

# IN MINISTRY TOGETHER



# BCR PARISH NEWS

*Parishes of Ballyroan, Churchtown & Rathfarnham*

An Ecumenical Son-Rise Celebration

An Invitation to all.

To our Ecumenical Son-rise celebration in prayer, word and music to celebrate Easter Day.

21st April 2019

Easter Sunday Morning 5.45am at Kilakee Carpark.

What is an Ecumenical Son-rise celebration?

It is a gathering of people from the different religious traditions and beyond, to meet early on Easter Sunday morning to celebrate the resurrection of the Son of God – Jesus Christ– from the dead.

The celebration will take about half an hour and everyone is welcome to join us followed by light refreshments in the Ruah Centre, Ballyroan.



## EASTER MESSAGE 2019

On Easter Sunday morning, April 21st at 5.45am people from different Christian traditions, together with their friends from the wider community will gather together at the Car park on the Kilakee Road to celebrate the Easter Son-Rise Ceremony (all are very welcome). Several similar celebrations will take place at various vantage points around the city and country. While it is always helpful if there should be a good, full, bright, brilliant sunrise, the real object of the celebration is to celebrate the Rising of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, from the dead. Hence the name SON-RISE and not sunrise, even though a good vivid sunrise has its own appeal.

These gatherings are unique because most of the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter are held in individual churches' of each denomination, whereas the Son-rise gathering brings together people from many different branches of the Christian family and is truly a celebration of a central belief of the Christian faith, namely the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

It is very much a celebration of what Christians hold in common and in agreement rather than what divides us.



Personally, as I grow older and hopefully a little wiser, I like very much to emphasise the rich heritage that we share in common rather than highlight division amongst us. I leave that great task to the more expert in the churches.

Easter, for those who believe, for those who endeavour to follow Jesus Christ, is the ultimate celebration and triumph of life over suffering and death. Jesus himself tells that each of us in our time will share his destiny of eternal life. Do you really believe that truth? Easter is the mystery of faith that gives

ultimate meaning, hope and purpose to all of our lives and all our human strivings. There is an ultimate purpose to all human life even if at times it is not always apparent.

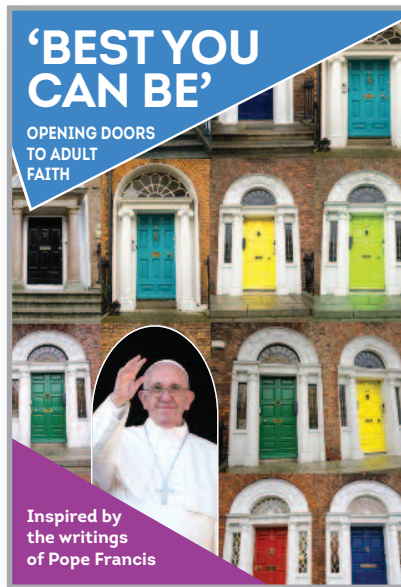
Easter is not only a feast of great hope, it is also a feast of great challenge. Our world has very many forms of pain and suffering, its injustices and its harshness for so many. For those of us who endeavour to believe, Easter is the feast that encourages us and challenges us to be people of hope, of resurrection, of life for others. Are we Easter people for others or are we still at the Good Friday stage? We can make a difference for the better.

Meanwhile of behalf of all of our team, may we wish you every peace and blessing this Easter. May we, as followers of Jesus, be the people in this time and place who will keep the rumour of God and his love for us alive in our communities. Hopefully, we will meet you at some of the Holy Week / Easter Celebrations- maybe even bright and early on Easter Sunday morning at the Son-Rise Ceremony.

**MARTIN COSGROVE,**  
*Moderator of the Ballyroan, Churchtown and Rathfarnham Grouping of Parishes.*

*For those of us who endeavour to believe, Easter is the feast that encourages us and challenges us to be people of hope, of resurrection, of life for others.*

# Best You Can Be



Parishioners from Ballyroan, Churchtown and Rathfarnham parishes are invited to take part in a reflective day entitled **Best You Can Be** on **Saturday 27th April 2019** in The Ruah Pastoral Centre, Ballyroan.

**Best You Can Be** is an introduction to developing adult faith. It aims to explore the nature of adult faith in keeping with Pope Francis' vision that Christians would continue to grow in their personal relationship with God. **Best you Can Be** encourages reflection on the stages of faith development and participants' images of God. The course points to Jesus as the One who shows us the way to be the best that we can be. Adult faith is about lifelong listening, learning and discerning.

Some comments from previous participants include....

