

# IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

# BCR PARISH NEWS

*Parishes of Ballyroan, Churchtown & Rathfarnham*



## THE VISIT AND ITS AFTERMATH

Some weeks have now passed since the World Meeting of Families and the visit of Pope Francis. Maybe it is time to begin an initial reflection on the experience and start looking at possible ways to respond to the many challenges that he gently, but firmly, set before us.

Very many of us will have particular personal and poignant memories of those days. It may be the feeling of tears welling up within us as we first set eyes on Francis in person- or it may be that sense of solidarity and togetherness that many of us experienced at the RDS for the World Meeting of Families and at the various moments when Pope Francis was present. That sense of togetherness and community was very tangible and in evidence as pilgrims journeyed together over those days. There was a sense that not only was it alright to be a Catholic but that in fact it was a good place to be, and in saying that it in no way lessens in any way my own personal esteem and respect for people of other faiths and none.

The simplicity of Francis's lifestyle is very striking too, from the modest style of car that he used to some of the places he visited, such as Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Sean McDermott St. and the Capuchin Day Centre for the Homeless and Needy. In these visits he reminded us of very



central and essential Gospel values, namely the dignity of every human person and the call to each of us as Christians to have a genuine concern for the poor and needy of our world.

He gave us many significant reminders of some truths and values at the centre of the Catholic faith – and he did so at times in a very folksy and down to earth language. In reminding us of the great value that is family life he reminded us that there is no such thing as a perfect family dropping straight from Heaven. No, each family is a work in progress. In the ceremony with the young couples in the Pro- Cathedral, he underlined the importance of Christian marriages as a great blessing but also as a challenge for each couple. It is clear to me from everything that Pope Francis does and says that in his vision of the Church, there is a place for everybody. Everybody is welcome and what is true for Francis is also true for our Parishes as well.

His meeting with the Survivors of Abuse, I feel, will have done much to bring home the sheer seriousness of the issues involved and the need for a world-wide Church response at the very highest levels to it. The day for anything less than total root and branch response to the crisis is long since passed.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin invites each faith community – each parish and each person to reflect on the experience of the visit and the World Meeting of Families and to look at creative ways to renew and strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ and our witness to Him is an opportunity not to be missed. More anon.

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**Martin Cosgrove,**  
**Moderator of the Ballyroan, Churchtown and Rathfarnham Grouping of Parishes.**

## Reflections of the World Meeting of Families 22nd-26th of August



### Amoris Laetitia The Joy of Love

Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family

POPE FRANCIS

Those of us who had the opportunity to attend the world Meeting of Families at the RDS Dublin had the chance to hear some inspirational speakers (such as Senator George Mitchel, Dr Monica McWilliams, Marie Collins, Justin Kilcullen, Bishop Richard Barron, to name a few) and meet catholic families from around the world. To review the presentations made at the world meeting of families simply search for "world meeting of families presentations"

Click on the website [www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie)

You can access a copy of Pope Francis' post-synodal apostolic exhortation on love in the family *Amoris Laetitia* -The Joy of Love at no cost.

Pope Francis states that (56) "it is one thing to be understanding of human weakness and the complexities of life, and another to accept ideologies that attempt to sunder what are inseparable aspects of reality, let us not fall into the sin of trying to replace the Creator. We are creatures, and are not omnipotent. Creation is prior to us and must be received as a gift. At the same time, we are called to protect our humanity, and this means, in the first place, accepting it as it was created."



[www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie)

## Archbishop Diarmuid Martin asks parishes to reflect on the renewal of the Church after the World Meeting of Families

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin has asked each parish in the Archdiocese of Dublin to carry out a preliminary consultation on how to proceed with Church renewal after the World Meeting of Families.

Speaking at Mass in Dublin's Pro-Cathedral on 3rd of September, Archbishop Martin noted that what was involved was not a political style consultation, but a call to each believer and faith community radically to interiorise what the challenge of faith in Jesus entails in our contemporary culture.

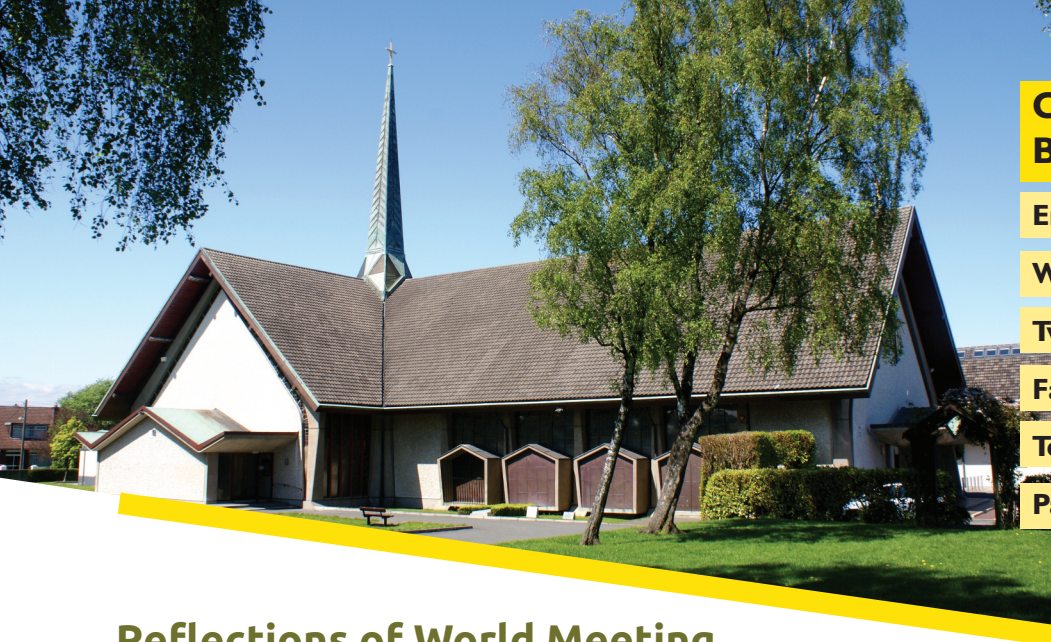
Archbishop Martin said each parish and parish community can find its own path of reflection, with the help of the Parish Pastoral Council. "The idea is to gather as wide a variety of ideas as possible and not simply repeat the ideas of one or other group and so begin to set out a realistic agenda for renewal of the Church in the years to come," he said.

