

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

BCR PARISH NEWS

Parishes of Ballyroan, Churchtown & Rathfarnham



Christmas – Gift & Challenge

Already as I write this Christmas Message (November 26th) the sights and sounds of Christmas are all around us. The colourful decorations are in place, the slick advertising campaigns are reminding us of all the many gifts and items we “need” for Christmas. In our shopping centres the sound of Silent Night and Jingle Bells is helping to get us into the seasonal mood.

For what? For Whom?

Christmas means different things to different people – for some Christmas Day is the most joyful and happiest day of their year. For others the Christmas season and the day itself, is very much “I wish it were all over” or “it is not my scene”. Of course, the year 2018, which is soon drawing to a close has been a difficult and painful one for many individuals and families in our communities. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with you if you have suffered over the last year. It has also brought great joy and happiness to many also – newly engaged couples, wedding celebrations- the birth of a new family member and so on. For all of that and much more we give thanks. For children, the coming of Santa Claus at Christmas is pure magic and is something to be embraced and cherished.

For those who endeavour to follow the Christian Way, Christmas is very much about giving thanks to God for the birth and gift of Jesus Christ in our world over two thousand years ago. He came to dispel the darkness of sin and selfishness and to show each one of us how much we are loved by a merciful and compassionate God. He came to show us by his life and ministry that there is a place in God’s family for each and every one of us, even though many of us may feel unworthy of that place. Pure gift is Jesus to us.

Yes, the great majority of our people will give and receive gifts of many and varied kinds this Christmas as usual some will be very meaningful and well thought out while others will be of the more frivolous variety and so on.



I would like to suggest a few different gifts – some of which will cost nothing but could have a profound transforming effect on the recipients.

- The gift of time...so often we are busy or in a hurry and don't have time for people.
- The gift of a listening ear...so often we don't want to hear what another person has to say, especially if it does not tally with our own prejudices.
- The gift of respect...so easily we can dismiss people.
- The gift of forgiveness...so often we can be poisoned by our own bitterness. It is very difficult to forgive but well worth the investment.
- The gift of good example...it costs nothing but makes a big difference.
- The gift of hospitality...it may cost a bit but is much appreciated particularly if it manages to include some of the excluded.

Jesus Christ is not only gift but He is challenge also. He is not only the infant of Bethlehem, He is the Son of God who gave to each one of us a very definite vision of life and a mission to help him realise that vision. It is a vision that calls on each of his followers – you and I, to help build a more caring, more just, and inclusive world where each person’s dignity is respected and cherished from the very first moment of our conception to life’s natural end. Looking at our world, there is a lot more to be realised before His vision is fully achieved but each of us can contribute and make a difference for the better.

Meanwhile, with all the members of the Parish Team of Ballyroan, Churchtown & Rathfarnham and with all who minister with us, may we wish you every blessing for Christmas and for 2019.

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

Our Winter BCR News includes: An update from all our three parishes. Our theme is *supporting our bereaved*, and we share the important work of our funeral and bereavement support groups. Christmas liturgy timetable. And much more...

POPE FRANCIS ARRIVES IN CROKE PARK

Reflections from Kirsten Colreavy, on her experiences during The World Meeting of Families in August. World Meeting of Families, Dublin 2018. Hello my name is Kirsten and I am 12 years old and go to school in Loreto primary school in Rathfarnham. On the 23rd of August my family and I went to the World Meeting of Families event in the RDS. We met a famous priest from New York who also has his own cooking show. He made some pasta in front of a live audience, he also had some cook books he wrote and we bought one book and got it signed. While we were there,



Kirsten and her family

we were given a goodie bag with lots of Rosary Beads, books, a mini radio and lots more. There were lots of stalls. I came across one stall where a massive tree was on a black board, you were allowed to write one word that makes you happy. I wrote **LOVE** and my little sister wrote **CARING** which was also a very nice word. We met Father Martin there from our parish church and we had a nice chat with him. We learned lots of different things about the church and Pope Francis. I really did enjoy that day. The next day my family and I went to the concert and we heard lots of lovely songs. I also met my friend Michael he was sitting a few seats in front of me, he also serves with me in our parish church in Rathfarnham. It was very cold that day so my daddy Martin bought me a lovely hot chocolate to keep me warm. We heard some happy and sad stories. There was beautiful dancing and singing and the best part was were I got to see



the Pope when he drove through the crowd and also when the Irish dancers of all ages were lined through the crowd and did a beautiful dance for everyone, I just loved it so much that I decided to write it down and to share it with you. Thank you so much for reading my story and I have some photos to share with you of our special few days.