*"Today was an awakening"*

*"My faith has been reignited"*

*"It is a call to change for me"*

*"I feel I have a better understanding of my faith"*

*"I feel I have more confidence in taking up a role in leadership"*

*"I feel a call to reach out to others"*

The facilitation team for the day is Ms Rosemary Lavelle (Pastoral Co-ordinator in the Office for Evangelisation and Ecumenism), Fr John Bracken, Co-P.P. Holy Cross Church, Dundrum Ms Eilis O' Reilly and Ms Rachel Brady, parishioners from the parish of Ss. Peter and Paul, Balbriggan. The day begins at **10.00a.m.** and finishes at **4.30p.m.**

If you would like to register for **Best You Can Be**, please give your name and phone number to your parish secretary. Please bring a packed lunch. For further information email [rosemary.lavelle@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:rosemary.lavelle@dublindiocese.ie)

## Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults – An Ongoing Privilege & Responsibility

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is of paramount importance. We are called as Christians to protect those most vulnerable in our community. This is very much part of our living out the values as set down in the Gospels. It is also a requirement under Irish law, but also it is ensuring that the mistakes of the past are not revisited. Safeguarding is about creating a safe environment for children, vulnerable adults and all volunteers in our parishes

The key points for safeguarding in our parishes are:

Proper recruitment practices for volunteers. These include:

- Garda Vetting – All volunteers who carry out their ministry in public must be Garda Vetted. This includes members of choirs, readers, Eucharistic Ministers, collectors etc. The Garda vetting Act does not just apply to the protection of children but also vulnerable adults.
- All volunteers should attend Safeguarding Awareness talks with key people attending safeguarding training.
- All volunteers should be given a copy of the Code of Behaviour for adults

Understanding how to recognise, respond to and report and a concern that a child or a vulnerable adult is at risk of abuse. This can be done by:

- Recognising that abuse comes in different forms i.e. Neglect, Physical, Emotional, Sexual, Institutional and Financial.
- Any concerns should be reported without delay to the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person, Mr. Andrew Fagan or to any "Mandated" person in the parish. This includes Parish clergy and Parish Pastoral Workers. People can also report directly to Tusla (children), HSE (vulnerable adults) or the Gardaí.

### Parish Safeguarding personnel

It is everybody's responsibility to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, however there are key people in our parishes whose responsibility it is to ensure that the highest standards of safeguarding are in place. They are parish clergy, parish pastoral council and the parish safeguarding representatives. They can only succeed in this endeavour when they receive the co-operation of all involved in parish work.

***"Families need to know that the church is making every effort to protect children. They should also know that they have every right to turn to the church with full confidence, for it is a safe and secure home."***

**Pope Francis, February 2015**

I take this opportunity to thank all those who are involved in the Ministry of Safeguarding in the Parishes of the BCR Grouping.

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





**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

## The Journey into Holy Week and Easter



Some reading this reflection have accompanied loved ones on their last journey, as they passed from this life to eternal life. The stages of the final journey of a loved one can remain etched in our memories. Their journey was, in a sense, our journey. We traveled that journey with them.

Very often, it is only some time after the death of our loved one that the true significance of that final journey becomes clear to us. We come to see it in a new light; we come to understand what was going on in a way that was not possible at the time.

The final journey of Jesus was etched in the memory of his disciples. They too came to understand the full significance of that final journey only afterwards, in the light of Easter and with the coming of the Spirit. What they initially regarded as a

great tragedy came to be seen as good news. A story of brokenness and failure came to be recognized as a story full of promise and hope. That is how we read and listen to the story of the last journey of Jesus on Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. We hear this story, not as a depressing word, but as a word that nourishes us and strengthens our faith and hope.

The story of the last journey of Jesus reminds us too that our greatest triumph lies in how we respond to others, regardless of how they have treated us. We sometimes have little control over how others treat us or regard us. We have some control over how we respond to others. If we respond in the way Jesus did, then we share in his triumph. When we retain our goodness, our integrity, in the midst of forces that threaten to diminish it, then the Lord's triumph, the triumph of Holy Week, takes flesh in our lives. The story of Jesus becomes our story. As we shortly begin our journey into Holy Week, that is the call that the Lord makes upon each and every one of us.

**Fr Brian**



### First Penance

Children from Good Shepherd National school are preparing for First Penance. They have been working really hard and are ready to dramatise the story of Zachaeus.

## Good Shepherd Choir



Our wonderful Good Shepherd choir. The above choir sing at Mass every Sunday Morning. led by Siobhan Dempsey, Music Director.

## Altar Servers!



Three of our altar servers were confirmed last weekend. These girls have been serving mass since September 2015. Clodagh said: I have been serving for four years and I will serve for four more. I know what's happening at Mass and it makes it more interesting. All three girls read prayers whenever they are asked. They were involved with the Jesse tree in Advent, Stations of the Cross on Good Friday and many more church events. Clodagh played the violin during First Penance for the last two years. Here we have three wonderful committed young parishioners.

