

Ballyroan Parish Newsletter Sunday 19th December 2010



Confessions Monday Evening 8.30-9.30

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 – from taking possession of the new Ruah Pastoral Centre and setting it up, using it for the first time for the social aspect of our Golf Classic during the summer. Then we had the 1st Ballyroan Harvest Fayre in September where we used every inch of the church grounds for what was a great day. Also we had the beautiful Concert in the Church a few weeks ago for the Street Sleepers in Dublin. 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 and 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.

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 couldn't survive without you or 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 with the departure of Sr. Margaret Prendergast as Parish Pastoral Worker a special word of thanks. I had tried to get a replacement for Sr. Margaret but the two people who had expressed an interest were unable to take up the position. I would like to fill the vacancy in the new year so if any of you or your family are interested and are suitably qualified for Parish Pastoral Ministry you might email your C.V. to ballyroanparish@gmail.com. We'll put a more formal advertisement in one of the January newsletters.

So all in thank you and well done for 2010 and here's to a new year and before that a very happy and contented Christmas to you all.

Fr. Brendan

Church clean-up for Christmas

Church clean-up for Christmas will take place after 12 Mass this weekend. The more who help the less people will have to do. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the volunteers who keep the Church clean all year round.

Christmas rotas for the Eucharistic Ministers and Readers will be available for collection on Tuesday 21st December from the Sacristy. Altar servers rota is available for collection.

Next year's **Parish Calendar** is available for collection at the back of the Church.

Christmas Arrangements

CAROL SERVICE

Monday 20th December at 7.30pm

(please note Confessions will follow directly after this uplifting and communal celebration)

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Friday 24th. December: Christmas Eve

6.30 p.m. Family Mass (come early to get a back seat!)

Vigil Mass 9 p.m. with Carols from 8.30pm.

Saturday 25th. December: Christmas Day

9 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon. (No evening Mass)

Sunday 26th. December: St. Stephen's Day

10.30 & 12 Mass (Please note no 9am Mass.)

Monday 27th. December: Feast of the Holy Family:

11am only

Baptism's at 12 noon.

The Nativity Play will take place during the Children's Mass at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve. Children of school age only may take part. Rehearsals will be held on Mon 20th, Tues 21st and Thurs. 23rd between 5-6pm. Younger children may take part on the night as Angels. We would ask that parents attend rehearsals in order to ensure the safety of all children.

The **Parish Office** will close on Wednesday 22nd December and reopen on Monday 10th January 2011.

Mass of the Nativity will be celebrated in Irish in the Church of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, UCD Belfield on Christmas Eve at 9pm.