The Archbishop stressed the importance of addressing questions about faith.

"Why are we no longer captivating so many of our young people for the message of Jesus Christ? Which models of pastoral activity and reflection are most likely to win the hearts of young people for the message of Jesus? How do we teach young people about prayer? How can our parishes respond to these challenges? Which aspects of our dominant culture make it harder for people to understand the message of Jesus? I am thinking, for example, about a widespread individualism that invades everything from personal life to our economic vision."

Archbishop Martin said "The question now arises: where do we go forward now in the challenge of renewing the faith we carry in our own hearts and renewing the life of the Church?"

Parishes have been asked to begin this reflection around in the period of the Feast of Saint Laurence O'Toole. The feast of Saint Laurence O'Toole, Patron Saint of the Archdiocese, is on November 14th.



## Church of the Holy Spirit, Ballyroan, Dublin 14.

**Email:** ballyroanparish@gmail.com

**Website:** www.ballyroanparish.ie

**Twitter:** @BallyroanParish

**Facebook:** @ballyroan.parish

**Tel:** (01) 494 7303

**Parish Sec:** Aine Mullally

## Reflections of World Meeting of Families & Papal visit



There is always great excitement when we are expecting a long-awaited visitor to our home. It gives me great joy when family and friends have come from Canada and I am there to greet them upon their arrival. The months and days leading up to the visit of Pope Francis's gave us that same excitement. As with any visitor we prepare, making sure we have everything in its place and we are 'put together'. If you were participating in Croke Park, Phoenix Park, the Parish Centre or the comfort of your own home the sense of joy was present. We knew that wherever we were the same spirit of God was filling us with joy. The universal Church, to which we belong, now felt closer than ever. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, was here and we celebrated. May we not forget that we sought forgiveness as a family and prayed together as a family. Pope Francis asked us to "become a source of encouragement for others. He called on us to bear witness to the sacrificial love of Jesus, "the love that alone can save our world from its bondage to sin, selfishness, greed, and indifference to the less fortunate." That, he said, "is the love we have come to know in Christ Jesus." Now in our reflection remember this time with Pope Francis and to live by his words creating a family of love and understanding.

## Ruah Choir leader Trish Nolan On community and pilgrimage...

An early morning 7am alarm on a Sunday morning and the sound of rain pelting on the window gave rise to some second thoughts (and a few groans) about taking the long trek to the Phoenix Park with the Ruah Choir in Ballyroan for the Pope's Mass – and yet I'm so glad I did!

We had decided as a group earlier in the summer to participate with the 3000 strong choir that were invited to be part of the event. This involved going through a rigorous application and vetting process as well as attending a very wet and cold rehearsal in the RDS.

Early on the morning of the Pope's mass, we joined with the rest of the Ballyroan pilgrims on the Parish bus to the Phoenix Park, leaving at 8am to allow us be in our seats for rehearsals at 10:00am. There was great excitement and a wonderful sense of community as we headed off from the church - sandwiches, flasks and munchies all packed.

For me the day was all about community and pilgrimage... the walk from our Car Park to the Phoenix Park was about 6km and in the pouring rain. Yet we walked with a sense of fun and excitement as we were greeted and encouraged by stewards and Gardai all along the route.

We arrived around 10:00 am and made our way to the choir seats just to the left of the altar, to quickly discover the Marquee behind us that served hot tea and coffee (which we drank with relish along with Ethan Proudfoot's homemade chocolate orange biscuits made specially for us). There was a wonderful sense of community as we mixed with other choirs who had made similar (and longer) treks to the park.

My sense of the day was of community... we shared food





with each other (and those around us), we sang along to Daniel O'Donnell as we waited for the Pope to arrive, we laughed and we cried, we sang and we listened. I could really see and understand the parable of the loaves and fishes as I ate biscotti, given to me by the lady from Bayside who wanted me to have Italian biscuits because the Pope was in town. There was particular delight to discover the choir sitting behind us were from Balbriggan – we told them of their good fortune as Fr. Brendan becomes their Parish Priest.

