



Happy Easter

“Happy Easter”! is a greeting that easily trips off the tongue at this time of the year. What a shame that so often the Easter story is heard by a lot of people, only in terms of “after I die” or “the next life”!! The real relevance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Easter story, is that *this* life has been restored, *this* life has been transformed. If we have the good fortune to get to appreciate that first while we are alive - the “next life” will take care of itself!

Maybe the fact that so many of us all first heard the story of Easter for the first time as children, it means that by the time we reach adulthood its cutting edge, so to speak, has been somewhat blunted and/or taken for granted. Now all these years older! – and wiser?, the challenge is far more serious; how do we as adults enjoy what Easter promises? If we don’t, aren’t people right to ask why? Or what’s the point?

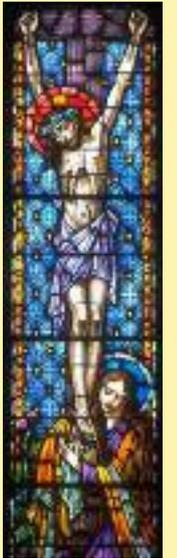
That’s not to say that there’s an *easy* or *ready-made* Easter answer out there just waiting to be picked up – there’s not! We can’t ever forget or ignore that we only believe in what is “incredible”!! The rest can be proven fact or facts! It’s strange too, isn’t it? how someone who honestly struggles with the notion of belief, may have far more unanswered questions than someone else who ‘boasts’ of their ‘*unbelief*’ with “*no problem at all*”! May the truth of this Easter season – Jesus risen from the dead – be both a challenge and a comfort in equal measure for all of us who credit ourselves with the ability to reflect rather than just react to challenging questions.

That way we’re more likely to keep our balance, while so many around us are losing theirs, in terms of Faith in a God who is Love and who is close. Have a good Easter one and all.

AON



Holy Week and Easter Celebrations

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| Monday 25th March | 8.00 pm: |  |
| Preparation evening for Holy Week with readings, reflections and music. | | |
| Holy Thursday, 28th March | 7.30 pm: | |
| Mass of the Lord’s Supper followed by Watch and Pray | | |
| Good Friday, 29th March | 3.00 pm: | |
| Celebration of the Lord’s Passion. | | |
| Stations of the Cross followed by Taize Style Prayer around the Cross | 8.00 pm: | |
| Easter Saturday, 30th March | 9.00 pm: | |
| Easter Vigil Mass (no 6.30 pm Vigil Mass) | | |
| Easter Sunday, 31st March | | |
| Parish Church | 8.30 am | |
| (Congregational Singing) | 10.30 am | |
| (Gospel Group) | 12.30 pm | |
| The Park Mass Centre | No 4.30 pm Mass 11.30 am (Family Mass) | |

From Monday 1st April to Saturday 6th April Mass will be celebrated at 10 am only each morning – no 7.25 am Mass. **Note: There will be No 11.30 am Mass in The Park Mass Centre on Sunday 7th April.** Check out our website for details of all the celebrations over Easter here in St Brigid’s as well as those of our neighbours in Foxrock and Johnstown. We look forward to welcoming you.

From Monday 1st April to Monday 8th April the Parish Office will be closed. Those who wish to contact the office for any reason during this week can do so in the Sacristy at 10.30 am daily.

Cabinteely celebrates first mass with newly ordained priest



Newly ordained priest **Fr. Brendan Kealy** (54) from the Ramparts in Cabinteely is pictured (right) with **Fr. Arthur O'Neill** after he celebrated in St. Brigid's his first ever mass.

I would be classified as a "Late Vocation" but to me none of us are too young, or too old, to answer the call of Christ; even Popes are elected in their seventies!

Having said that, I remember feeling a call to serve God as a priest, when I was just 12 years of age. In my local parish church that day, something inside me seemed to be drawing me to the idea of being a priest. I went to boarding school in Clongowes, where I had the opportunity to read different spiritual books and through those teenage years, I fell in love with the God revealed by Jesus born of Mary His Mother. I was afraid to tell anybody for fear that I'd have been laughed at, so I kept it to myself.