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 You can access a copy of Pope Francis' post - synodal apostolic exhortation, which was the key document of the world meeting of families, on love in the family *Amoris Laetitia* – The Joy of Love, at no cost.

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.

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?"



Moira Hanbidge, Ballyroan parishioner, responds to Archbishop Martin's challenge:

CHALLENGES FOR PARENTS EDUCATING CHILDREN IN FAITH AND SOME THOUGHTS

In one generation the experience of raising children in the faith has changed hugely. Growing up in 1980s Ireland the church was always full, weddings were all in church and it was unheard of not to baptise a new baby. This is not how things are now.

The media has never been so accessible due to the internet in all our pockets. Our children have no experience of life without it. How do we convey to our children that the liberal agenda presented is not the only acceptable set of ideas?

Consumer culture is promoted everywhere you look and listen - what Pope Francis calls the 'throwaway culture'. How do we emphasise that material things are less important than faith, family, civic responsibility, charity?

It is important for our children to see examples of people of faith in popular culture. Singer Justin Bieber and his new wife actress Hailey Baldwin are open about their Christian faith; sports stars Usain Bolt and Serena Williams; from the UK Lewis Hamilton. We need this in Ireland. Katie Taylor is an obvious example but focus on her faith has been played down since she turned professional.

Faith formation in school is a contentious issue. The primary curriculum is packed, and some teachers do not necessarily have personal faith. Religious instruction can at times get squeezed out sometimes. If sending children to Catholic school was all that was required for faith formation we might not be where we are now. We need a new way forward.

SO, WHAT CAN WE AS CHRISTIAN PARENTS DO?

We will do what Christian parents have always done - Mass, Prayer, Scripture. We need to be a counter to the current culture with our own behaviours- not to be stuck on our phones during meal time, by being careful of our engagement with the consumer culture. By being open about our faith in society and most importantly by being a good example of Christian living in our words and actions.



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Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.**

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The Funeral Team

It is always an honour and a privilege to be involved in ministry. In any form of ministry there are three people or groups involved – the person doing the ministry, the person or people receiving the ministry and God. With Funeral Ministry it is a particular calling to be able to present the universal love and mercy of God to people deep in sorrow on the death of a loved one. The Order of Christian Funerals reminds us that those who are baptised into Christ and nourished at the same table are responsible for one another, thus we are all called to a ministry of consolation and to accompany the bereaved on their journey of grief. In practical terms, the Funeral Ministry Team assists the bereaved family and friends with the selection of scripture readings that reflect the life of the deceased. The team then can assist with the compilation of the Prayer of the Faithful, bearing in mind the gifts and talents of the deceased and praying also for those who have assisted the deceased during their illness. Throughout the funeral Mass the team is present for the family to assist with the various movements and liturgy. Later, at the graveside or crematorium, funeral team members are available to assist in the prayers by the priest or deacon, or lead the prayers themselves. At all times, the funeral team members ensure that they act with compassion and sensitivity towards the bereaved. **Tony Corcoran**



Funeral Team with Fr Michael and Deacon Matt

Report on Youth Trip to the Philippines

Last summer we travelled with an Irish group to Manila in the Philippines to attend a meeting of 6,000 young people from all over the planet, all with the goal of building a more united world. This meeting called 'Youth for Unity' consisted of a week of talks and workshops and a second week of social projects in poorer areas of the city. With the help of a contribution from the parish, we were able to cover the cost of travel, while making a contribution to projects that make a real and lasting difference to small communities in disadvantaged areas in the Philippines. This experience will stand to every person who attended this festival of knowledge and unity for the rest of their lives, and I thank you for your support.

Aisling and Muireann Hayden.