After Mass, which in itself was wonderful to be part of, we made the long walk back to our bus – and the sense of community and pilgrimage remained. I witnessed the best of human nature as people offered to help push wheelchairs and prams up through the hills in Chapelizod. There were smiles and friendly words all around and despite the tiredness and the blisters, good humour, community and kindness prevailed. So...a wonderful day was had by all! Would I do it again? ... in a heartbeat.

## Frank Browne member of Parish Pastoral Council

The experience of Pope Francis's visit to Ireland for the World Meeting of Families stirred up so many memories for me. I remember



the excitement I felt as a boy in 1979 with my parents when Pope John Paul II appeared in the Phoenix Park in his Pope mobile. I was able to witness the same excitement in my children's faces when Pope Francis appeared in his Pope mobile at the papal Mass in the Park. So much else happened in such a short visit. Other highlights for me included speakers I heard at the RDS such as Senator George Mitchell, it was nice to see so many overseas priests and religious who seemed at ease wearing their religious attire, and RTE's live television coverage was excellent and my family enjoyed watching the Festival of Families at Croke Park, the visit of Pope Francis to Br Kevin's day centre and his meeting with young couples at the Pro Cathedral. Pope Francis' energy and gentleness to all he met is surely at 81, a role model for all of us.

## Tommy Flynn Parish Pastoral Council member



During the recent World Meeting of Families, we volunteered to accommodate a visiting family. We were blessed with a husband, wife and daughter from Ethiopia, Fanuel, Neghist and Fixir. They were wonderful proud Catholics. Neghist is a paediatrician who now works for the UN as an expert in Drugs Education and associated diseases. Fanuel is an engineer in hydrology. Their 16 year old daughter is a student at the French Lycée in Addis Ababa. An older daughter and son are both studying medicine. They are very active in their parish. Neghist volunteers with the Sisters of Mother Teresa who operate a mother and baby home for young single mothers. They know many Irish missionaries and lay volunteers working in Ethiopia especially from the Daughters of Charity and the Vincentian Order. They attended most of the sessions in the RDS, attended Croke Park and made the arduous journey to the Papal Mass. They loved shopping and added greatly to their luggage for the return journey. We had wonderful discussions and conversations about Ethiopia and its religions and politics and also about our own little island and the many challenges we face. Ethiopia has a population of over 100 million people. Over fifty percent of the population are Christian of the Greek Orthodox church. There are about one million Catholics. They arrived very early on Sunday 19th August and transferred on the 27th to another family in Ballinteer. That lady has worked on many occasions in Ethiopia and is very involved in the Vincentian missionary outreach in Ethiopia. At a time in our own country when we tend to be despondent with all the media negativity about our church it was wonderful and heartening to meet people from far off countries who continue to receive support in their faith, in education, medical and health matters from wonderful committed religious, priests, sisters and lay volunteers from this country. They were very impressed with all the friendly Irish people they met during their visit. We have been invited to visit their beautiful country. They are very insistent. Our experience of sharing our home with this beautiful family made the events in the RDS, Croke Park and the Papal Mass more meaningful and enriching for us.





**Church of the Annunciation,  
Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.**

**Pastoral Centre Parish Office**  
**Tel: (01) 495 8695**

**Website: [www.annunciationrathfarnham.ie](http://www.annunciationrathfarnham.ie)**

**Email: [rathfarnhamparish1@eircom.net](mailto:rathfarnhamparish1@eircom.net)**

**Sacristy Tel: (01) 493 8385**

## Welcome to Fr Michael Coady Co-PP



**M**y name is Michael Coady and I have been appointed as Co PP of Rathfarnham Parish. I grew up in Ranelagh. I was ordained for the Dublin Diocese in 1978. I have served in the parishes of Kilmacud, East Wall, Whitehall, Churchtown, Ringsend and Monkstown. I am very glad to be back in this part of the city. I am familiar with this area from my time in Churchtown. I thank you for your kind welcome since my arrival. I look forward to meeting more parishioners over the coming weeks.

## Fr Kevin's Farewell



**A**t the 6.45 pm Mass on Saturday 8th September the Chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council, Maurice Priestley, presented a gift to Fr. Kevin Rowan on behalf of the parishioners. Earlier, Fr. Martin Cosgrove had paid tribute to Fr. Kevin and his ministry to the parishioners of Rathfarnham over the past four years. After the presentation, the sustained applause of the crowded congregation was evidence of the great affection felt by all who had turned up to pay their own tributes to Fr. Kevin. Afterwards, over a hundred people gathered over party fare to finalise their farewell to Fr. Kevin.

## Reflections by Claire-Louise Murphy and Pierce Madden a couple who were in the Pro-Cathedral with Pope Francis

**C**laire-Louise and I were both honoured to be selected by our diocese as one of the 350 engaged and newlywed couples granted an audience with the Pope at St Marys Pro-cathedral in Dublin, as part of his Holiness's Apostolic journey to Ireland for the world meeting of families.

Having recently married in July this year, it was wonderful to receive the news that we would be part of this historic event. It was a great opportunity to celebrate and reflect on our recent sacrament of marriage, in such a beautiful and touching ceremony.

It was lovely to hear from a number of couples on their backgrounds, how they met and how their faith played a part in their marriages.

The excitement of the Popes arrival quickly gave way to his relaxed and warm presence. His messages were on the themes of commitment, reconciliation and love. As a baby's cry was heard, he paused to celebrate the "music of life" and his private recount of seeing his own parents share a kiss and the importance of the "dialect of love" in a marriage, was both touching and personal.