## Our DTIM Choir (Do This in Memory)



Our DTIM Choir (Do This in Memory) was established c.10 years ago. A small number of individual singers in the Parish were identified by the then Parish Priest Dermot Nestor and asked to form a choir which would sing at the DTIM Masses. The DTIM programme is parish based, designed to prepare students for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. All our members are mothers whose children have received or are receiving the Sacraments. We have grown in number having invited some friends to join over the years. However, it has always been essential that we remain a small group as we are all mums who are busy with family life and jobs so having flexibility in our rehearsal schedules is key to our survival. Until 2012 we were self-directed but in 2013 our new Parish Music Director, Siobhán, came on board and we have since worked on our abilities and expanded our music repertoire. We have fun in our rehearsals and strong friendships and bonds have been formed. While our music has changed and evolved over the years our mission has remained the same; we are committed to supporting families in the challenge to raise children in our faith. We, the choir, also continue on that journey with our own children. I love my work with this lively bunch of enthusiastic ladies not only because of their obvious music talent but also due to their warmth, friendliness, and sense of fun. The ladies are always up for new challenges and sing a very diverse programme of liturgical music. Our trademark is our beautiful harmonies! We closely follow the new Laudate Programme, an initiative which aims to build a common hymn repertoire between school and parish at Primary level. Come hear us sing at our next Do This in Memory Mass. by Siobhan

**By Siobhan Dempsey**  
**Music Director, Good Shephard, Churchtown**



## Baptism Reunion Mass

**B**aptism Reunion Mass. In January each year on the date of the Baptism of Our Lord we celebrate the "Reunion of Babies' Mass". All of the families who had a baby baptised in the previous year receive an invitation to attend the celebration. It is a very special mass. The families are presented to the community and receive a special blessing. The Baptism team light the families' candles and the congregation renew their Baptismal vows. The families participate in the prayers of the faithful and in the Offertory procession. Godparents, grandparents and other family members are invited to join in the celebration. After Mass there is an opportunity for the families to get together for refreshments and to socialise with one another. They have an opportunity to meet the teams who assisted at each child's Baptism.

**By Anne McGarrigle**  
*Member of Baptism Team*



## Mens' Spirituality Group

**T**he Ballyroan based men's spirituality group is one of the many branches of MALEs, (a mens spirituality group), founded by Fr. Richard Rohr OFM in the 1980's, to help men reawaken to their own masculinity, to their deep spirituality and to discover what it means to be a man in today's world. Rohr maintains that men are adolescent when it comes to spirituality. They are alienated from themselves. They have a deep sense of loss that can manifest itself in covert depression. They can be trapped in their own world of success vs. failure, powerful vs. powerlessness, important vs. insignificant. They can be out of touch with feelings, with what really matters. They can find it hard to trust, to be vulnerable. The civilisation we have inherited from them, is in great part broken or even sick.

But men tend to seek lives of adventure. They want to find out about things. They seek aloneness in nature and follow football teams. They want to be part of something bigger than themselves. They seek 'out of body experiences' in drinking, drug taking, and sex. They hunger for power and control and status. These do not ennoble the male. These characteristics are really a search for their lost wildness. It's their search for spirituality, for soul, but it doesn't work.

This can only happen when the man finds oneself in right relationship with God, or Higher Power, or with whatever one calls God in one's life. It only happens when one accepts oneself as a beloved by someone beyond your understanding or ability to control. This can't be earned, can't be worked at, can't be won. It simply is true and is always true in spite of what you have or have not done.

This requires one to have a contemplative stance to life. One has to practice some form of prayer/mediation that enables one to reflect on the events of one's life, on where does goodness impact, on what are the lessons to be learnt. One then must have real courage to start living out of this reality with trust and faith. This can only be achieved with the support and encouragement of others.

MALEs help men go on this journey to a new consciousness of themselves. They are helped and supported when confronted with suffering, loss, death, failure and change by empowering them to live with genuine wisdom and vision out of a belief that they are loved for who they truly are. They find inner knowledge of themselves, recognise their imperfections, failures, inadequacies and integrate them into their



understanding as to who they are. This is the journey to the true self, to wholeness. It is not total perfection; it's a conscious journeying through the imperfections towards perfection.

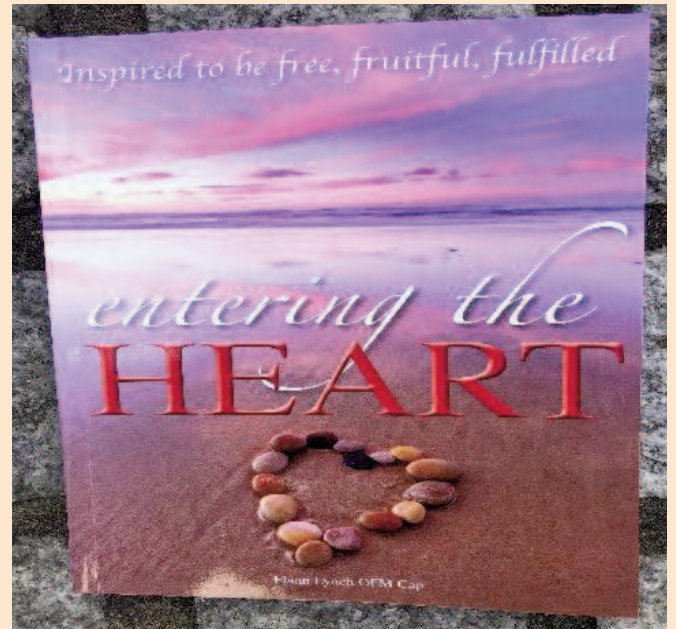
MALEs work is grounded in the Christian Paschal Mystery. It provides a safe environment with agreed guidelines, healthy boundaries and leadership with integrity. It is an oasis for men away from the clutter and business of life. It encourages them to become the real men they truly are, who have life for others and knows it, who know they are beloved sons of God (or whatever one calls God in one's life). They are encouraged to become elders, to be leaders and servants to their families and communities, to be mentors for future generations, and to seek honest mutuality with women in thought, word and deed.