**Loreto Beaufort Transition Year students
fundraise for the Alzheimer Society of Ireland
in the City Centre**

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land by Con and Fiona O'Carroll

Our pilgrimage began in Jerusalem. Good Friday will never be the same again after walking the Via Dolorosa through the crowds, sights, sounds and smells of the Old City. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is a little underwhelming, until you enter and join thousands of Christians from all over the world in a space that has been sacred for over a millennium. Amidst all the tumult, off to one side, there was a monk - alone with his prayers. Travelling by coach from Jerusalem to Galilee, we reflected that Mary and Joseph had a very long journey by donkey to register for Caesar Augustus's census. Galilee is a very different place, more spiritual in some respects. Sailing on the Sea of Galilee, and visiting many of the places where Jesus taught, gave us an insight into the environment that informed His teaching. Our pilgrimage came to a fitting end with unscheduled final mass at Magdala where we stopped en route to the airport.



Our pilgrims at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Fr Martin celebrates open-air Mass with Jerusalem in the background

Ecumenical Service and Blessing of new Funeral Home



Rev Ruth O'Kelly, Fr Michael Coady, Canon Horace McKinley, Canon Martin Cosgrove, Canon Adrienne Galligan and Padraig Cawley imparting the blessing

Last October marked the official Ecumenical Service and Blessing of the new Fanagan Funeral Home at Willbrook in Rathfarnham. There was representation there from the adjoining parishes, both Catholic and Anglican. Prayers and readings were conducted by Canon Martin Cosgrove, Canon Adrienne Galligan, Canon Horace McKinley, Civil Celebrant Padraic Cawley and Rathfarnham Parish Funeral Team member Tony Corcoran. Then, for the Ecumenical Blessing, Canon Martin invited all clergy present to join together in praying that the new funeral home would be "a sacred space where all mourners and bereaved people will experience comfort, support and consolation". TC.

Holocaust Survivor TOMI REICENTAL visits St. Mary's Boys National School

By: Oisín Murphy, James Daly and Adam Doyle (4th Class)

On the 20th of November, St. Mary's had the pleasure to welcome Holocaust survivor Tomi Reichental to our school. **Tomi Reichental** was born in 1935 in Slovakia and was sent to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1944. Tomi has lived in Dublin since 1959 and regularly talks to Irish schools about his wartime experience. Tomi is the author of the incredible book 'I Was a Boy in Belsen' and has recently published a children's version of the story, entitled 'Tomi'. During his visit to St. Mary's, he read an extract from this book and recounted the awful treatment his family and the Jewish people in Europe endured during the 1930's and 40's. Tomi stayed on a long time in the school signing copies of his book for the boys and talking to them individually. A huge thank you to Tomi for visiting our school, giving us his time, telling his incredible harrowing story and educating all of us on the importance of treating everybody with respect and dignity





Tom Reichental signs copies of his book

In November St. Mary's remember

At school assembly we had a special Remembrance Service which was beautifully prepared by the first Holy Communion class, under the guidance of class teacher Miss Quirke. We prayed especially for the three past pupils who passed away while attending St. Marys. We also remembered a former teacher, Mr. Kevin Conway and other past pupils.

LORETO PRIMARY SCHOOL

Would like to thank all who supported our Christmas Fair in Loreto Primary School on Sunday 25th November. It was a great day and wonderful to meet so many friends from Rathfarnham Parish, past pupils and parents of past pupils. The children had a wonderful time meeting Santa and a special word of thanks to all the parents of the school who helped in any way to make the day a great success by supporting and organising the event.

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SVP ANNUAL APPEAL
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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Food Appeal:	www.svp.ie/foodappeal
Food Appeal Guidelines:	www.svp.ie/foodappealguidelines
Gift Cards:	www.svp.ie/giftcards
Ecards:	www.svp.ie/ecards
Teachers Vouchers:	www.svp.ie/cards

Please give locally or at svp.ie

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CHRISTMAS: GOD IS INDEED WITH US

FR HYACINTH NWAKUNA CSSp

It's that time of year again when we celebrate the great joys of Christmas. A celebration that reminds us that *God is indeed with us*. The feast commemorates the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour. It is an event in which God becomes incarnate in the person of Jesus Christ and comes into the world to save humanity. Christmas is a special celebration as it reminds us concretely that God is indeed with us - '*Emmanuel*.' - God coming among us and seeking us out; revealing Himself to us, bringing us forgiveness, healing and comfort.