It was evident too that there was a lot of care, diligence and reverence put into the preparation of the event, which is a credit to all the people involved and with whom we would like to share our thanks. It was a very special moment in our lives, we realise we were very privileged to have this experience and it means even more as we set out to start our own family together.



## Welcome to our new Parish secretary

Born in Finglas West and now living in Lucan, I am a dad of two boys under 2. Our most recent addition to the family is only 8 weeks old. I spent most of my life working in printing and book binding; that was until 2016 when I started working for Liturgical Publications.



In this role I was actively involved in the Communications aspect of over 50 Parishes throughout Ireland including the Parish of the Annunciation here in Rathfarnham.

I am very pleased to be working here in Rathfarnham and I look forward to meeting you all in the near future.

## Reflection by Michelle Squire



My name is Michelle Squire and I have been given the opportunity to write about my youth group's experience in the events of the World Meeting of Families 2018.

The first event that took place was the festival in the RDS. There were stalls, music, workshops and people from all over the world. My youth group participated in different workshops where we got to interact with people our own age but of different nationalities. The security and volunteers were very kind.



The second event we attended was the Croke Park concert. We were all very excited because we were going to see the Pope for the very first time. There were some great performances and amazing singers. When Pope Francis arrived the crowd went crazy. He had prepared a very moving speech. "Please", "Thank You" and "I'm sorry" were the words he used to describe a family.

The last event was our trip to the Phoenix Park. The Pope drove around in a big white car while all the people greeted him. All of us tried to get pictures of him. He then held a Mass on a big hill, surrounded by many priests. It was a very beautiful service. We found it to be a fun and educational event for all age groups.

**Michelle Squire (Age 13)**

## Reflections by Con and Fiona O'Carroll

We decided to attend the RDS on the Friday, where we attended a number of talks, including a keynote given by the Apostolic Nuncio to Syria. His talk left us thanking the grace of God that we had been born in Europe.

On Saturday we headed off to Croke Park, following in the footsteps of many an All-Ireland spectator on the 16 bus. The atmosphere in the stadium was electric and the performances impressive. There was, however, no doubt of who the headline was – and it was not Andrea Bocelli. The atmosphere in Croke Park changed immediately the Pope arrived. His presence benignly dominated the arena. He was driven around the arena giving everybody present the opportunity to see him. The Pope then held the audience rapt as he spoke of the importance of the family, and of communication within the family.

The following morning, Sunday, found us on the 16 bus again. On arrival in the Phoenix Park we quickly found our way to the designated corral where we joined extended families of all sizes, enjoying a day out while anticipating the arrival of the Pope. Joining in such a large collective act of outdoor worship was a rewarding, and memorable, experience – although it was very wet!

Reviewing the weekend that evening, we both felt as if we had been on a three-day retreat. The World Meeting of Families and associated Papal visit had allowed us to step out of our routine for a few days, and focus on the fundamentals of faith, family and community. It left us both revived and strengthened in our faith and in the importance of family.

## Reflections of the Hayden family

During the WMOF our family become involved in many of the activities, while attending workshops of the congress and the headline events of the weekend.

Among the experiences which left a lasting impression were: The way we were introduced to the theme of "Our Common Home" by the "Eco Garden" and the Friday night "Interfaith Reflection and Prayer For Our Planet" in Christ Church Cathedral. Hearing other faiths describe how their tradition reflects on the sacredness of the earth was a revelation because of their similarity.

The large concelebrated masses in the RDS main arena were touching in their inclusivity especially when a prisoner and her family led the offertory procession.

Saturday night's festival of families was a great celebration of Irish culture but Pope Francis's charisma and gentle humanity was really remarkable – especially at the end of the night when he asked if people were tired, and admitted that he too was very tired.

Sunday, which began at 4am for some of our family, had all the elements of a pilgrimage with the long journey and the eventual arrival of Pope Francis. The smiles on the faces of the people as they rushed into the roadways to greet the pope and the relaxed attitude of the Gardaí to such activity said it all – we are one family!

**Bill, Jennifer, Aisling, Muireann,  
Jenni-Rose & Michael Hayden**



## Church of the Good Shepherd, Churchtown, Dublin 14.

**Email:** [info@goodshepherdchurchtown.ie](mailto:info@goodshepherdchurchtown.ie)

**Website:** [www.goodshepherdchurchtown.ie](http://www.goodshepherdchurchtown.ie)

**Fr. Brian Edwards:** (01) 298 4642

**Parish Office:** (01) 298 4642

**Sacristy Tel:** (01) 298 4642 & press 2

**Parish Sec:** Niamh Masterson

**Parish Office Opening Hours:**  
Monday, Thursday, Friday 10am-2pm

## Reflections of Fr Brian Edwards World Meeting of Families



With just over 4 weeks since the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland the routine of daily life has resumed for families with the opening of schools and colleges, the early mornings, the school run and increased traffic to name a few. Many people have their own precious and treasured memories of those special days and events that took place during the last week of August. From the many thousands who travelled from overseas, those who took part in the many workshops and who were part of the many wide-ranging topics and discussions in the R.D.S over the first days of the festival of families.

Indeed, our own Parish choir in Churchtown sang at the Mass in the RDS on the Friday.