Please refer <https://www.malejourney.ie/> or to <https://www.illumian.org/> for more info

Gerry Moore

## Lenten Talks at the Ruah Centre

On **Wednesday 20th March**, the Lenten Talks series at the Ruah Centre continued with a talk called “Living a Free, Fruitful and Fulfilled Life” given by Fr Flann Lynch OFM Cap. Since 1995 Fr Lynch has been developing an ecumenical spirituality programme called VISION. He gives seminars on this around the world. He now has videos about it on YouTube. He started his talk with one of these videos. It was a cartoon like format which would be attractive to children. The message is bringing your faith from your head to your heart, to really feel the love of God. Fr Lynch also introduced us to the Abundance Prayer which is a form of meditation prayer. Fr Lynch’s book “Entering the Heart” was available on the night. It covers the areas he talked about and focusses on the Beatitudes.



By Moira

### 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.**



### Life is Attitude

**L**ife is attitude. We are our attitudes. Success and contentment depend on attitude. We see ourselves, others, life and God through the lens of our attitudes. We relate to life largely through the particular attitudes with which we have grown up.

Attitudes are an ever-present mindset, determining how we think, feel, listen, speak and behave. They are either loving or negative, life-enhancing or damaging, inspiring or undermining. They consist of beliefs, conversation and feelings, that become attitudes when they are deeply ingrained or habitual.

Attitudes flowing from beliefs include loving attitudes such as, 'I'm precious to God', and 'life is opportunity', as opposed to 'I'm not good enough', and 'life is hard'. In conversation we have the loving attitudes of praising and encouraging, and the negative attitudes of blaming and complaining, etc. And we can have feelings that are attitudes of either generosity and compassion, or aggression and selfishness, etc.

Attitudes act as filters for both our love and generosity and our prejudices and ignorance. An attitude needs to be changed when it is not respectful of self, others, life or God, or when it is not loving or life-giving. 'The remarkable thing is that we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day ... we are in charge of our attitudes.'

Recognising our need to change, Christ invited us to repent, to re-pent or re-think, be willing to change our minds, our attitudes, when they are unreasonable or disempowering. He then gave us a set of loving attitudes or values that we call the eight Beatitudes (*Matthew 5: 1-12*). To those who would embrace these loving attitudes, he promised a blessed state of mind and heart. This would include great gifts in plenty, especially the most precious of all, deep inner peace. 'My peace I leave you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, that is my gift to you' (*John 14:27*).

Since attitudes are the very bedrock of life, everything depends on their quality: our emotional stability, confidence, self-esteem, the wellness of mind, feelings, body and spirit, the success of our relationships, work, career, the use of our gifts, caring for others, a sense of justice, etc.

What is necessary is that we be willing to stop and look at how selfish or self-defeating some of our attitudes can be. This is a great place at which to arrive. Now we are humble enough to admit to our helplessness, and open enough to allow God to help us embark on a new adventure, the way of love. What is on offer is an exciting and empowering way of living, a vision of life that is truly inspiring.

*Invitation: I can change my attitudes. What freedom!*





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

**Email:** [ballyroanparish@gmail.com](mailto:ballyroanparish@gmail.com)

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

**Twitter:** @BallyroanParish

**Facebook:** @ballyroan.parish

**Tel:** (01) 494 7303

**Parish Sec:** Aine Mullally

## Father Danny's visit to India



In November I answered a call on my mobile from a friend I met only a year ago. He started the conversation by asking if I would like to go to India. My response was an immediate, 'yes', there was no hesitation in my decision even though Kolkata was not on my agenda when I arrived to begin my ministry in Dublin. On January 9, I boarded a plane, three planes to be exact, that brought myself and four other Irish nationals to India. Two members of this group are members of an organization called, Friends of Calcutta, an Irish Charity that gives one hundred percent of all monies raised to projects in Kolkata. On arrival the first thing that hits you is the smell from the smog that rests over the city and then the taxis are a reminder of poverty, many of the cars with visible repair work exposed. Immediate poverty is seen a short distance from the airport with throngs of people, children, dogs and tattered shops. The noise from blaring horns is a language all to itself and despite the chaos in traffic they manage to make their way through crowded streets of rickshaws, bicycles, carts and motorbikes. Once settled we

