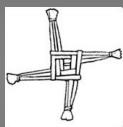


## St. Brigid's Parish, Killester, Dublin 5



### Parish Newsletter

February 2018

#### SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

The Church of the future will become small and will have to start afresh more or less from the beginning, according to Joseph Ratzinger, later Pope Benedict XVI at the end of the 1960's shortly after Vatican II.

Many years ago, when I worked in Chile, I recall how a French missionary priest of the Mill Hill Fathers, used to insist that all active in his parish be members of one community or another. In the Latin American Church many basic Christian communities were formed where people shared their lives and struggles, read the Scriptures and prayed together and sought to be active in their neighbourhoods.

While many people became enthusiastic and involved in the Church at my time, frequently the people might drop out again after a while. Those who stayed were not just individuals but those who belonged in a special way with other believers.

We have all seen those who come late to church or, especially, leave Mass early. This is because they have no sense of belonging in our large parish communities. At a time when, perhaps, 80 to 90 percent attended church all felt a certain sense of belonging together. However, today it is very different.

Yes, we will continue to have large parishes. But if these parishes are, like a human body, made up of many small cells, each with vibrant life, then they will not die. Not all will belong to the same little community, but all the different communities will belong together.

This must be our task in Killester. To allow for more and more little groups to develop, meeting not just at the parish but also in homes. May St. Brigid the great patroness of welcome and generosity help us to move with the Spirit in the years ahead. *Fr. Liam*

#### From FEAR to LOVE: Trócaire's Lenten Campaign 2018

This year's Trócaire Lenten campaign focuses upon the Koroma family in Freetown, Sierra Leone who were affected by recent landslides in their area. This tragic event affected the Koroma family in various ways and cost them their home, possessions, work-tools and changed the course of this family's future forever.

Kumba, whose face is on this year's Trócaire box, was a bright happy little 7-year-old until August 2017 when her life changed forever. She woke as her house began to shake and a deafening roar filled her bedroom. Her mother grabbed her arm and dragged her from the house as mud enveloped their home. Her little sister fell and was injured as they tried to pull her from the deepening mud. Eventually, they reached safety, but other villages were not so lucky. Kumba watched many perish, believing her father to be among them.

Thankfully, her father survived, but her home and the life she had known were destroyed. They lost everything. With nowhere to live, Kumba has been separated from her family and is staying in a children's home with her mother and siblings, while her father lives with his brother.

This year of the World Meeting of Families we can think of Trócaire's efforts to help Kumba's family and families in other countries. We are called to be brothers and sisters to all in need, and to do what we can this Lent for those in need.

Kumba is not giving up. Neither should we. Not until love conquers fear.

### Dates for your Diary

#### FEBRUARY

Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm Meeting of Heating Committee. 8.15 pm Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday. Masses at 10.00 am and 6.30 pm. with Blessing and distribution of Ashes.
Saturdays 17 <sup>th</sup> 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am <i>Meeting Christ in Scripture</i> Group – Parish Resource Centre.

### Newsletters

At this time of year, we often promise ourselves to take more exercise, e.g. walking.

Maybe I can offer help with that – I need a distributor for Ennafort Road (even numbers) – a nice little walk.

Hopefully my suggestion and your offer will benefit us both. Interested?

Volunteers are always very welcome if only to go as “standby”.

Please think about it. You may leave your name and phone number in the Parish Office and I will contact you.

Thank you.

*Kathleen O'Regan – Newsletter coordinator.*

### NEW BOOK REVIEWS THE EVIDENCE OF ST. BRIGID

*St. Brigid of Kildare – Life, Legend and Cult* by Dr. Noel Kissane (Four Courts Press 2017)

Although one of the most remarkable women in Irish history and patroness of Ireland, St Brigid has always been an elusive figure. Some scholars have argued that she never existed as a real person but was merely the Christian personification of the cult of a pagan goddess of the same name. This book reviews all the evidence - history, legend and folklore - and concludes that St. Brigid was certainly a real person.

The book also examines devotion to her in Ireland and overseas, from her lifetime down to the present day. St. Brigid is remembered in more than a hundred places that bear her name throughout the four provinces of Ireland. 116 of Ireland's holy wells are associated with her and she is the patron saint of 113 Catholic and 14 Church of Ireland churches today, among them St. Brigid's church, Killester, and of over a hundred schools and dozens of GAA clubs and other organisations.

While this book does not provide a 'Life of St. Brigid' as the various lives of the Saint paint varying pictures of her, nevertheless, it is the fruit of many years of study by the author, and provides a scholarly assessment of all the traditions concerning the patron of our parish.

### Heating Installation Project.

As reported to you previously regarding the above, I have recently asked a number of Parishioners to sit on a committee to formulate a plan for the installation of a suitable heating system for our church. We had our first meeting on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to discuss a way forward in this regard. We examined in a general way the technical and financial requirements of the heating units proposed together with costs, timeline and appropriate management of same. I will keep you posted as the plans progress.

I am still seeking an Architect or Quantity Surveyor to join our committee and work with us in a voluntary capacity in assessing a proper heating system for St Brigid's. If you are interested in serving please contact me at the Parish office. *Fr. Liam*

**Recently Deceased—please pray for the soul of:**

May Kenny - Maryfield Crescent

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

Cillian Doyle - Howth Road

Hazel Graham - Furry Park Road

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Please note that Eucharistic Adoration on **Mondays and Tuesdays** from 10.30 am until 3.00 pm each day has moved into the Adoration Chapel on right hand side of Church near Saint Brigid's altar, for the winter months. Adoration on **Thursday** night will continue to take place in our Church from 7.00 pm until 8.00 pm. If you are prepared to "watch for one hour" per week you will be very welcome. We also invite you 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 the Middle East and for the Pope's intentions. *All Parishioners are welcome.*

**Parish Resource Centre News**

Spring is here and our peace gardens are starting to bloom. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful team of volunteer gardeners who work tirelessly to keep our grounds in such good shape. A huge "thank you" to them all.

As the mild weather approaches why not drop into the Coffee Dock and admire this beautiful garden from the Coffee Dock patio. Bring a friend and enjoy the lovely surrounds of the Coffee Shop, a great place to meet and catch up with Pancake Tuesday around the corner—I am sure the ladies will have some lovely treats for us before Lent.

Spaces are still available for local artists and photographers to display their work in the Coffee Dock. Contact Karol on 01 8534030 for more information.

We are happy to see new classes starting in the Centre and welcome are new teachers this year, so why not drop into us for an update on activities.

*Karol*

**St. Brigid's Parish Shop, Howth Road, Killester**

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 together with a new Chorals and Carols CD by the St Brigid's girl's school prize winning choir under the Musical Director – Laura Wickham.

*A selection of Signed Mass Cards is 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:**

**Fr. Liam Ó Cuív** 126 Furry Park Road 01-833 3793 086 234 2170

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)

### Maths Classes

George Humphrey 087- 978 7380  
**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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**Scoil Rince Cill Easra**  
**Adult Ceili Classes** every Thurs  
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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**Creative Writing Classes**  
St. John the Baptist Parish Centre,  
Clontarf Road.  
**Classes for adults starting**  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018**  
**10.30 am-12.30 pm.**  
Please contact Ross on **085 1395**  
**320** or email: [ros1@hotmail.com](mailto:ros1@hotmail.com)  
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€120 for 10 weeks

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### Resource Centre COFFEE DOCK

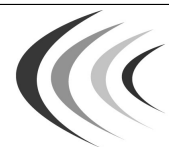
*Do call in for a nice welcoming*  
*cup of coffee or tea*  
*and enjoy a chat!*



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