With the arrival of Pope Francis to our country on Saturday morning August 25th, there was sense of anticipation and expectancy as to how the visit would go. For many days people had been planning their trips: to the festival of families in Croke Park or to the Papal Mass in the Phoenix Park. As a parish we took the advice of so many, use public transport! At 8.30am on a very wet Sunday morning some parishioners met at the Church and began the journey by

Luas to Broombridge and onto the Phoenix Park. Despite the inclement weather, those who attended the Papal Mass said it was a very special and unique occasion, a celebration of our faith with people from all over the world. In the Parish, we were also conscious that some would not be in a position to attend due to the amount of walking involved. So the Papal Mass was screened live in the Church and it was followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre.

As Pope Francis departed back to Rome after the Papal Mass, his words spoken at the different places over his 36hr visit left a lot of food for thought, in particular the penitential words he wrote for the start of the Papal Mass.

As we continue to reflect on the World Meeting of Families, our **Archbishop Diarmuid Martin** writes:

what would Pope Francis leave as a legacy to the Church in Ireland after his short yet intense thirty-six hour visit for the World Meeting of Families?

My answer was simple: My hope is that Pope Francis "will challenge the Church in Ireland to be more authentically the Church of Jesus Christ in a culture that is different."

I was and am very much aware of the fact that Pope Francis could not provide all the answers himself. The future of the Church in Ireland remains very much the responsibility of the entire Church community in Ireland. Now we must be asking ourselves: where should we be going in the years to come?

## Welcome back to Ray Johns



Sacristan, Good Shepherd church. Everyone wishes Ray a speedy return to full health. He is a very determined, knowledgeable, gentle and much-loved member of the Parish community.

## Smile and the World Smiles with You!



Smile and the world smiles with you. On Saturday morning, August 25th, a friend sent me a text which read: "He has landed". Pope Francis had set foot on Irish soil at Dublin airport. He was welcomed by Tanaiste, Simon Coveney, his wife Ruth and their three children. When he greeted the children, his face bore a smile that would melt one's heart. I decided there and then that I had to go to the city centre to

get a good position in order to get as close as possible to Pope Francis. In Croke Park and in the Phoenix park there would be so many people that my chances would be lessened. This photo shows what happened at 4.40pm opposite City hall. I was in tears with excitement.

## Coffee Morning in aid of the Hospice



A coffee morning in aid of the Hospice was well supported in Good Shepherd parish centre on Thursday 20th September. We collected over €1,000. Many thanks go to organisers and to those who baked as well as contributors.

## Some thoughts shared with Mary McSweeney, from our parishioners who attended WMOF events:



"The World Meeting of Families together with the visit of Pope Francis has given young people an occasion to witness and experience an extraordinary celebration of the shared faith of a living vibrant Church. This is a moment which we must harness and use in order to share the good news with our young people." (Aine) "The Mass in the Phoenix park was fun. We were up very early and we had a picnic. The Pope was very near us. My mum started crying, she was so happy. The Pope touched my little brother's hand. It was great". Another child told me: "My dad met the Pope. He's a bus driver. The Pope said he would pray for my dad's three daughters".

It was a pleasure to be asked to join 200 plus choir members from around the country in singing at mass in the RDS. Some members of Good Shepherd Parish Choir joined with members of Sandymount Parish Choir at 4.30pm on Friday 24th September to do just that. We arrived at 12 noon and we had a rehearsal after which we had an opportunity to visit some of the exhibitions. At 3.30pm we gathered in preparation for what was a beautiful celebration despite the very, very heavy showers. It was a wonderful opportunity and a good memory we will always have. It set the tone for a meaningful and exciting weekend both spiritually and mentally. Pope Francis was talked about from morning till night in media circles as well as in every community and parish in Ireland.

## Spirit of Good Shepherd Award Winners 2018



## Churchtown Scripture Study Group

There is a huge need today for parish-based formation in the faith for adults, and the Churchtown Scripture study group is working to meet that need.

Adult Study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church in the Good Shepherd parish started as a "Year of Faith" project in 2012 and developed following a chance encounter with Mairin Ni Shuilleabhain of Cork at the Catechism stall in the RDS during the Eucharistic Congress that year.

That meeting led to follow-up work after the Congress with Mairin and others and led us to offering a Catechism course locally that autumn. We attracted twenty-five people for the course, mainly from Churchtown and Rathfarnham, with one or two from neighbouring parishes. Fr Gerard Young, who was based in The Good Shepherd parish at the time, was our spiritual director.

At the end of the Catechism course, people expressed a desire to study aspects of our faith in greater detail. We began to study the Mass and used a book recommended by Elizabeth Garvey of Rathfarnham, *Going to Mass. Becoming the Eucharist We Celebrate*, by Jim McManus C.Ss.R.

At the conclusion of the study of the Mass, people said they would like to have a deeper knowledge of the Scriptures. Fr. Christopher Fox, a member of St. Joseph's Society for Foreign Missions (often called Mill Hill Missionaries) joined us as spiritual director at that stage. We started with St. Mark and

continued through Matthew, Luke and John, covering each in twelve sessions. We run two twelve week sessions each year, Mid September to mid December and mid January to mid April. The popular choice for September 2018 is "The Acts of the Apostles" which will be the 13th twelve week programme to be undertaken, in a time span of around six years.