went straight to one of the sponsored schools were given a very warm welcome. The brick two- room schoolhouse was surrounded by dilapidated structures, the homes of the students and their families, and like in Ballyroan the children were waiting for their parents to gather them even though they all lived within a stone's throw from the school. The visit to Calcutta was only ten days but in that time

we visited several Irish sponsored schools, a nursing home and hospital. The only weekend we had in Calcutta was spent on the grounds of the Loreto Sisters' School, where Mother Teresa lived during her first years in India. The Loreto Sisters opened their grounds to a tournament where the Irish sponsored schools came together for a sports tournament. Although the majority of the children were barefoot and all from the poorest of communities they had the biggest smiles. They played with friends, competed in running and cricket and the girls played an awesome game called Kabbadi that attracted the biggest and loudest crowds. I was blessed to celebrate Mass at the tomb of Mother Teresa, who lived in Rathfarnham for seven weeks before leaving for India and in meeting several of the Missionaries of Charity who shared their gratefulness to the people of Ireland. It seems that no matter where we travel there will always be someone from home. In visiting a Carmelite Convent I was introduced to Sr. Marie Therese 'Gaynor' who grew up in Orchardstown Avenue, attended Sancta Maria College and Ballyroan Church. It's a small world after all!





## Ballyroan Parish Book Club



Ballyroan Parish's Book Club reflect on Pope Francis's wonderful book: Rejoice and be Glad, a call to holiness through simple acts of love

## Evening Mass, St. Patrick's Weekend



## Sean Crowley RIP



We were all so saddened to learn of the sudden death of Sean, our volunteer sacristan, a generous person who happily gave of his time to assist anyone in our parish. Our sincere condolences to his wife Philomena, son John and all his family and friends.

## Christmas Poinsettias raise funds for Liberia



For the past decade Ballyroan Parish Pastoral Council have organised the placing of Poinsettias on the altar on behalf of Parishioners for the purpose of remembering their loved ones over the Christmas Period. The names of the loved ones are placed on a noticeboard at the side of the altar and our loved ones are prayed for at all the Masses over the Christmas period. Last Christmas Parishioners ordered 162 Poinsettias, which were placed on the altar on the Saturday before Christmas. As seen from the photos below they provided a beautiful addition to the altar at all the Christmas masses. This year the surplus money from the sale of the Poinsettia was donated to the Charity "Mary's Meals". This money is being used to bring life-changing daily meals for 30 pupils for the next year at "Gold Camp Public School" in Liberia, West Africa. Liberia is one of the poorest Countries in the World.

## Ceremony of Light



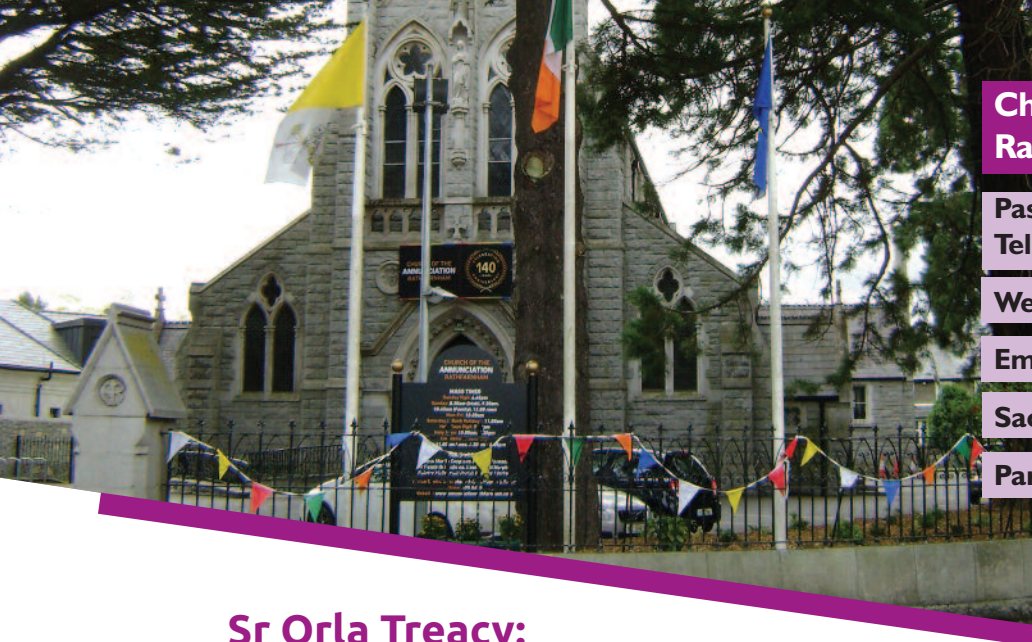
For Danny and some of our children who are preparing for Confirmation at our lovely Ceremony of Light, a reminder that parents are handing on their faith to their children.

