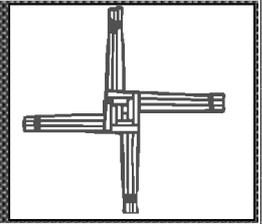




# St. Brigid's Parish, Killester

## Parish Newsletter

### February 2014



Dear Friends,

The arrival of Father Jim Caffrey to our Parish, if initially for only a two week stay, has nevertheless provided great relief to both Fr. Michael and me. St. Brigid's Parish alone had eleven funerals since the 6<sup>th</sup> December and that, coupled with the Christmas Ceremonies, resulted in me being unable to get a small break until late January. The times have certainly changed and the scarcity of younger priests is being felt right throughout the Diocese. More and more, the responsibility for managing the Parish will fall on you the Parishioners, who reside here permanently. We priests are at the beck and call of the Archbishop, and are only passing through.

The recent proposal of the Parish Pastoral/Resource Council to experiment with our **weekday** Mass at 10 am for the month of February, is a case in point. Confusion had arisen, as on a number of occasions, the 9.15 Mass was cancelled to facilitate funerals at 10 am. As deaths cannot be predicted, a general air of uncertainty had emerged, even though the changes were announced as soon as possible to the 9.15 Mass Congregation. But understandably, some were not present to hear of the cancellation. It will be interesting to see what emerges at the end of February in this regard, and your views will be very much appreciated. Personally, I am open to celebrating week day Mass at either 9.15 or 10 am. *Fr. Alex*

### **2nd of February - The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord and no longer the Feast of the Purification of Our Lady**

Many of us when growing up knew this Feast as the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This term was unfortunate and misleading, as Our Lady always has been and is completely sinless and was never in need of purification. So the Church's change of emphasis to the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord is very significant, and has even had a bearing on our Baptismal Ceremony. Essentially, the feast concerns the biblical events that took place in the Temple of Jerusalem where Jesus, rather than his mother Mary, is the centre of attention and is greeted by the elderly Simeon and Anna. (cf. Lk. 2: 22-39).

Some background to the feast may be helpful. In the Old Testament a woman was regarded as being "ritually unclean" for forty days after the birth of a male child (Lev., 12: 1-8) and for 80 days after the birth of a female. The mother was obliged under Jewish law to bring a lamb and a pigeon, or two turtledoves if they were poor, as an offering to the priest for ritual cleansing. Moreover, a "first born son" automatically belonged to the Lord, and had to be redeemed with an offering of money. But the notion of being "ritually unclean" was often misunderstood. For the Jews, a mother in the act of giving birth entered into the very sanctuary of God and was considered closer to God than any other human being could ever be. This was because as a pro-creator and giver of life, she was sharing in something that only God could give. Having been safely delivered, the mother had to return from God's inner sanctuary to normal living and the ceremony of "ritual purification" achieved this. It was in keeping with these regulations that Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple, and Mary offered the sacrifice that "ritually purified" her and at the same time ransomed the forty day old baby Jesus. Down the Christian centuries the Feast became known as Candlemas (Candle Mass) as Christians carried candles on this day as a reminder that Simeon had called Jesus "a Light of revelation to the Gentiles".

In altering the title of this Feast in 1969, the Church wished to make it clear that it was celebrating a Feast of Our Lord forty days after his birth, and not a Feast of the Purification of Our Lady. This change has had implications for our celebration of Baptism. Up to then "Churching" was seen as a ceremony of *purification* for mothers some weeks after the ceremony of Baptism. It is now incorporated into the Baptismal ceremony through the provision of a special blessing for the mother as she gives thanks to God for the safe delivery of her child. There is no longer any element of purification which had suggested that a mother was "ritually unclean" in giving birth to her child. Rather, it is now an expression of gratitude and praise. A helpful way of thinking of this might be the chalice we use at Mass and it being purified after Holy Communion. When emptied it is deemed "ritually unclean" and in need of ritual cleansing or purification but only because of the sacredness of the precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ which it has contained. So it is carefully purified after Holy Communion which is truly appropriate. Similarly with a mother after giving birth. The Temple ceremony of "ritual purification" was somewhat akin to this. We must never lose sight that God created man and woman in his own image, told them to increase and multiply and God saw that it was good. The birth of a child is always good and not something that requires purification.