From my childhood memories, Christmas was a time of religious celebrations, but also a time of fun and holidays. Christmas was characterised by Mass attendance and other religious events. The lead up to Christmas included Nativity plays, carol singing, even local music and dance in most places. Families in the cities travel to

their 'home villages', to be with their relatives and friends. Many families prepared parties that last all night on the eve of Christmas, and then attended Mass on Christmas day. Among other features of the celebration was the tradition of young people going from door-to-door playing their local musical instruments and getting Christmas presents from neighbouring families.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son (Jn 3:16). This is what Christmas is essentially about. However, we still need the enlightenment of faith to really appreciate the full meaning of Christmas as God choosing to be born into the world and becoming one of us. It is only with faith that we see Christ as one who has come to into the world that we may have life and have it to the full.

At Christmas, God humbles himself and becomes the Good news to the poor, the lowly and the sick. The Angel

declares: "today in the town of David, a saviour has been born to us- **Christ the Lord.**" This means that God makes himself little and poor to make us precious, loved and rich in his mercy and grace.

As Joseph and the expectant Mary knock on the door of the Inn, at Christmas God is likewise knocking on the doors of our hearts. He asks us to freely accept his love, his truth and his life. Thus, while we celebrate this Christmas, let us rekindle our hope in God's promises and, in humility and simplicity, let us welcome the light, joy and peace which Christ brings to us and to our world. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI may "the birth of Christ challenge us to reassess our priorities, our values, our very way of life and our response to Christ and his church in the modern time." I wish all in the parish a happy Christmas and God's blessings

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Monday, Thursday, Friday 10am-2pm



Fr Brian Edwards

ADVENT:

A time of New Beginnings

Christmas is now only a couple of weeks away. Many are thinking about what we have to do between now and then. There are still cards to be sent, presents to be bought, food to be prepared and so on. There are social events to be attended and arrangements to be made to welcome people home for Christmas. There can be a lot of pressure on people in these weeks. There seems to be so much to do.

In that context, the question that is put by one of the central figures in the story of Advent, John the Baptist might find a certain echo within us, 'What must we do?' We might ask that question at this time of the year as a way of prioritizing the many things we have to do over the coming weeks, 'What will I do today?' The question is however, a much more fundamental one. People are really asking John the Baptist, 'How are we to live?' 'What path should we be taking?' 'How are we to behave?' Very specific groups ask this question of John, such as tax collectors and soldiers. This was not just a general question, but one that had quite a specific focus. People from various walks of life wanted to know how they were to live, within their very particular life situations.

The question, 'What must we do?' 'How are we to live?' is one of the fundamental questions of life. We each ask it out of our own particular life situation. The answer to that question will be different for everybody, just as John's answer to the tax collectors was different to his answer to the soldiers. His answer would have been different again if the question was put by shepherds or fishermen or builders. We each have to discern the answer to that question for ourselves, given the particular circumstances of our lives.

At a Parish level so much has happened over recent weeks and indeed will be happening in the lead up to Christmas. The question posed by John the Baptist 'What needs to be done' has been lived out in a very practical way by many volunteers at different gatherings and liturgies during November, people giving of their time and service to the Lord, to each other and to the wider community. I think of the various Masses and services of Remembrance that took place in recent weeks - the annual Mass celebrated on Friday November 16th for those who died in our Parish over the past 12 months, the Mass for deceased staff, students and parents of Good Shepherd Primary School and De La Salle College on November 17th, the services of remembrance that took place in our schools, and the annual remembrance service in Miltown Golf club on November 9th. As we move into December we hosted a Classical Christmas Concert on Sunday December 2nd. We are planning for our Christmas Carol Service in the Church on Sunday December 16th from 4-5pm with mulled wine, mince pies and refreshments served afterwards in the Parish Centre to which you are warmly invited. At the 12noon Mass on Sunday January 13th (the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord), we will be inviting all those baptised in our parish in 2018 to join us to celebrate the gift of their baptism. The new Parish Pastoral Council will begin after a process of discernment. So yes, there is lots happening but lots of things still to do. Many have asked just like John the Baptist: What must we do, what needs to be done for all of these gatherings and initiatives to run smoothly! We are blessed with many wonderful people and volunteers in all of these tasks. Thank You.