## Fr. Hilliard's Lenten Talk

Fr Alan Hilliard meets with parishioners after his inspiring Lenten talk- 'we must all face our own individual Lents at a time in our life, but our loving God is always with 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: [parishoffice@rathfarnhamparish.com](mailto:parishoffice@rathfarnhamparish.com)**

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

**Parish Sec: Jason Monahan**

## **Sr Orla Treacy: International Women of Courage Awards winner 2019**

Born in Ireland in 1973, Sister Orla Treacy was, at a young age, inspired by the lives of service and compassion of her teachers who were religious sisters. After studying to become a teacher of religion, she joined the congregation of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM), known as the Loreto Sisters. She was based in Loreto College, Rathfarnham and was professed in 2005 and within a year Sister Orla joined other Loreto Sisters who were starting a new mission in Rumbek, South Sudan – an area besieged by civil war and violent inter-clan conflict. Touched by the plight of girls who were being forced into early marriage and denied the right to an education, she took action. Sister Orla and the Loreto Sisters started a girls-only boarding school with 35 students.



Today, Sister Orla serves as the head administrator of the Loreto Rumbek Mission in Maker Kuei, overseeing a boarding secondary school for girls, a co-educational primary school, and a women and child-centric primary healthcare facility. Sister Orla is a part of a diverse multinational team of religious sisters, educators, nurses, and other support staff, who all share a vision for improving the lives of the most vulnerable in the community.

Despite the devastating consequences of war in Rumbek, and the many barriers to women and girls in the community, Sister Orla remains filled with hope, and the Loreto Schools stand as a beacon of light for future South Sudanese generations. She continues to work in faith, striving for a world in which girls are not forced into marriage, are allowed to complete their education, and can pursue their dreams.

“When you work in an area of conflict, you dig deep in prayer. In South Sudan, you cling to faith,” Treacy said. “You pray for everything, because nothing is easy. God’s presence in my life sustains me. If I feel that peace, I can help others.”

## **Fr Michael Coady Co-PP**



It is hard to believe that it is now over 6 months since I took up my appointment in the Ballyroan / Churchtown / Rathfarnham grouping of Parishes. Firstly, I would like to thank Martin Canon Cosgrove for the warm welcome and his exceptional kindness to me.

As some of you may know I was curate in Churchtown from 1995 to 2001. One of the very pleasant aspects of my appointment has been the sense that I returned to an area of which I have many very happy memories. Recently while saying my prayers in Good Shepherd Church a person came over to me and put their arm around me and said, “you have come home”, I really appreciated that.

I think it is an excellent idea that the team rotate between the various parishes in the grouping. I am conscious that I have not yet said Mass in Ballyroan yet, but I hope to rectify that in the next few weeks.

I would like to thank so many people in the grouping for their very kind welcome. I look forward to having many long and happy years in this area.

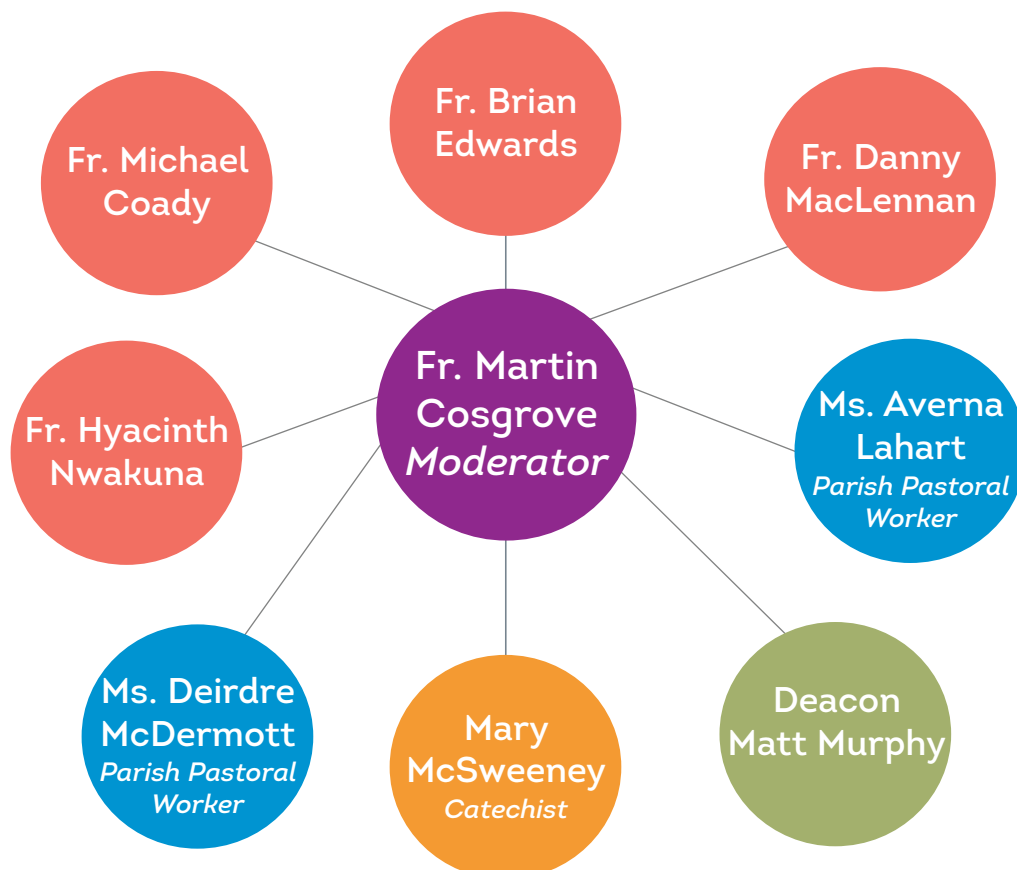
God bless you all.