After Leaving Cert. I joined the Shelbourne Hotel to study/work in Hotel Management. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there and forgot any idea of vocation forever – or so I thought. I met a girl and fell madly in love with her. I was so overcome with this new love in my life, that I forgot the old love I once enjoyed and even stopped going to Mass. My religion was now a thing of the past and I embraced all that the world had to offer me. I was engaged to be married in 1997 but unknown to me, God had other plans - my fiancé and I broke-up. I was heart-broken at the time!

Finishing hotel management, I ventured into auctioneering and at the age of 26, emigrated to New York and worked in Real Estate.

I returned at the age of 30 and bought a site on the main street of Westport, Co. Mayo. I had some money from America and built and opened JJ O'Malleys Bar & Restaurant in 1990. I remained in the licensed property and later the hotel business, until July 2007, when I sold my interests. At the age of 47 I entered the Seminary in Maynooth.

Seven years before I was reading a text from the writings of Saint Faustina, given to me by an Aunt. I opened up at a page where Jesus was talking to Faustina when she was 19. Unknown to me, as I read the text, Faustina had not responded positively to God's call to be a nun, and Jesus said to her: 'How long shall I put up with you and how long will you keep putting Me off?' This line made a profound effect on me at that moment and all I can say is that Jesus awakened my faith and vocation out of a slumber.

Why be a priest in this climate? It is like falling in love with somebody beautiful even though certain people keep telling you to have nothing to do with them, for whatever reason. In a strange and powerful way I fell in love again with God, with Jesus, His Mother, and the Church - the time or climate is irrelevant with an experience like that! Love is a strong potion and allows us to follow our hearts and respond positively to the One who is calling us all, as His children.

Fr. Brendan

Bringing the chat home

A big thank you to the new members who responded to our recent appeal for volunteers!

As you may already know, the Home Contact Group is a Parish Pastoral Council initiative and has been up and running for about eighteen months. We try to increase and improve 'home contact' with people who are cut off, isolated or are confined to home more than usual for whatever reason. Being out of social circulation can be isolating and we try to bridge that gap.

Our experience has brought us to about twenty homes to date. We only drop in if invited and so far we have been involved mainly with older people, though we are definitely interested in all age groups. The visits have been rewarding for us all; attachments form and fondness is inevitable.

We start by making an arrangement to call. Two volunteers usually go together to break the ice, get comfortable and take it from there. We generally visit once a week for about half an hour, depending on the circumstances. One person has referred to us as 'a companionship service' and that's quite a good description. We don't run errands or assist around the house. We leave that to others; we provide the company and the chat!

We've had very good response: *'I look forward to the visits, it takes away the loneliness,'* and many other positive comments.

We have a group meeting once a month to help get to know one another. Volunteers complete Garda vetting forms, as you might expect.

Our latest initiative has been to include a local Nursing Home, where two of our volunteers are now breaking this new ground for us. Well done to them!

Interested? We'd be delighted to hear from you; **phone Teresa at 289 9952.**

You've seen 'Sister Act' now wait for 'Father Act' coming June 16th. Father's Day with a difference!

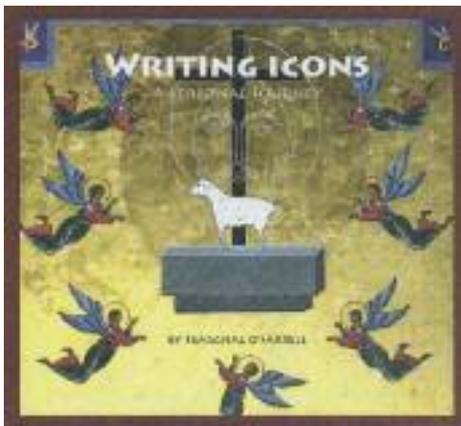


Writing Icons

For mass goers, you'll be aware of the amazing visual artistic displays created in St. Brigid's to celebrate the various liturgical occasions throughout the year. Great thought and creativity goes into each of them. One of the people behind this work is parishioner, Fearghal O'Farrell who has also penned a book recently, **Writing Icons**, which is due to be published later this year.

In his book Fearghal shares with us some of the self-questioning with which he has wrestled on his life's journey, such as whether one must be a monk to write icons or religious works of art. Fortunately he answered that question in the negative – the only true answer!

