until 3.00 pm. on Thursdays



Adoration will be held in the Church between 7.00 and 8.00 pm. If you are prepared to 'Watch for one hour' with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament you will be very welcome.

We also invite everyone to spend some time - even a few minutes - in prayer and reflection. On Thursday nights in April we will be praying for all refugees and migrants, that they will find comfortable settlement.

### Recently Deceased - Please pray for the souls of:

Arthur McMurray, Vernon Drive  
Mary Soye, Brookwood Avenue  
Sarah Healy, Howth Road

Margaret O'Reilly, Howth Road  
Rita Monks, Venetian Hall

Berna Mehigan, Howth Road  
Eileen Hewson, Howth Road



### Baptisms—We are happy to welcome into our Catholic Community:

Oliver Brennan, Ribh Ave  
Saoirse Drummond, Brigid's Crescent

Fionn Houlihan, Dunluce Road  
Emma Coffey, Ennafort Park

Amelia Sena, Sladmore Drive  
Evangeline Clark, Craigford Drive

### Wedding — our Congratulations to:

Aileen Kelly and Simon O'Callaghan – Ennafort.

### I see His blood upon the Rose

By Joseph Mary Plunkett



I see his blood upon the rose  
And in the stars the glory of his eyes,  
His body gleams amid eternal snows,  
His tears fall from the skies.

I see his face in every flower;  
The thunder and the singing of the birds  
Are but his voice—and carved by his power  
Rocks are his written words.

All pathways by his feet are worn,  
His strong heart stirs the ever-beating sea,  
His crown of thorns is twined with every thorn,  
His cross is every tree.

*Joseph Mary Plunkett was born in Dublin in 1887. He was one of the signatories of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic and was imprisoned by the British army. He was executed in 1916 for his part in the 1916 Rising. Shortly before his execution on the morning of May 4th, he married his fiancée, Grace Gifford, in the chapel of Kilmainham Jail. He was then 28 years old.*

### St. Brigid's Parish Shop, Killester

*There is now in the Parish shop a large range of First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Baptism cards together with a wide range of rosary beads, prayer books, rosettes, medals and other items associated with these sacraments together with Mass bouquets and signed Mass cards.*

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.

So why don't you call into the shop and see for yourself the items for sale before you go anywhere else. The shop is located at the car park side of the Church. *All proceeds go to Parish funds*

### Parish contact details:

Monsignor Alex Stenson, P.P. 126 Furry Park Road 087 6118697 01-833 3793

Parish Office 01-833 2974

Parish email: [killesterparish@eircom.net](mailto:killesterparish@eircom.net)

Parish Website: [www.killester.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.killester.dublindiocese.ie)

Resource Centre Ph. 01-853 4030 email: [resourcekillester@gmail.com](mailto:resourcekillester@gmail.com)



*This Newsletter and past issues  
can be viewed on the Parish Website Archive  
at [www.killester.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.killester.dublindiocese.ie)*



### Maths Classes

George Humphrey 087- 9787380  
**St. Brigid's Resource Centre**  
**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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[www.theorchardpreschool.ie](http://www.theorchardpreschool.ie)

**Scoil Rince Cill Easra**  
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8.30 pm in Resource centre  
**Children's Dancing Classes**  
Venue 126 Abbeyfield  
Monday -Thursday  
3.30 p.m. onwards  
Contact Jacqueline  
at 831 8654 and 086-256 1000

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### New Classes at St. Brigid's Resource Centre

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**Yoga & Mindfulness for Seniors -**  
**Every Friday at 9.30am**  
Starting from 8th April  
For more information or to book a place  
please contact Magda at  
**Mobile: 087 32 67 237**  
Email: [soul.lighthouse.info@gmail.com](mailto:soul.lighthouse.info@gmail.com)

### STAFFORDS

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### English Grinds

St. Brigid's Resource Centre  
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6- 7 pm – Leaving Higher  
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