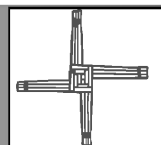




St. Brigid's Parish, Killester

Parish Newsletter May 2013



Dear Friends,

I would like to begin by congratulating you for your very active participation in our Easter Ceremonies. The large attendance, particularly on Good Friday, spoke volumes for your faith-commitment and was deeply encouraging for all of us. The varied contributions of the ministers of the Word and Eucharist and of the Choir greatly enhanced the liturgical celebrations of Our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. St. Brigid's Church itself looked resplendent thanks to the untiring efforts of our sacristans and background staff of cleaners, decorators, florists etc. who so unobtrusively, keep working away quietly and diligently. A sincere thank you to all concerned, not forgetting the young boys and girls who played their part in the children's Way of the Cross.

The Easter Season continues for fifty days until Pentecost Sunday which this year falls on the 19th of May. It is a joyful time when we focus on the risen Christ's presence among us. A feature of the resurrection appearances is that those who knew Jesus well during his public life were somewhat uncertain at first when he appeared to them. Mary Magdalene thought he was the gardener, the Apostles were afraid to ask him "Who this you?", and the Disciples on the road to Emmaus when joined by a stranger, only later recognised the Lord when he "broke bread" with them.

This alerts us to be on the watch! The risen Christ is with us today in the Church, namely the People of God, in good times and in bad, and we too like the Disciples can fail to recognise him in each other and in the circumstances that unfold in our lives.

Patrick Kavanagh's "**Street Corner Christ**" captures the same thought rather beautifully:

*I saw Christ Today
At a street corner stand,
In rags of a beggar he stood
He held ballads in his hand.*

*He was crying out : Two for a penny
Will anyone buy
The finest ballads ever made
From the stuff of joy?*

*But the blind and deaf went past
Knowing only there
An uncouth ballad Seller
With tail-matted hair*

*And I whom men call fool
His ballads bought,
Found Him whom the pieties
Have vainly sought.*

My prayer is that with Easter faith and Easter eyes, the Holy Spirit of Pentecost will help us recognise the Lord all around us.

Fr. Alex

Parish Financial Statement for the years 2009—2012

As you will be aware, The Parish Financial Statement for the above years is now readily available in the Church porch for your perusal. Copies of this report, which were distributed after all Masses on the weekend of 13th -14th April, are still available from the Parish Office.

Parish Celebrations in May

First Holy Communion for the Boys will be on Saturday 18th of May. Then on Thursday 30th May, Archbishop Martin will visit the Parish and confirm the Boys. The Archbishop had hoped to confirm the Girls also but understandably, a very busy diary made this impossible for him. We are delighted however that he is coming and he is most welcome .

Congratulations to all the Girls of St. Brigid's School who made their First Holy Communion and Confirmation in April.

The Infant of Prague (formerly of Madrid)

The Infant of Prague has been a very familiar statue in Irish homes. Indeed it has been associated with weddings and days of celebration for many years. The custom of placing the statue outside the house on the night before a big event to ensure fine weather is well known, if of dubious origin! A brief word on the statue might be helpful. Our story begins in Spain where for hundreds of years there has been a very special and strong devotion to the infant Jesus. It was nourished by saints such as Teresa of Avila.



In the 1500s, a Spanish noblewoman Maria de Lara y Mendoza obtained as a wedding gift a statue of the infant Jesus wearing royal apparel, a tall golden crown, and his right hand raised in blessing. She in turn gave it as a wedding gift to her daughter Princess Ployxena who was marrying a Czech nobleman by the name of von Lebkowicz. And so the statue moved from Madrid to Prague. She later passed the statue on to her granddaughter when she married. Some years later, after her husband's death, the granddaughter gave the statue to a local community of Carmelites who lived in Prague.

When the Saxons and Swedes invaded Prague in 1628, they plundered many of the city's buildings. The statue of the infant Jesus was left in the ruins of the monastery, with its hands missing. Fr. Cyrillus, a young priest, rescued the statue and had it repaired. By 1637 the statue was credited with protecting Prague from complete annihilation by the Swedes. It also gained a reputation for miracles, and copies of the statue were distributed around the world. The statue itself has always been dressed in royal or priestly vestments, which are periodically changed to reflect the current liturgical season. Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI visited the statue when in Prague in September 2009.