## Rathfarnham Youth Hub



The Rathfarnham Youth Hub provides our young people with the possibility to socialize, interact and to make friends in a safe, local and familiar environment. The Hub is a fun, safe, local space for our young people to chill out, meet new friends, chat together, be listened to, to laugh, to relax, to have fun, to make new friends from various schools in the Parish and to get support from caring adults. The Hub gives our young people opportunities to grow in awareness of themselves, and of the needs of others. The Hub cherishes its relaxed and youth led atmosphere. It is not necessarily about focusing on achievements or major events or results; it is about young people doing their best, caring for each other, exploring their giftedness and growing in confidence. The Youth Hub meets in the Parish Hall on Friday nights from 7-9.30pm. Activities include: Table Tennis, Pool, Table Games, Piano playing, Skipping challenges, Walking, Rounders etc. The Hub members take part in various outings in the course of the year, such as Ice Skating, Hikes, Roller Disco, Tayto Park, Visit to Knock Shrine etc. The hub is open to all Youth in Rathfarnham from the age of thirteen years upwards.

## MEMBERS OF THE PASTORAL TEAM





## 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.

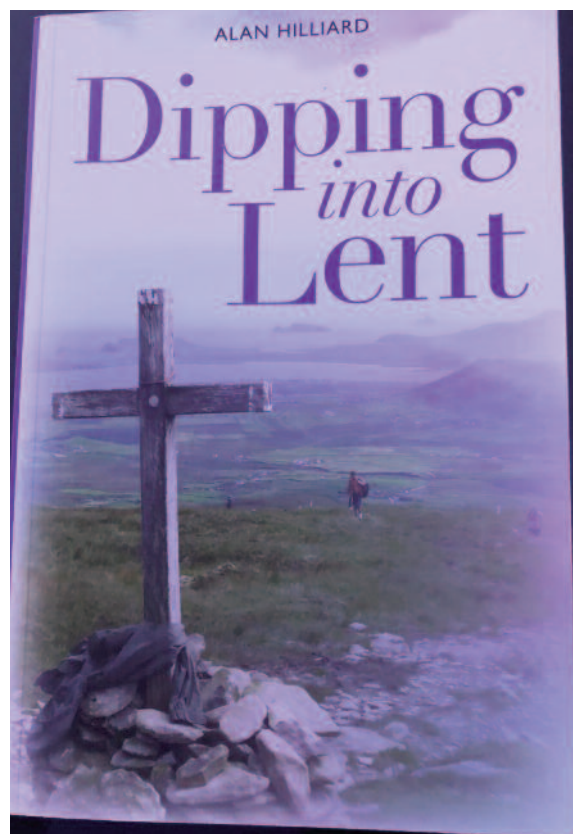
**newadvent.org** is a wonderful website that allows access to the original writings of the Church Fathers, St Augustine, St Thomas Aquinas and many more.

**Bible Gateway** APP allows you to access any part of several translations with helpful commentaries.

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)

## PRAYER



This wonderful book offers food for thought during this time.



### #the\_prodigal\_and\_the\_mother

He was dead for quite a while and she spoke about him a lot. Every conversation about him seemed unfinished; something ran deep that was unsaid. Eventually it came out. Her son had lived a colourful life. He had travelled the world before a strange hereditary disease took him from her. She missed him, but more than missing him, she wondered where he was in a deeply metaphysical sense. I had spoken with her a few times but, on this occasion, I felt compelled to push things a bit.

'Are you worried about him?' In true Irish style she didn't answer the question directly. 'I'd say he lived life to the full when he was alive' she said. 'Tell me' I asked, 'when did the father forgive the Prodigal Son?' She looked at me and rebuked me a bit, 'I'm no

theologian', she said. 'I don't know about that!' I replied, 'but you're a mother and that certainly helps'. I continued, 'Go on then, when did he forgive him?'

