

New beginnings

I would like to wish all our parishioners a very peaceful and Holy Christmas. May I also express my thanks to all who are involved in so many different aspects of Cabinteely parish life and to all those who continue to support the parish both financially and spiritually.

It is amazing how so many people are involved in the life of the parish; from our deacon and retired priests to the parish pastoral council, finance committee and to all the various ministries of word, Eucharist, music, hospitality, altar serving, youth ministry, baptismal ministry, prayer, communications, all the office staff and volunteers and sacristan, and those who clean the church (God's housekeepers) and those who do the flowers both inside and outside, to name but a few of the various groups involved. Without your support and involvement, the parish could not survive. It is your support that allows the hand of God to work powerfully in and through so many people, building God's kingdom here.

Thank you so much to all who are involved and for all who continue to support the parish in these challenging times. The Holy Spirit is very much alive and active. I am so delighted to be appointed to serve in the parish close to the area that I grew up in. I never thought that I would be in a parish so close to my own home area and I thank God for leading me here. I have been overwhelmed by the welcome that I have received.

As we approach the great feast of Christmas, we recall that God loved us so much that he sent his only Son to live among us and to reveal the heart of God to us. This season is a time for new beginnings. It is time to end old feuds, to open the doors of communication, to build harmony and allow divisions to be healed. This is a special time of grace when opportunities are given to us to heal old rifts and to allow God to sow peace and love within all and among all. Look out for the angels. They are busy at work these days.

May the Lord bless each and every one this Christmas and grant you peace and faith as we continue our journey in faith towards God.

Fr. Aquinas T Duffy



Fr. Aquinas Duffy arrives in St. Brigid's Parish

Christmas Mass Times at St. Brigid's CHRISTMAS EVE – 24TH DECEMBER

5.00pm & 6.30pm The Park Mass Centre – Families with young Children
9.00pm Parish Church – Choir/Carols from 8.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY – 25TH DECEMBER

10.00am Parish Church – Choir
12.30pm Parish Church – Gospel Group

There will be no **11.15am Mass** in the **Park Centre** on **Christmas Day, Sunday 1st or 8th January.**

On St. Stephen's Day, Mon. 26th, there will be one mass at 11am and on Tues. 27th, Thurs. 29th and Fri. 30th December, there will be one mass daily at 10am.

No morning mass on Wednesday or Saturday.

The Parish Office will be closed on Christmas Eve and reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 at 9 am. If you require a Mass card or a Mass booking during this time, this can be arranged in the Sacristy after daily mass .

The Parish Centre will be open daily when required.

If you need a priest please contact the Parish Office at (01) 2858835.

Sunday Mass times are 6.30pm (Saturday Vigil), 10am and 12.30pm in St. Brigid's Parish Church; with 11.15am Mass in St. Brigid's Girls' School Mass Centre in the Park (term time only).

Friendship, worship and fellowship

The very warm welcome extended to Fr. Aquinas Duffy on the weekend of the 19th and 20th November reflected that sense of togetherness that characterises the community of St. Brigid's. This community dimension embraces a profile of 'Parishioner' that is not limited only to those who live within the parochial boundaries, but also and importantly, those who identify so naturally with the friendship, worship and fellowship that makes this parish such a good experience for everyone who is touched by it. The real and

vibrant parish community of St. Brigid's extends way beyond the drawn lines that limit its geographical space – and happily so.

The November weekend welcome for Fr. Duffy continues apace slowly but surely as more and more parishioners cross his path and he theirs. As the surrounding pictures illustrate so clearly the appreciation is mutual and marks yet another milestone on the long journey of St. Brigid's Cabinteely supporting their Clergy as the cornerstone of their parish for over 150 years.

Fr. Aquinas and his family are no strangers to this part of south county Dublin, in many ways it's a sort of homecoming for him as he takes up his role of Co-Parish Priest of our parish. We greet him and welcome him with the assurance that he can rely on us, as we will on him, for the support we all need in pursuing what the Gospel of Jesus Christ can achieve - when we practice as well as preach His Gospel of Love.

Pictures by John Hickey and Denis Burke



Fr. Aquinas with his sister Roisin Holland.



Cathy, Ellen and Elana McKean with Jayce, Lucy, Jasmin and Saffie Wooton.



Joan Banks, Fr Aquinas, Tara Bolger and Brian Brennan.



Sacristan Ken Heffernan with Fr Aquinas.