The study group provides participants with a great opportunity to study the Scriptures and to understand the beauty of the faith. As one group participant, Yvonne Luven, put it, 'the Catechism class opened my eyes to the depth and width of our common Christian heritage, and the books of the New Testament are an inexhaustible source of inspiration'. According to another member, Alex Miller, 'studying as opposed to reading a topic helps us to understand it better and make it our own, while studying with a group gives us the benefit of discussion'. Helen Kearns adds that 'by participating in the Faith Formation study group, I have come to a greater appreciation and understanding of the gift of my Catholic faith and this has helped to deepen my relationship with the person of Jesus Christ.' She adds that 'new avenues are constantly opening up and presenting themselves but that we can never say that we have arrived'.

Meetings are held in Churchtown parish centre on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, with a short coffee break after an hour. We work with a Spiritual Director and a Facilitator. New members, and particularly young people, are most welcome to join us, the opening session took place on Thursday 13th September.

For further information, please contact Helen Kearns at Tel: 086 100 4894.

**Dick Kearns**

## Averna Lahart Ballyroan Parish Pastoral Worker

WMOF and The Mass at Phoenix Park Hosting the WMOF in Ireland was a huge event for us. It stirred up a lot of emotions, some of which were difficult and call for reflection and healing. Many of our parishioners recall the visit of Pope John Paul II when they were young. They had vivid memories of how they managed with young children and the huge excitement of the event. This year a group from Ballyroan travelled by bus to The Mass in Phoenix Park. Despite being at times a wet day it was actually a day filled with companionship, fun and spirituality. Everyone looked out for each other. We shared tea and sandwiches. For me it a whole, long day that I got to share with parishioners that I might usually only see for a quick chat, now and again. We were brought together as a group, sharing our faith, enjoying ourselves and meeting other groups from all over the world. There was great people-watching as we whiled away the time until the Mass started. We certainly felt like a family as we watched Pope Francis celebrate Mass. It was a time of prayer and reflection and certainly a time I will recall filled with fond memories. Some of our parishioners gathered in The Ruah Centre to watch the Mass on our big screen. Likewise, they too enjoyed the afternoon, shared stories, prayed and had refreshments together. It was a good way for some who could not travel to share in this unique experience.



Ballyroan parishioners in Park

# DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING DAY

Wednesday 19 September, 2018

*"When you add up all the categories of victims, you can see that the number was immense. We still only know the identity of some. It is not something that belongs to the past but a hurt that survivors and those close to them carry in their hearts every day of their lives.*

*Let us pray for those who still suffer the effects of abuse. Let us pray for the lonely, the abandoned, those without hope. Let us pray for those who are without a home. Let us pray for those who are hurt because the Church does not adequately recognise their dignity. Let us pray for all families."*

**Archbishop Diarmuid Martin,  
St. Mary's Pro Cathedral, Sunday 19th August 2018**

**On Sunday 23rd September 2018**, Diocesan Safeguarding Day was marked in each of the 199 parishes of the Archdiocese of Dublin.

The Archdiocese of Dublin values and encourages the participation of children and young people in parish liturgies and diocesan activities. Safeguarding is about creating an environment that facilitates such involvement so that children can grow strong in their faith as they experience the love of Jesus in his Church. Everyone who ministers in the parish is a representative of the Church and must observe safeguarding practices and guidelines. Good safeguarding practice is integral to ministry – it is not an optional extra.

Local safeguarding representatives will address parishes throughout the Archdiocese this weekend. They are women and men who work with the Parish Pastoral Council to ensure that diocesan safeguarding policies and practices are followed in parishes. Safeguarding is all the things we do to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are protected from harm.

Parish safeguarding representatives are trained for this role and access advice and support from the Diocesan Child Safeguarding and Protection Service.

We know from sad and bitter experience that the Church in Dublin has not always been a safe place for children.

Archbishop Martin is deeply grateful to all the priests, parish sisters, deacons, parish pastoral workers, staff and volunteers who have worked with great dedication in order to change this and to make our parishes and diocesan agencies safer places for children and vulnerable adults.

2018 saw the introduction of the updated Diocesan Safeguarding Statement. This document clearly outlines the policies and procedures that all parishes must have in place to safeguard children.

In order to keep all children and vulnerable adults safe, the following measures are in place in all parishes in this Diocese:

- Adopting a child-centred approach, valuing children and demonstrating our respect for them.
- Obtaining the consent of parents for the involvement of their children in parish activities.
- Choosing carefully those who work with children and vulnerable adults in our parishes.
- Ensuring parish workers and volunteers behave appropriately towards children and vulnerable adults.
- Making proper arrangements for activities involving children, including ensuring adequate adult supervision of such activities.
- Keeping good records of parish activities involving children.

The Diocesan Child Safeguarding and Protection Office works with civil authorities including the Gardaí, Tusla and the HSE.