As we journey through this Season of Advent leading into Christmas we ask that question of ourselves: What must we do.... to find life and fulfilment? Maybe the words of John the Baptist who was asked the same question by many different groups is a focus for all of us, this is the path to life: Live generously and justly'. This simple but challenging answer is as true today as it was in the time of John and Jesus.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Good Shepherd Conference

The Society of St Vincent de Paul was founded in Ireland in 1844 It is the largest Charitable Society in our country. My name is Maureen and I am a member of Good Shepherd Conference, Churchtown. Our Conference formed over fifty years ago and deals with families and single people who have run into difficulties through lack of income, illness, debts and are finding it difficult to cope. The Conference comes to their assistance and helps in some way to alleviate this worry. The conference has eight members and meets every Tuesday at 7.15pm in the parish Centre to discuss the requests. These can be for food, rent arrears, children's needs and school expenses. We raise funds through our monthly collection and our annual collection in December, and most of all the response of our most caring community. Our Spiritual Director is Fr Brian Edwards. It is most rewarding work, we trust in the future so that we can continue as successfully as we have done in past years. We thank our community for their support, without which we would find it difficult to assist those in need in our parish.



Our wonderful flower ladies Francisca and Anne prepare the Church for Christmas

We remember the founding principal of our Good Shepherd School, **John Curran** following his tragic death in South Africa recently. John was the Director of Education at Mellon Educate, a non-profit organisation, where he has worked to renovate schools and improve the standard of education for those less fortunate in townships in South Africa.



We remember especially in our prayers all his family, friends and colleagues at this difficult time.

May he rest in peace.



Our parish team Amy, Mary and Niamh have all in hand for our parish



Fr Brian with award winning pupils from our Good Shepherd School

Trip to San Giovanni de Rotundo. On September, 20th a small group of ladies from Good Shepherd church set out to visit St Giovanni in order to celebrate the feast of St Pio on September 23rd. San Giovanni is an exquisite little town. The church was thronged on the feast day with people spilling out onto the square to attend mass. Thousands filed past St Pio's casket praying to their favourite Saint and many, many Masses were offered for friends and relatives back home.



Church of the Holy Spirit, Ballyroan, Dublin 14.

Celebrating our Jubilee year 1967-2017

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Parish Sec: Aine Mullally

AUTUMN 2018

After an exceptional summer we returned to what we often refer to as 'normal' structure within our live. Our autumn began, in the Parish of Ballyroan, with the opening masses of Scoil Naomh Padraig with their beautiful singing voices, Sancta Maria College with Mercy Day, Ballyroan Boys celebrating fifty years, and Colaiste Eanna. With a former student, recently ordained Fr. Robert Smyth presiding. These celebrations were not only uplifting for the students and staff but also for the parishioners who support the schools through prayer and fundraising activities.

The "Do This In Memory" Mass started with a full church welcoming 120 children and their families for their First Communion preparation.

The Youth Choir has taken a new focus and we are blessed to have the wonderful sweet voices of over twenty young girls under the direction of Andrew Clayton, more boys are welcome and needed!

The Homeless Run for the 18 plus age group meet on Sundays at 6 pm in the Ruah Centre to prepare sandwiches and hot drinks for those on our streets, packs of toiletries are also prepared for distribution. Willing to help! Contact the parish.

Sancta Maria coffee morning proved a great success for the girls as they began their collection for the Kenya Mission Trip in June.

Needless to say that we look back at a wonderful summer with its relaxation however we are all enjoying the business of Ballyroan Parish life that brings the Word of God alive through song from all choirs and groups. Altar servers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, greeter and sacristans have all responded to their baptismal call to minister to one another. What makes all our parishes so alive is the full and active participation from all parishioners, whatever our age and gifts in building the kingdom of God.

There is always room for more! So, I encourage you, take a time to ask, 'where am I to share my talents in my parish?'

Fr Danny MacLennan



Our Adult choir led by Ann McNulty



Our childrens choir led by Andrew Clayton



Fr Danny with the girls from Sancta Maria College at the cake sale to raise funds for their trip to Kenya



Scoil Naomh Pádraig girls join our parishioners at 10am Mass for the beginning of the School Year



Our new Altar Servers getting trained in

Funeral Ministry Team, Church of the Holy Spirit, Ballyroan.