Ann Quirke with Fr Aquinas



Fr. Aquinas with Children's Choir in Mass Centre.



Jean Cole, Aileen Green, Brendan Henderson, Jim Flavin, Siobhan O'Toole, Pauline Bradfors, Kay Kenny, Noreen Barron and Vera Cullen



Kathleen Kinsella, Dot Carr, Ket Kelly, Madge Deegan and Pat O'Connor.



Maeve Lynott, Fr Aquinas, Brenda Gardiner and Pauline O'Dwyer.



Members of the Mass Centre tea Group, Lisa Goode, Niamh Down, Liz Murphy and Joan Byrne with Fr Aquinas.



John and Ann Dorris, Felicity and Michael Manley.



Deacon Jeremy, Fr. Arthur, Fr. Aquinas and Fr. Tom



Three generations of O'Lonergain family including former sacristan Liam O'Lonergain.



Peter, Majella and Denis Burke.



Sacristan in the Parish Mass Centre Brian Moore and his wife and Siobhan with Fr Aquinas.

Full steam ahead!

As the turbulent and sometimes choppy waters of trying to manage the practicalities of parish life reflected themselves for the Pastoral Parish Council members over the last twelve months, with the absence of Fr. Arthur, we are now happily into the calmer waters of a safe and secure harbour, from which we are ready to set sail once more.

With Fr. Aquinas now on the bridge ready to steer St. Brigid's for the next years' voyages – we owe a great deal of thanks to the existing Parish Pastoral Council as they prepare to take some well-earned 'shore-leave' in preparation for a 'new' crew to sign up in helping to charter this new chapter which we are beginning at this time.

Within official parochial 'grouping' set up by the Archbishop in October of this year, the pastoral care of the three parishes is under the care of Fr. Frank Herron, Moderator of the Team (resident in Foxrock); Fr. Aquinas T Duffy, Co-Parish Priest (resi-

dent in Cabinteely); Fr. John Sinnott, Co-Parish Priest (resident in Johnstown-Killiney); Fr. Gerard Doyle, Co-Parish Priest (resident in Johnstown-Killiney); Fr. Arthur O'Neill, Team Assistant (resident in Cabinteely); and Rev. Deacon Jeremy Seligman (resident in Cabinteely).

We are also fortunate that in addition to Fr. Arthur being available to assist when he can, Fr. Tom and Monsignor John Fitzpatrick are resident as retired priests in the parish.

The Clergy and parish council members of all three parishes will be 'sailing' in tandem with each other, working and sharing our talents, personnel and experiences for the betterment of all. Each of our parishes reflects our Christian identity in the rich and diverse resource of talent and willingness of all our volunteers, that together witness so powerfully to our Faith in a God of Love - alive in the hearts of the Faithful. Long may it continue for all of us.

Money matters

In recent years, throughout the Diocese, there has been a consistent reduction in the level of income received by the Church and Cabinteely is no exception. Costs remain high, and managing our finances is not easy.

Parishioners often ask where the money, so generously contributed is actually spent. In Cabinteely, we had a very substantial debt as a result of building our Parish centre. Clearing that debt was a priority, along with trying to maintain the level of service, which St. Brigid's provides to the community.

The past 12 months has seen a continuing decline, little by little, in our income, and it is therefore very heartening to report that we are very likely to see that debt all but eliminated in the next 12 to 18 months. It now stands at under €50,000. Our only source of income is the parishioners, through the Family Offering. We have in recent years offered the parishioners the opportunity to contribute otherwise than by way of regular weekly or monthly payments. The "Orange Envelopes" appear once a month and represent a very valuable additional source to the Parish. Last year, at Christmas, we invited parishioners, who wished to do so, to contribute directly to the Parish in a special envelope, distributed at the same time as the Christmas Dues envelope. We are repeating that in the current year.

Those funds, as well as going to meet our obligations to the bank, also pay the running costs of

the Parish, the salaries of the parish staff, maintenance and repair of the Church and the Centre, as well as contributing to community services and projects.

We had increased operational costs resulting from Fr. Arthur's indisposition, and these have been met, partly by the parish and partly with the support of the Diocese through the Diocesan Common Fund.

The First and Second collections at Sunday Masses and the Christmas and Easter Dues, are Diocesan collections. No part of those collections is retained in the Parish.

The Second collection, the Share Collection, is used to assist parishes who require financial support and it also meets the administrative costs of the Diocese.