The Raising of Lazarus

It was in the safety of Galilee when word first reached us:

Lazarus of Bethany was ill!

His family's kindness and concern had always meant so much to me.

His sickness pre-occupied me, while others fretted

At the dangers that would await our return South.

And yet I knew that somehow God's glory and mine would be revealed!

Martha came out to meet me, her pain and desolation manifest.

As only friends can, she rebuked me for my delay.

What could I do but call her to Resurrection and a new Life,

A life so transcendent that it is untouched even by death.

She calls Mary, whose profound grief and loss ache from her.

Shattered, she kneels before me.

Deeply moved and angry at death's devastation,

My body shudders and recoils -

I burst into tears — and ask for Lazarus' tomb.

Conscious of my Father's powerful, life-giving presence,

I pray that, for their sake, He now reveal His Glory and Power.

And then with authority, I call Lazarus back to life.

Wrapped in burial clothes, he emerges into the light.

Yes, Lazarus lives — but I am now to die.

His return signals my departure.

The exodus Hour is close at hand,

And a shroud-free Resurrection morning awaits.

"Life is Changed Not Ended" (cf. John: Ch 11:1-44)

Fr. Alex

Recently deceased - please pray for the souls of:

Elizabeth Deignam, Middle Third
Imelda Kiely, Howth Road



Noel Harris, Furry Park
Sarah Cremin, Ennafort

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

Eoin Pol O'Dalaigh, Springvale Road, Dublin 8
Angel Zhang, Ping (Teresa) Zhang, De Yu (Peter) Zhang, Brookwood Heights, Dublin 5
Piri Daniel Dolezal, Venetian Hall, Dublin 5
Tessa Bridget Loyan, Dunluce Road, Dublin 3
Fionn Sean Patrick Fox, Maryfield Crescent
Karolina Eileen Margaret Galvin, Furry Park



Wedding—Our congratulations to:
Keith Sweney and Rachel Hayden, Ayrfield Grove

Resource Centre News

Memories

We went and we married a long time ago,
We worked for long hours and the wages were low.
No T.V. no baths and the times were hard
Just a cold water tap, and a walk up the yard.
But if you were sick you were treated at once,
Not "Fill out that form, and come back in six months"
No vandals no muggings- there was nothing to rob,
And we felt very rich with a couple of bob.
No holidays for us , no carpets on floors,
But we had turf on the fire, and didn't lock the doors.
People were happier in those far off days
Kinder and caring in so many ways.

Milkmen and postmen would whistle and sing.
A night at the pictures was our mad fling.
It was quite safe to go and play in the park,
And old folk could go out for a walk after dark.
No valium , no drugs, no LSD,
We cured most ills with a good cup of tea.
We all got our share of trouble and strife
We just had to face it , that's the pattern of life.
But when we are alone and look back through the years,
We don't think of the bad times, the trouble and tears.
We remember the blessings, out home and our love
We shared them together , and we thanked God above.

S.B.S. NEWS

Great plans are afoot for the Club. A trip is planned for May. There is a concert "**Good old days of Musical Hall**" on Wed. 8th May — Gerry Noonan and Dara McMahon to entertain you. Admission by Ticket only.

"WOOLWORTH'S"

There's a blast from the past. Historian Barbara Walsh will bring all the old memories back on May 1st.

RESOURCE CENTRE EVENTS

Concerts coming up:

18th/19th May. Variety Concert showcasing local talent. Tickets available soon.

26th May. Big band Show For Bealtaine Festival. Admission by Ticket only

COFFEE DOCK. Open daily from 9.30 until 1.30. Meet you friends, have a chat, everyone welcome.

OLD KILLESTER SOCIETY. Do come and talk to us if you have memories of Killester long ago. We need all your old photographs etc. We just want to see them and record them for our Archives. Ring Pauline at 853 4030 or Margaret at 833 3588.

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:

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.

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 (revised address): resourcekillester@gmail.com

**Resource Centre
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Children's Dancing Classes
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**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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