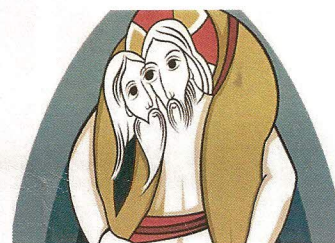




20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



As this will be the last 'newsletter' until 2016 can I use the opportunity to say a huge thank you to you all for another really good year here in the parish, a year with a great sense of co-operation and good will for which I and the parish team are truly grateful.

We had another eventful year, with fantastic Communion, Confirmation and First Confessions with all the work and preparations that these involve, along with Graduations from our local primary and secondary schools.

In September it all starts again, and we had lovely Opening of the Year school Masses along with a special Memorial Mass for Mr. Mick Flynn RIP, former principal of Ballyroan Boys School. My thanks to all the teachers, SNA's and of course Avena our pastoral worker for her unstinting work in the schools. At the end of the year we said farewell and thanks to the Boards of Management of our two local Primary Schools and we welcome our new ones – we wish the new members well during their term of office.

Lent and Easter and Weddings and Baptisms, Funerals and daily Mass and early Morning Prayer (at 07.30) show the vibrancy of our parish as a praying and believing community. We continue to visit our sick and housebound on First Friday calls thanks to the Padua Society.

Thanks to our Parish Pastoral Council and Aine and Sr. Rosemary and the parish office ladies for all their work and support to me over the year, during which they co-ordinated the lovely parish brochure that was delivered throughout the parish. I think this was a great outreach to all in the parish particularly our new parishioners who have moved in recently. With my recent illness the PPC came into their own, taking responsibility for the running of the parish and being 'on duty' and continuing to provide 24/7 emergency cover to the parish and liaising with the locum priests, Fr. Dan, Fr. Michael, Fr. Patrick and Fr. Farrell. None of us like being 'done without' but it's a compliment to all involved that the parish carried on during my absence as Arnold Schwarzenegger said (threat or treat I'm not so sure) "I will be Back" immediately after Christmas.

Anyway enough about me – we had a great parish Pilgrimage on the Camino Santiago de Compostella – a challenging and spiritual quest that was both enjoyable and rewarding for all of us. We had another Parish Fayre and Christmas Market which were very successful – as always with great support and help from the staff of the Community Centre and Library and of course the Dunderry people - these are great ways of building community.

On the practical front we had the restoration of our Sean Keating Paintings during the year, the beautiful new memorial area at the back of the Church and new floor covering in the front area of the church where it was in particularly bad condition. With our Golden Jubilee coming up in 2017 we are trying to pace out the practical jobs of getting our beautiful church up to speed – next year we hope to continue the process with some painting works and carpet around the sanctuary. Our aspirations are only limited by our budget!

I wish you and your families every grace and blessing this Christmas time and into the new year. Thank you all so much for your cards and good wishes to me over the last few weeks and I pray that all who are going through medical procedures may have the good fortune and benefit of all those prayers and masses. One thing about having my operation it makes me even more appreciative of my hitherto good health and that's the greatest wish I can give to you all – may 2016 bring you God's grace, God's blessing and God's strength as St. Paul wrote to the Philippians "I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me."

God Bless, Happy Christmas and New Year – Fr. Brendan



MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 7.00 pm- Sean Hayden (Month's Mind); Sun. 10.00-Denis Maher (A) and Peter Hannon (A); 12.00-Peter Grant (1stA); Mon 10.00-Nuala Gallagher (A); Tues. 10.00-Noel Hickey (A); Wed 10.00-Francis and Bridget O'Gorman (A).

THE VIGIL MASS AND ALL MASSES ON CHRISTMAS DAY WILL BE OFFERED FOR ALL WHOSE NAMES ARE ON THE CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUET LIST.

Recently deceased: Anne (Marie) Kelly