The First Collection goes to the Common Fund, which pays the salaries of working and retired priests of the Diocese, including our own priests in St. Brigid's. It also looks after the health insurance for the priests of the Diocese and meets the maintenance and medical expenses of those no longer in active ministry.

While the Family Offering, including the additional methods of contribution mentioned above, is our only income in the Parish, and with your continued support we can in the very near future eliminate our bank debt, and continue to increase the level of support we can, as a Parish, assist those who are providing much needed community services. **DM**



Promoting inclusion and diversity in the workplace

On Monday 24th October The Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities (TCPID), situated within the school of Education, Trinity College Dublin, launched a Business Partners programme, promoting inclusion and diversity in the workplace.

As a graduate and ambassador of TCPID, St. Brigid's parishioner and member of the Parish Pastoral Council, Tomás Murphy was invited to speak of his experiences in finding employment and overcoming the obstacles and difficulties in gaining a position for a person with an intellectual disability.

Pictured at the event with TCPID graduate **Tomás Murphy** (centre) are from left: **Richie Boucher**, CEO Bank of Ireland; fellow TCPID graduate **Meil Lin Yap**; CEO CPL and IBEC President, **Anne Heraty** and TCPID's Pathways Coordinator, **Marie Devitt**.



Welcome to **Jake Shakespeare** who was baptised here on 9th October, pictured with his mum and dad, **Miroslava** and **Alan** and god parents, **Lyn Shakespeare** and **Zdenek Herclik**.



Welcome to **Max Tuke-Haskins** baptised here on October 23rd, pictured with his parents **Orla** and **Simon** and his big sister, **Mia**.

Parish Fundraising Event Win a 171 Hyundai i20!

The parish is planning to hold a raffle with a brand new 171 Hyundai i20 as the prize in May 2017. Tickets will be limited to 500 at €75 each (and can be purchased in €25 amounts) and will be on sale in January from the Parish Office. The car will be supplied by EP Mooney's, Deansgrange. Watch this space!



Festive fun and games at the Christmas Fair

Yet another success this year with the Christmas Fair, organised by the Parents' Associations of both schools in the parish. The fun of this year's Fair was as high as ever it was – but we mustn't forget the mammoth amount of time and energy that was so willingly given by so many parents that 'pulled it off' once again this time.

This annual event is a seminal part of our schools' calendar year. It is a marvellous testimony to the bond of respect and cooperation between the two

schools, their Teachers and their respective Parents' Associations. It is also a powerful witness for the children to experience the warmth of togetherness and friendship that will no doubt be a part of happy and treasured childhood memories for them way into their future lives. Moments such as the Christmas Fair and so many others will form part of the fabric of the legacy of love we hope to leave to them.

This is an appropriate report to identify with our appreciation of how fortunate we are to be part of this

community that has such wonderful parish schools - made so by their Principals, their Boards of Management members, their many other teachers, their auxiliary and assistant, secretarial and maintenance staffs. When you combine all that with the goodwill and cooperation of parents and the warmth and love of the children – you can appreciate a deeper layer reflected in the smiling faces in these pictures.

Pictures by John Hickey



Sasha Jones.



Orlagh Moorhead with Claudia and Sophia O'Connell.



Aedeon Sweeney (Principal, Girls School), Erin Dalton (Parents Committee) and Fiona Griffin (Principal, Boys School)



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Spanish Classes

Conversation Spanish Classes for beginners will start in St. Brigid's Parish Centre on Tuesday, 10th January from 6 pm to 7.30 pm. This is a 10 week course, €80 for the course.

Intermediate Spanish Conversation Classes continue in St. Brigid's Parish Centre on Monday, 9th January from 7.30 pm to 9 pm. This is also a 10 week course, €80 for the course. Contact the parish office to book your place in either class.

Novice Bridge Club



St. Brigid's Parish Novice Bridge Club (for those playing bridge up to five years) has been in existence for over two years and is going from strength to strength. Tournament Director Joan O'Neill gives assistance when needed and all play is in a very relaxed setting.

The club meet every Thursday night in the Parish Centre from 7.30 pm – 10 pm. Partners not required. Cost: €8 per night.

Disclaimer

This Newsletter is published by the Newsletter Team of St. Brigid's Parish, Cabinteely, Dublin 18. Unless specifically stated, views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Parish Clergy or the Newsletter Team. Items accepted for inclusion are subject to normal editorial discretion. Errors and omissions will be corrected in subsequent issues.

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