## Dates for your February Diary

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Feast of St. Brigid:</b> Blessing with her relic at 10 am Mass and 6.30 Vigil along with the St. Blaise blessing of throats
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Presentation of Our Lord:</b> The blessing of the throats will take place at all Masses and St. Brigid's Relic will also be available
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Feast of St. Blaise:</b> Blessing of throats
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: The 12.00 Mass will be celebrated by the Papal Nuncio who will confer the Bene Merente award on Tom O'Brien</b>
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Feast of our Lady Of Lourdes:</b> World Day of Sick
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time:</b> "Do this in Memory" Mass at 10.30 am for First Communicants
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>

## The World Day of the Sick

On 31<sup>st</sup> of May 1992, eleven years following an assassination attempt on his life that led to a time of suffering and the experience of being seriously ill in hospital, Blessed John Paul II launched the First World Day of the Sick, which coincides each year in the Church across the world with the Feast of Our Lady Of Lourdes on 11<sup>th</sup> of February. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued this special World Day, an occasion during which the whole Church bears witness with special concern to the tender mercy and love of God towards all who suffer. It is a time to pause and be prayerfully in solidarity with the sick and all who care for the sick.

*"The World Day of The Sick... is a call once again to all, to see in the face of their brother or sister who is sick the face of Christ who, suffering, dying and rising, brought salvation to humanity". (John Paul II, First World Day of Sick, 1992.)*

*"May the Blessed Virgin, our Mother, comfort those who are ill and sustain all who have devoted themselves as Good Samaritans to healing the physical and spiritual wounds of those who suffer" (Benedict XVI, 2007)*

*"Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect" (Pope Francis, 2013)*



## Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration has now commenced in our Church. Adoration takes place Monday and Wednesday from 10.00 am until 3.00 pm each day and on Thursday night between 7.00 pm and 8.00 pm. All are welcome. Novena booklets and leaflets are available in the Church including *"The Power of an hour with Jesus"*. In the event of a Funeral Mass, Adoration will not commence until 12.00 noon. There may also be unforeseen circumstances where there may not be Exposition of the Blessed Eucharist. However we would encourage Adorers to continue to come to the Church for their hour of Prayer.

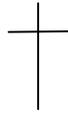
## Do you know the date of your Baptism?

Three times over the Christmas period Pope Francis asked Catholics if they know the date of their Baptism. We all know our birth day and celebrate it accordingly. But the Pope points out that Baptism is a new birth with Christ's Risen Life by which God becomes Our Father, Jesus Our Elder Brother, and The Holy Spirit lives in our hearts! This day, the Pope says, also deserves to be celebrated each year. Children will like the idea also!



Recently deceased - please pray for the souls of:

Ann Fitzpatrick – Ennafort  
Margaret Murphy – Ennafort Park  
Pauline Farrell – The Demense  
Patrick McCarthy – Howth Road  
Pearse McKiernan – Vernon Rise  
Robert Hopley – Furry Park Road  
James Healy – Bettystown Avenue



Philomena Fennelly – Gracefield Avenue  
Nuala Hegarty – Brookwood  
Susan Murphy – Earnans Woods  
Richard Thompson – Venetian Hall  
Patrick Hegarty – Brookwood  
Noel Cuddy – Castle Avenue

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

Alexandra Patrice Flynn – Furry Park Road



Rachel Julia O'Leary – Furry Park Road

RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS



The Resource Centre welcomes back St. Brigid's Seniors from their Christmas break. We are really looking forward to seeing everyone. The Centre hasn't been the same without you. It's so nice to see the energy and hear the laughter the Club brings to the Centre. St. Brigid's Seniors meet on Wednesday, February 5th at 11 am .

The Coffee Dock is a valuable part of the Resource Centre and is now busier than ever with the demand for the introduction of an extension to opening hours. In order to accommodate this we are renewing our appeal for Volunteers, so if you would like to get involved and meet new people contact Karol or Sharon on **853 4030**.

We are always keen to hear from you. If you have any ideas or suggestions we would love to hear them. Maybe there is a course you would like to get involved in or a class you would like to see happen; let us know, we would be happy to help.

Karol

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 *the new CD from St. Brigid's GNS School Choir, Tinsel & Tunes, which featured on the Late Late Toy Show recently.*

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 the 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.

Parish contact details:



Monsignor Alex Stenson, P.P. 01-833 3793  
Fr. Michael O'Grady C.C. 01-853 3466  
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  
Resource Centre email: [resourcekillester@gmail.com](mailto:resourcekillester@gmail.com)

### 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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Thurs. Mornings: 9.30am – Intermediate

Contact Laura on: **087 2463508**  
Website: [www.bodyawareness.ie](http://www.bodyawareness.ie)  
Email: [info@bodyawareness.ie](mailto:info@bodyawareness.ie)

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