

St. Brigid's Parish, Killester, Dublin 5



Newsletter **July/August 2017**



A TIME FOR REST, REFLECTION AND RELAXATION

I had the distinct privilege of being ordained a priest by Pope (now Blessed) Paul VI in 1975. I still recall the day of his death 3 years later, on 6th August, the feast of the Transfiguration as I camped with scouts in the Dublin mountains. In his final message prepared for the feast-day, the Holy Father reflected on how this event in Jesus' life spoke of the immortal destiny of our human nature and the hope of new life that awaits us if we do honour to our Christian calling.

That day the Pope said that the holiday season gives us the space and time to reflect more deeply on these realities, to mature spiritually.

If you have the chance of a summer holiday count your blessings and do not forget the poor and the homeless and the lonely who do not share this opportunity. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers and be grateful for what you have in a world where many are hungry or desperate.

May God keep you safe and all who travel too. Wishing you all every blessing in these months ahead.

Fr. Liam

FINANCE AND HEATING UPDATE

The parish Finance Committee has signed off on parish accounts submitted to Dublin Diocese for the annual audit of its finances in line with the Finance Act passed at the start of the decade governing all charitable institutions. For the Diocese, it has been a huge challenge in recent years preparing these accounts submitted by almost 200 parishes. We hope that when the Diocese answers some of our queries we will be able to publish Parish Accounts.

Visits have been made to our church in recent days and weeks to help identify the best heating options for St. Brigid's and to be able to provide an accurate idea of the costs involved. This has revealed the poor state of the floor-boards under the carpet tiles which are affected by rising damp. This will have to be taken into consideration as work is carried out in the future. It will also have cost implications but, hopefully, these will not be too severe. You will be kept informed.

Searching for Hope

As one man said that his heart-attack was the best thing that ever happened to him, we must be ready to find hope even in unexpected places. The apostles only really found hope after the death of Christ, and we are called to find new hope in the Church of our day.

**Can a man grow from the dead clod of failure
Some consoling flower
Something humble as a dandelion or a daisy
Something to wear as a buttonhole in Heaven.
Under the flat, flat grief of defeat maybe Hope is a seed
Maybe this is what he was born for, this hour of hopelessness
Maybe it is here he must search
In this hell of unfaith
Where no one has a purpose
Where the web of Meaning is broken threads
And one man looks at another in fear.
O God can a man find You when he lies with his face downwards
And his nose in the rubble that was his achievement
Is the music playing behind the doors of despair
O God give us a purpose. *Patrick Kavanagh***

There is the story of the Bishop who phoned the parish priest of a certain parish to tell him he would like to come and celebrate the Mass the following Saturday night. When he duly came he was very shocked that there were a mere 20 people at the Mass. After Mass in the sacristy he asked the parish priest whether he had announced to the people that the Bishop was coming at the week-end.

"No, I didn't", said the priest, "but obviously it must have leaked out!"

(The following article was supplied by Fr. Sean Doggett at our request as he was returning to his mission in the Caribbean after his recent home visit.)

**BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD:
The Part the Church in Grenada Plays in Dealing with
Sovereign Debt and Social and Economic Problems.**

The financial crises of 2008 highlighted the problems and hardship visited upon the most vulnerable people in many countries because of sovereign debt. The working out of sovereign debts usually involves economic austerity measures that include redundancies and cuts in social services. These usually fall hardest on the poorest and most vulnerable in society.

Many small island nations of the Caribbean have serious debt problems; Grenada (population 105,000) being one of the worst. While Grenada is not, by any means, one of the poorest countries in the world, more than half of the population are living below the poverty level. Unemployment in 2012 was over 50%. Public workers received their pay late. The hospital was often without even the most basic medication. Revenue was at an all-time low. Intervention by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was inevitable.

In May of 2013 the Conference of Churches in Grenada organized a series of workshops. The participants at the first one included representatives of non-governmental organizations, trades unions, the private sector, the Churches and the Government of Grenada. Subsequent workshops included representatives of U.N.D.P., the Jubilee Movement, the Caribbean office of the IMF and other international organisations. The outcome was a presentation to the government with suggestions to reduce the burden on the poorest and ensure that those who were better off bore their fair share. Most of these were incorporated into the inevitable austerity programme.