Anyone who has a concern for the safety or welfare of a child or vulnerable adult should contact the Child Safeguarding and Protection Service. People can also take such concerns directly to the following civil authorities:

- Gardaí, in an emergency
- Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, if the concern relates to a child
- HSE, if the concern relates to a vulnerable adult

## **Penitential Act of Pope Francis – Phoenix Park, Dublin, Sunday 26th August 2018**

*"Yesterday I met with eight persons who are survivors of the abuse of power, the abuse of conscience and sexual abuse. In reflecting on what they told me, I wish to implore the Lord's mercy for these crimes and to ask forgiveness for them.*

*We ask forgiveness for the cases of abuse in Ireland, the abuse of power, the abuse of conscience and sexual abuse on the part of representatives of the Church. In a special way, we ask forgiveness for all those abuses that took place in different kinds of institutions directed by men and women religious and other members of the Church. We also ask forgiveness for cases in which many minors were exploited for their labour.*

*We ask forgiveness for all those times when, as a Church, we did not offer to the survivors of any type of abuse compassion and the pursuit of justice and truth by concrete actions. We ask forgiveness.*

*We ask forgiveness for some members of the hierarchy who took no responsibility for these painful situations and kept silent. We ask forgiveness.*

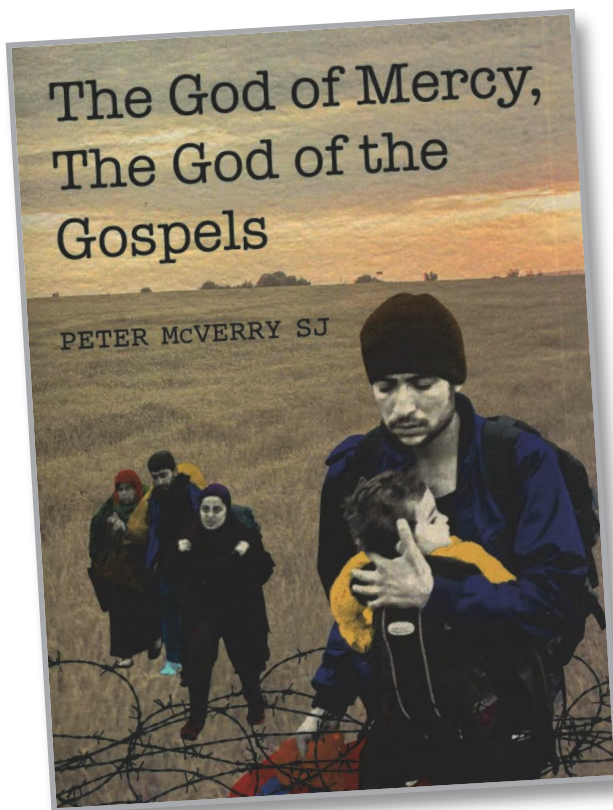
*We ask forgiveness those children who were taken away from their mothers and for all those times when so many single mothers who tried to find their children that had been taken away, or those children who tried to find their mothers, were told that this was a mortal sin. It is not a mortal sin; it is the fourth commandment! We ask forgiveness.*

*May the Lord preserve and increase this sense of shame and repentance, and grant us the strength to ensure that it never happens again and that justice is done. Amen."*

## **Child Safeguarding and Protection Service, Archdiocese of Dublin**

**Tel:** 01 836 0314

**Email:** cps@dublindiocese.ie



**Fr. Peter McVerry book is well worth a read**

## The God of Mercy, The God of the Gospels

**Peter McVerry**  
**Veritas 2016**

Fr. Peter asks what kind of God do you believe in? Is it a judging God, a lawgiver? Do you feel an obligation to go to Mass? For Fr. Peter working with the homeless changed how he saw God. He met so many people whose lives were full of suffering, who had experienced tragic childhoods. The God of the law is irrelevant to them. The God, Fr. Peter believes in is a God who cares about the suffering and pain of his children, a God of compassion. Jesus was the compassion of God to the disposed and powerless. For Fr. Peter, to be able to grow into the image and likeness of the God of compassion, we have to become the compassion of God to others.

### OFFICIAL FAMILY PRAYER FOR WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018

**God, our Father,  
We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,  
One family, in the Spirit of your love.**

**Bless us with the joy of love.**

**Make us patient and kind,  
gentle and generous,  
welcoming to those in need.  
Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.**

**Protect all families with your loving care,  
Especially those for whom we now pray:**

**[We pause and remember family members and  
others by name].**

**Increase our faith,  
Strengthen our hope,  
Keep us safe in your love,  
Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we  
share.**

**This we ask, through Christ our Lord,**

**Amen**



[www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie)

### USEFUL SPIRITUAL RESOURCE

**Sacred Space** is a free APP developed by the Jesuits based on the spirituality of Ignatius Loyola, which emphasises seeing God in all things. The APP guides you through a prayer session in six stages

**Reimagining the Examen** is a free APP that offers a unique prayer experience, that guides you through reflection on your day based on the spirituality of St Ignatius of Loyola.

