

Ballyroan Parish Newsletter Sunday 17/18th December 2011

Christmas Arrangements:

Monday 10 am Mass and **Carol Service at 7.30pm in Church**, Confessions to follow.

Tuesday 10am Mass, later the Scoil Naomh Padraig Carol Service 12pm, Preparation for Childrens Mass 4pm Ruah Centre.

Wednesday– Friday 10am Mass
(Parish Office Closes from Wed)

Christmas Eve 10am, 6.30pm and 9pm Masses

Christmas Day 9am, 10.30am, 12 Masses.

Mass arrangements and Christmas Dues envelopes are available for collection at the back of the Church. Thank you to all who have returned the dues already.

There are still some Parish Christmas Cards for sale after the Masses at the weekend and during the week.

Thank you all for your generous response to the St Vincent de Paul Collection last weekend which raised €20,777 If you need to contact the society in confidence Ph. 0861651659

A Christmas note from Fr. Brendan (Not quite a State of the Nation Address)

As this is the last Newsletter before Christmas Day can I use the opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas. As a parish we have had an incredibly busy year – the Ruah Centre has really taken off and is very well used, a new and valuable resource for the parish community, as it has hosted among other things the library, the numerous coffee mornings, the Pre-Marriage Courses, the Ecumenical series of talks, the Parish Fayre and Golf Outing, the Lunch Time Concerts, the Retreats, Do this in Memory Programme hospitality. Our new Ballyroan Faith and Justice Group are doing us proud in helping with this initiative, carrying on the tradition of helping those less fortunate pioneered by our Vincent de Paul Society. We celebrated many wonderful sacramental moments over the year, from Confirmation to 1st Holy Communion, Baptisms and the Sacrament of Reconciliation where many used the opportunity to receive God's loving grace. We also had sad occasions and we as a parish had to say farewell to some wonderful parishioners who have moved to the Great Parish in the Sky. I am conscious that many of you have had a difficult year with bereavement, health and economic difficulties. It's been a tough year for the whole country but we are a resilient people and we have our faith in our God, the God of Hope.

We welcome any of you who have moved to the parish in the last year and hope that your experience of us as a parish is one that you can enjoy and feel part of us.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you who come here week in week out to worship God and practice their faith. Thank you in particular to those who walk the extra mile in our parish, those who share their time and talents with us, from the more mundane jobs that have to be done to the more high profile jobs. We could neither survive without you nor give the same service to the wider parish. It's always dangerous to single out anyone in particular but to Aine in the Parish Office who has taken on more and more work with the new Pastoral Centre and also Catriona our new Parish Pastoral Worker who has hit the ground running along with baby Michael, and finally John O'Brien who works so diligently and willingly in the Church and Ruah Centre.

So all in thank you and well done for 2011 and here's to a new year and before that a very happy and contented Christmas to you all.