Twelve years ago, at the suggestion of the then P.P Fr McIlraith a funeral team was established to assist at funerals and to prepare for the shortage of priests. It was a very gentle start - greeting the family and reading at the removal of the deceased to the Church the evening before the funeral Mass.

In the early years the team attended workshops in Bishop Eamon's deanery and in Clonliffe College. We gained confidence as we progressed to helping the family with the 'order of the funeral', leading the prayers in deceased own home or funeral parlour. On a couple of occasions ministers were asked to attend the burial and cremation to say the final prayers in the absence of a priest.

The pastoral worker at that time - Cathriona put together a very comprehensive funeral ritual folder and presented us with badges, which were very helpful as people would approach us to ask questions particularly while waiting for the arrival of remains to the Church.

Then a Pall was introduced, which meant two ministers were needed to cover the coffin. Most people accepted its symbolism - that of the white shawl at baptism along with the holy water, cross and bible. However, when there was an objection it was decided to use a shorter pall and this is now placed over the end of the coffin

The funeral team has seven very experienced, committed and dedicated members who assist the Priest and who are gentle and sensitive when meeting the bereaved family at the sad time of the death of a loved one. We deem it a great privilege to assist at a funeral. BUT, we are now 12 years older! and would very much welcome new members to carry on the work of this special ministry.

Please contact 087 9341781 for details or Parish Office Mon- Fri 10am - 12. 01-4947303

Finally, a big thank you to Fr Danny and past parish priests for all their support and encouragement.

By Winnie Keogh



Wonderful evening to celebrate the 50th anniversary reunion at Ballyroan Boys School with teachers and past pupils

'Renew your Faith' Group Ballyroan Parish

Some years ago several people in our parish felt that they would be glad to take part in some talks on 'renewing our Faith'. With this in mind a small group of parishioners came together on a Tuesday morning, in our Pastoral Centre, to begin this process of renewing our 'Faith'. We began with the Irish edition of the 'Catechism for Catholics'. we spent about 2 years perusing this tome.

Then last year we read and discussed the Gospel of Mark. We also continued to use the Catechism for the prayers and meditation at the end of each session.

We are now reading and dissecting the 'Gospel of John' a much more 'spiritual' gospel as it has deeper meanings than the Synoptic Gospels. Each session last about an hour with everyone free to ask questions on the text.

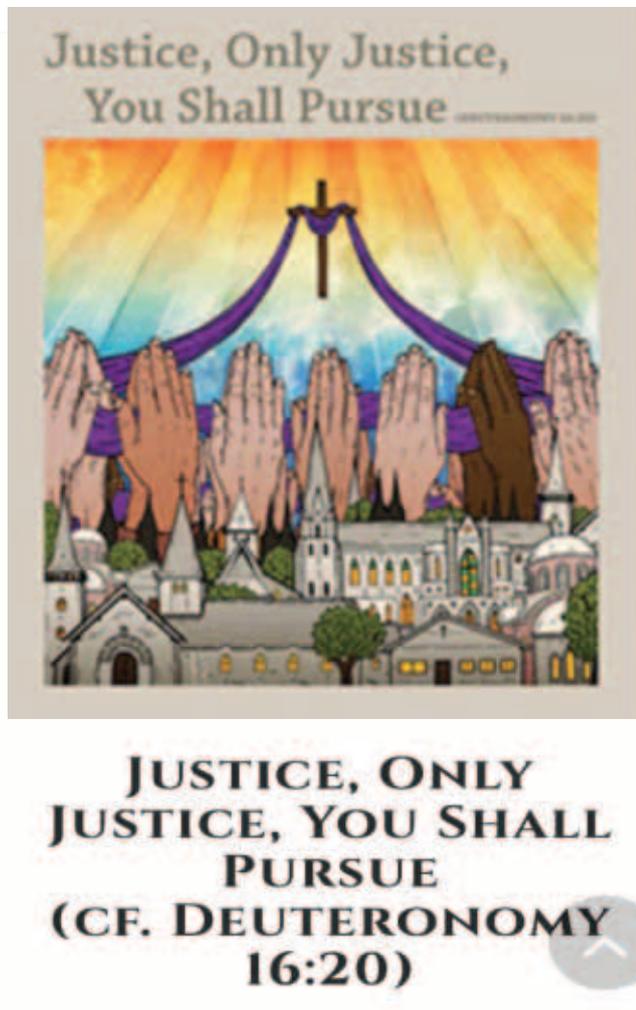
All are welcome to attend and we usually have about 15 people in attendance. Hopefully we will be able to continue this work and we will benefit in our efforts to renew our 'Faith'.