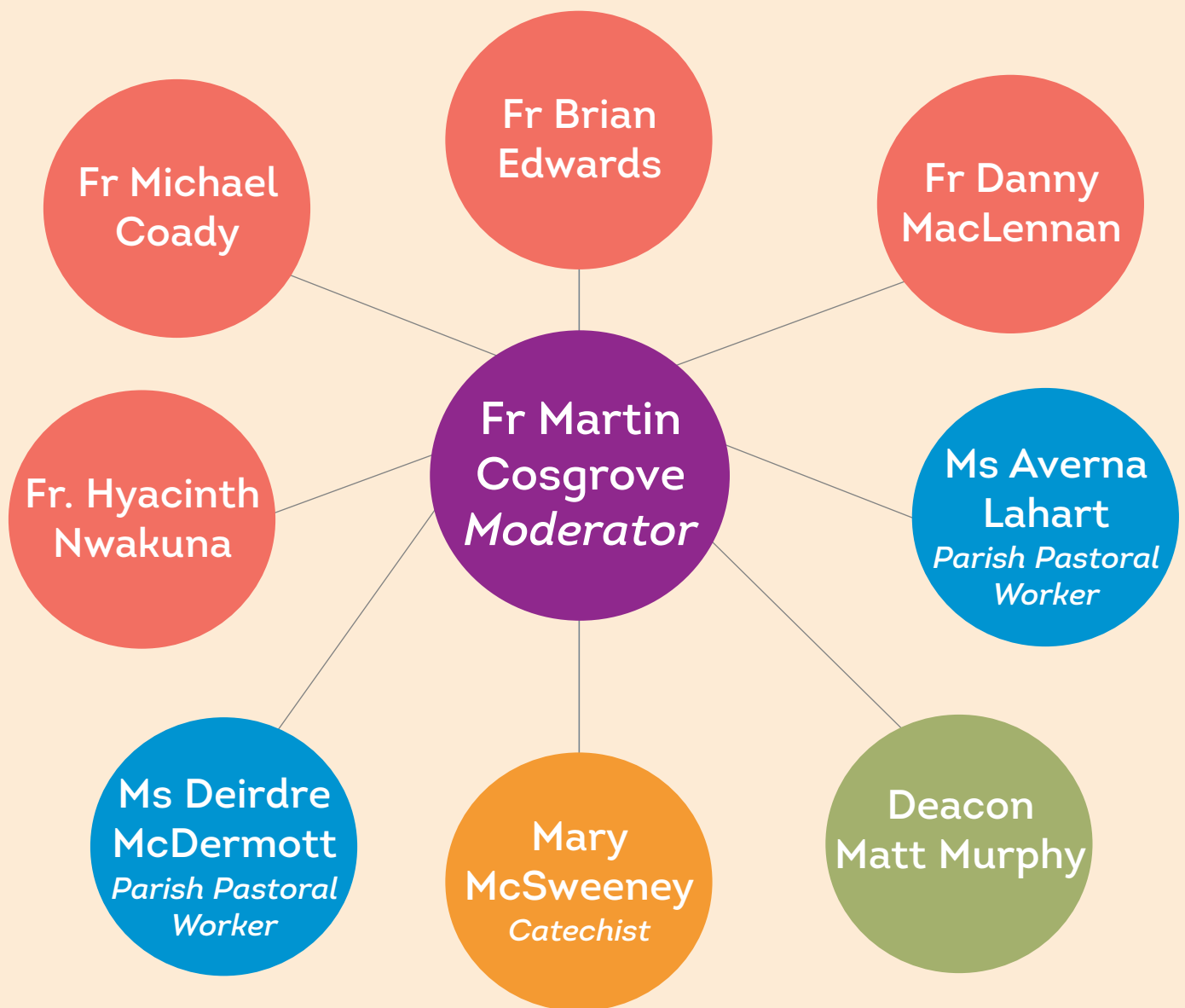
**Fr Finbarr Lynch SJ: When You Pray:** The book had its beginnings in a series of ten-minute talks on prayer for those attending spiritual retreats.

**Universalis** is an APP that costs a few euros but is well worth it. It provides all the readings for Mass, the liturgy of the hours/ morning and evening prayers of the Church, and information about all the feast days.

Also check out Catholic newspapers and other publications at the back of our Churches

Spirit Radio is an Irish Christian radio station 89.9fm and has some excellent interviews and uplifting music, access podcasts  
[www.spiritradio.ie](http://www.spiritradio.ie)

# MEMBERS OF THE PASTORAL TEAM



## Regular Church Schedule During the Year

### Church of the Holy Spirit, Ballyroan

Monday-Friday	Mass 10am
Saturday	Vigil Mass 7pm <i>(last Saturday of the month our youth choir sing)</i>
Sunday	Masses 10am & 12 Noon
Working Holy Day	Masses 10am & 7pm
Vigil of Holy Day	Mass 7pm
<b>Morning Prayer</b>	
Monday-Friday	7.30am Ruah Centre
Saturday	10am
Bank Holiday	11am in Church

### Church of the Good Shepherd, Churchtown

Monday-Friday	Mass 10am
Saturday	Mass 10am, Vigil Mass 7.15pm
Sunday	Mass 10am & 12 Noon
Monday-Friday	Morning Prayer & Rosary 9.20am
Rosary and Morning Prayer of the Church is celebrated every week-day at 9.15am.	
Night Prayer of the Church is celebrated every Saturday at 8.20pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel: All welcome.	

### Church of the Annunciation, Rathfarnham

Monday-Friday	Mass 10am
Saturday	Mass 11am Vigil Mass 6.45pm
Sunday	Masses 8.30a.m. (Irish), 9:30, 10:45 (Family Mass), 12 Noon
Working Holy Day	Masses Vigil 7.30pm, Morning 10am, Evening 7.30pm
Saturday	Sacrament of Reconciliation after 11am Mass and at 6.30pm
1st & 3rd Saturdays	Baptisms, Baptism preparation the previous Thursday at 8.30pm