The government set up a Committee of Social Partners (CSP) composed of representatives of the Trades Unions, Private Sector, NGOs and Churches, which meets monthly under the chairmanship of the prime minister. Any matter may be put on the agenda by any member. Also set up at that time was the Grenada Jubilee Committee (GJC) which is made up of representatives of the Churches, the Minister of Trade and Development and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. The CJC provides a channel of communication through which the churches can bring specific issues to the attention of the government and receive more detailed feedback on the progress of the government in the implementation of the structural adjustment programme and in its negotiations with creditors. Out of this whole process has emerged:

A Social Compact that will provide the framework for a national development plan and will, hopefully, continue to be a structure of communication and control.

A Monitoring Sub-Committee that oversees all fiscal transactions especially borrowing by the government

Legislation governing fiscal transactions and ensuring transparency and accountability in government.

Increased awareness among the people (voters) of the issues surrounding the economic situation.

(We thank Fr. Seán for sharing this account with us. We know that the Jubilee Movement concerned with a call for the cancellation of Third World debt has been received at the Vatican by Pope Francis).

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please note that Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Monday and Tuesday in our Church after 10.00 am Mass until 3.00pm each day until late autumn 2017.

Adoration on Thursday night will continue to be held in our Church from 7.00 pm until 8.00 pm.

If you are prepared to 'watch for one hour' of adoration per week you will be very welcome.

We also invite everyone to spend some time - even a few minutes - in prayer and reflection.

Each Thursday night for the coming months we will be praying for peace in our hearts, in the family, in our country and in the world. **All Parishioners are welcome.**

Recently Deceased—please pray for the souls of:

Sheila Macken, Park Lane

Our sincere condolences to Tom O'Brien on the death of his sister, Mary O'Brien, in the UK

Baptisms—we are happy to welcome into our Catholic Community:

Louis Nix – Danieli Drive
Lennon Harford – Harmonstown Road

Cathal Creagh – Middle Third
Alexander Carley - Parkside Avenue

Wedding—our congratulations to:

Lisa Byrne and Eoghan Sweeney – Swords, Co. Dublin

Resource Centre News

Coffee Dock news

The buzz in our Coffee Dock now is infectious.

Even though the activities in our Centre are beginning to wind down for the month of July, our Coffee Dock remains open until July 29th. We would love to see you and your friends visit us all here and enjoy a cup of tea and some homemade scones here in the Dock or on our patio overlooking our beautiful gardens.

Thank you

The Centre has been very busy over the past six months with lots of different events and activities taking place.

I would just like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest thanks to all our volunteers for giving us their time and without whose help we would not have this fabulous Centre to enjoy.

Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers for our Coffee Dock for Saturdays from September 2017. If you have a few hours to spend helping out on Saturdays we would really appreciate it. Without your help there is a real possibility that we will not be able to open our Coffee Dock on Saturdays.

Summer Break

The Resource Centre will close for the summer on Saturday 29th July and will reopen for all activities on Sunday September 3rd. Thank you for all your support and have a lovely summer.

Ruth

St. Brigid's Parish Shop

There is now in stock a large selection of religious items including signed sympathy Mass cards, Mass bouquets and get well Mass cards. There are pictures, angel pins, St Brigid's crosses, crucifixes, holy water fonts, candles and christening candles, medals, rosary beads, prayer leaflets and a lot more. There is also in stock birthday, retirement, good wishes and get well cards. Some attractive CD's are also available including "Good Old days of Music Hall" from Gerry Noonan.

Signed Mass Cards are also available.

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 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 and CDs covering our Catholic faith, life and truth for all.

All proceeds go to Parish funds.

Parish contact details:


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Parish Website: www.killester.dublindiocese.ie
Resource Centre Ph. 01-853 4030 email: resourcekillester@gmail.com

*This current Newsletter and past issues
can be viewed on the Parish Website Archive
at www.killester.dublindiocese.ie*

Maths Classes

George Humphrey 087- 978 7380
St. Brigid's Resource Centre
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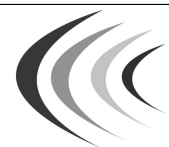
Resource Centre COFFEE DOCK

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cup of coffee or tea
and enjoy a chat!*



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