Ger Healy



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

All our Parishes with our Church of Ireland brothers and sisters will plan a series of inter-faith celebrations and prayer together



At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between **18-25 January**, between the **feasts of St Peter and St Paul**.

A Daily Prayer for Christian Unity

Lord Jesus,
who prayed that we might all be one,
we pray to You for the unity of Christians,
according to Your will, according to Your means.

May Your Spirit enable us
to experience the suffering caused by division,
to see our sin,
and to hope beyond all hope. Amen.

A prayer by Abbé Paul Couturier,

MEMBERS OF THE PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. Michael Coady

Fr. Brian Edwards

Fr. Danny MacLennan

Fr. Hyacinth Nwakuna

Fr. Martin Cosgrove
Moderator

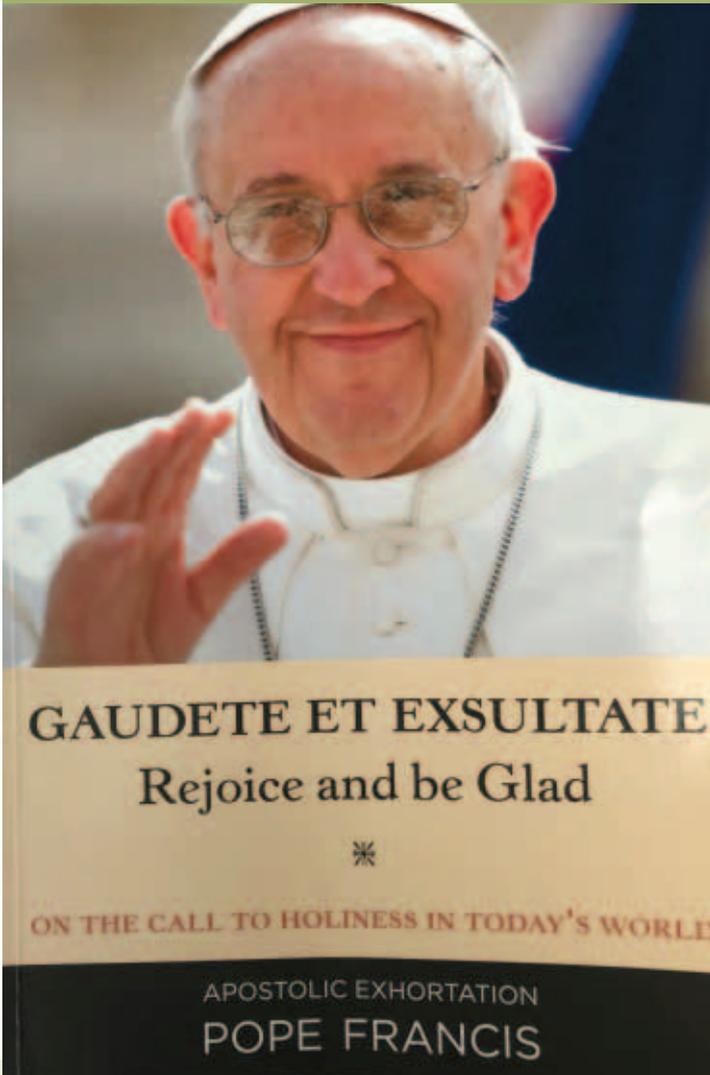
Ms. Avena Lahart
Parish Pastoral Worker

Ms. Deirdre McDermott
Parish Pastoral Worker

Mary McSweeney
Catechist

Deacon Matt Murphy

PRAYER



Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation: Reminds us of our call to holiness, using images, references to Scripture and to the Saints. Pope Francis in an easy to read way, challenges us to live the Beatitudes (*Matthew 5:3-12 and Luke 6:20-23*)

The word 'happy' or 'blessed' thus becomes a synonym for 'holy.' It expresses the fact that those faithful to God and his word, by their self-giving, gain true happiness.

You can download a free copy:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html

Ballyroan parish plans to host a book club early in 2019 to discuss together this inspiring document over 5 sessions; contact the office if you would like to be part of the first book club.