'When he saw him coming towards the house?' 'Try again' I said. 'When he said sorry?' 'Maybe – try again'. 'When he hugged him?' and then she said sternly ... 'and that's my final answer'. She looked at me, 'and what's your answer smarty-pants?'. 'I don't think he ever forgave him!' Well, talk about a livid look! 'What do you mean she asked?' She stuttered and stammered, protesting and pontificating like mad. She couldn't get her head around what I was saying. Eventually she fell silent through sheer frustration, even anger:

'I don't think he ever forgave him because, well because he never needed to.' I added, 'I don't think he ever condemned him in the first place.' Her silence went deeper and she sat up carrying a peace that seemed to catch her unexpectedly. She knew immediately what I meant.

In truth, I don't know if I'm right or wrong on this one. I only know that when you peel back the idea of God's mercy in the stories and actions of Jesus, we are told that his mercy is richer and deeper than any human concept of mercy and forgiveness.

*We come to love not by finding a perfect person,  
but by learning to see an imperfect person  
perfectly.*

Sam Keen

# Easter Ceremonies 2019

## Church of the Holy Spirit, Ballyroan

**WEDNESDAY**  
17th April 2019

7pm – Reconciliation Service

**HOLY THURSDAY**  
18th April 2019

7.30pm – Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Watch & Pray in the Ruah Pastoral Centre  
until 10pm

Please note there will be no 10am Mass on  
Holy Thursday, Good Friday or  
Easter Saturday.

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
19th April 2019

**Ecumenical Walk of Faith**  
details to follow 9.30am. Starting in  
Church of Ireland, Rathfarnham

12 Noon Stations of the Cross

3pm – Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday

7.30pm – Reflection around the Cross

**HOLY SATURDAY**  
20th April 2019

9pm – Solemn Mass of the Easter Vigil

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
21st April 2019

5.45am **Son-Rise Ecumenical Service**  
Meet in Kilakee (Car Park)

Mass as usual 10am and 12 Noon  
Baptisms during 12 Mass

**EASTER MONDAY 22nd APRIL**  
11am Morning Prayer

## Church of the Good Shepherd, Churchtown

**PALM SUNDAY, 13th/14th April 2019**

Mass Times: 7.15pm (Vigil), 10am and 12 noon

**MONDAY 15th April 2019**

Mass: 10am

**TUESDAY 16th April 2019**

Mass: 10am

**Penance Service:** 10.30am

**Holy Week Guided Prayer and Reflection:**  
12 noon to 12.30pm.

*Followed by soup/coffee in the Parish Centre.*

**WEDNESDAY 17th April 2019**

Mass: 10am

**HOLY THURSDAY 18th April 2019**

**Morning Prayer of the Church:** 10am

**Mass of the Lord's Supper:** 7.30pm

**Holy Hour at the Altar of Repose:** 9-10pm

**GOOD FRIDAY 19th April 2019**

**Morning Prayer of the Church:** 10am

**Stations of the Cross**  
led by the children of the Parish: 12 noon.

**Commemoration of the Lord's Passion:** 3pm

**The Way of the Cross**  
led by the young people of the Parish: 8pm

**HOLY SATURDAY 20th April 2019**

**Morning Prayer of the Church:** 10am

**Easter Vigil:** 9pm

**EASTER SUNDAY 22nd April 2019**

**Masses:** 10am and 12 noon

## Church of the Annunciation, Rathfarnham

**TUESDAY 16th April 2019**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation in Holy Week**  
(Several priests will be available)  
7.30pm

**WEDNESDAY 17th April 2019**

**Short Reflection on Holy Week:** 12pm

**HOLY THURSDAY 18th April 2019**

**Morning Prayer:** 10am

**Mass of the Lord's Supper:** 7.30pm

**Watch & Pray Vigil:** 10pm

**GOOD FRIDAY 19th April 2019**

**Ecumenical Walk for Justice:** 9.30am  
(Starting at the C.O.I. Rathfarnham, walking to  
Ballyroan & finishing at the Annunciation,  
Rathfarnham)

**Morning Prayer:** 10am

**Children's Stations of the Cross:** 12 noon.

**Solemn Liturgy of the Lords Passion:** 3pm

**Taize – Prayer around the Cross:** 9pm

**HOLY SATURDAY 20th April 2019**

**Morning Prayer:** 10am

**Confession:** After morning prayer until 12 noon.

**Solemn Easter Vigil:** 9pm

**EASTER SUNDAY 21st April 2019**

**Son-Rise at Kilakee Carpark,**  
assemble at 5.45am

(Followed by refreshments in the  
Ruah Centre, Ballyroan)

**Easter Sunday Masses:** 8.30am, 9.30am  
10.45am (Family Mass) and 12 noon

**EASTER MONDAY 22nd APRIL**

**Mass:** 11am

## Regular Church Schedule During the Year

### Church of the Holy Spirit, Ballyroan

Monday-Friday	Mass 10am
Saturday	Vigil Mass 7pm (last Saturday of the month our youth choir sing)
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