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

USEFUL SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

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.

newadvent.org is a wonderful website that allows access to the original writings of the Church Fathers, St Augustine, St Thomas Aquinas and many more.

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

Times of Masses and Services for Christmas 2018

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BALLYROAN

December 8th	Confessions 6.00 - 7.00pm
December 10th	Carol Service, Sancta Maria College at 2.30pm
December 12th	Carol Service, Colaiste Eanna at 12 noon
December 15th	Confessions 6.00 - 7.00pm
December 19th	Carol Service, Scoil Naomh Pdraig at 12 noon
December 19th	Carols by Candlelight in Ruah Centre at 7.30pm
December 20th	Carol Service, Ballyroan Boys School at 1.30pm
December 22nd	Confessions 6.00 - 7.00pm
December 24th, Christmas Eve:	Family Mass 6.30pm, Vigil Mass 9.00pm (carols begin at 8.30pm)
December 25th, Christmas Day:	Mass 10.00am and 12 noon.
December 26th, St Stephen's Day:	Morning Prayer 11.00am
December 29th	Baptisms 12 noon
January 1st 2019	New Year's Day Mass: 11.00am

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, CHURCHTOWN

December 2nd	Classical Christmas Concert, (fundraising for De La Salle College)
December 16th	Carol Service 4.00pm
December 18th	Parishes Reconciliation Service 10.30am
December 24th Christmas Eve	Masses 10.00am, 7.15pm and 9.00pm
December 25th Christmas Day	Masses 10.00am and 12.00 noon
December 26th	Mass 10.00am

CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION, RATHFARNHAM

December 16th	Masses: 8.30am, 9.30am, 10.45am and 12.00pm a Special Mass for all those who find the Christmas period a difficult time to get through. Carol Service 7.00pm
December 18th	Penitential Service 7.30pm
December 22nd	Mass 11.00am. Confessions after 11.00am. Vigil Mass 6.45pm
December 23rd	Masses: 8.30am, 9.30am, 10.45am and 12pm
December 24th Christmas Eve:	Masses: 10.00am. Confessions 10:30am - 11.30pm & 2.30pm - 3.30pm. Mass with Nativity Play - Children 5.00pm. Vigil Mass with Beaufort Choir 7.00pm. Midnight Mass with Parish (Adult Choir) 9.00pm, Blessing of Crib. Begins with carols at 8.30pm
December 25th Christmas Day:	Mass with Cantor 8.30am, Mass with Gospel Choir 9.30am, Mass with Beaufort Past Pupils Choir 10.45am and Mass with the Folk Group 12 noon.
December 26th-28th	Mass at 11.00am
December 29th	Masses: 11.00am and Vigil Mass 6.45pm
December 30th	Masses: 8.30am, 9.30am, 10.45am, 12 noon
December 31st	Mass 11.00am and Service of Light & Prayers to mark the close of the year 4.30pm
January 1st 2019	Mass 11.00am for World Peace and to ask for God's blessing for the year that lies ahead.
January 2nd	Normal daily masses resume at 10.00am Monday-Friday and 11.00am on Saturday.

Regular Church Schedule During the Year

Church of the Holy Spirit, Ballyroan

Monday-Friday	Mass 10.00am
Saturday	Vigil Mass 7.00pm
Sunday	Masses 10.00am, 12 Noon
Working Holy Day	Masses 10.00am, 7.00pm,
Vigil of Holy Day	Mass 7.00pm

Morning Prayer

Monday-Friday	7.30am Ruah Centre
Saturday	10.00am

Church of the Good Shepherd, Churchtown

Monday-Friday	Mass 10.00am
Saturday	Mass 10.00am, Vigil Mass 7.15pm
Sunday	Mass 10.00am and 12 Noon

Rosary and Morning Prayer of the Church is celebrated every week-day at 9.15

Night Prayer of the Church is celebrated every Saturday at 8.20 in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel: All welcome.

Church of the Annunciation, Rathfarnham

Monday-Friday	Mass 10.00am
Saturday	Mass 11.00am 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 10.00am, Evening 7.30pm
Saturday	Sacrament of Reconciliation after 11.00am Mass and at 6.30pm
1st & 3rd Saturdays	Baptisms, Baptism preparation the previous Thursday at 8.30pm