As the Eastern Fathers say, each baptised Christian is made in the image and according to the likeness of Christ, the true and substantial Image of God. As baptised and anointed members of his body the Church they are 'Spirit-bearers', filled with the energies of God. When they are truly competent artists (for that is also essential – not just anyone can produce an



artistic image!), who resolve to live within the ethos of tradition and apply themselves spiritually to their art, all Christian artists, monastic or not, may indeed write authentic icons.



Just some of the girls from St Brigid's School who celebrated the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on Friday 8th March. The boys celebrated their Confirmation on March 15th by which time this edition of Contact had gone to print.

Picture perfect



Diamuid O'Grady and **Jennifer Glancy** on their wedding day.



Gillian Smith and **Stuart Clark** on their wedding Day.



Máire Flavin & **Matthew Sprange** on their wedding day



Chaoifhionn Ginnity and **Michael O'Hara** celebrate the baptism of their son **Malachi** with godmother, **Nicola O'Hara** (left) and godfather **Odhran Ginnity** (right).



Ultan and **Edel O'Brien** celebrate the baptism of their daughter **Annie** with sister **Molly** and brother **Charlie**; godparents **Michael King** (left) and **Aileen O'Brien**, and brother **Conall**.

Church of Ireland Parish Kill O'The Grange

After many years Rev Ferran Glenfield moved from this parish late last year to minister in Hillsborough Co. Down. Having extended our thanks to him for the years of service and friendship we enjoyed together over the years, we now extend a warm welcome to Rev Arthur Young who will be installed in Kill O'The Grange Parish on the 18th of April. We wish him many happy years here and look forward to working together with him and his parish community in the years that lie ahead.

Make Contact

Like to get involved or have a story? We'd love to hear from you. Please make contact through the Parish office at **(01) 2858835** or email contact@cabinteelyparish.ie.

“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But if that drop was not in the ocean, I think the ocean would be less because of that missing drop. I do not agree with the big way of doing things.”

Mother Teresa of Calcutta
1910 -1997

The 'F' Word again

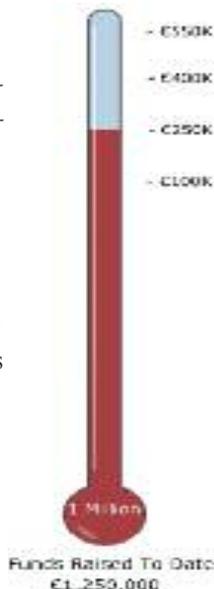
Like every other individual and/or grouping in this country, the 'F' word (meaning finance!) is an ever present reality or concern for parishes as well.

Here in St Brigid's, as you can see from the barometer – the shortfall of roughly €300k in relation to our building fund – finds us financially embarrassed! Worse than that, it means our repayments on borrowings are, as you can imagine, a monthly challenge not always easy to meet.

The sole source of income that remains exclusively in the parish and helps to fund this debt (as opposed to the two collections at Mass that are shared with other less well-off parishes) is the "family offering". Whether this be contributed to annually, monthly, weekly or sporadically, it remains entirely for our own parish use.

If this thumb-nail overview in any way serves to remind people, identified or associated with St Brigid's, of the very real need that a parish like ours has for running costs like services, salaries and supplies – it could be mutually beneficial to all of us.

AON



Fingerprints set the Parish Youth Club on a mission



On Saturday March 2nd, the Parish Youth Club spent a few hours discovering, through a combination of games, U Tube videos, quizzes and Art, that we can all make a positive contribution to the environment we live in by following the guidelines highlighted in the **Parish Mission Statement:**

This Statement highlights the aim of the St. Brigid's Parish Community, which is to *'give a witness to Christian love, helping to make this love visible by looking out for each other, encouraging our gifts and talents and nurturing a community where all feel welcome and belong.'*

In the words of one of the young participants, we learnt something of the value of *"treating others as we would like to be treated"*.

The students made a giant fingerprint mural using mottos and phrases to communicate in their own words, their interpretation of the Mission Statement, and decorated it with crayons and

coloured beads.

The participants also had a very messy session with paint (all cleaned up Fr. Arthur!) and made posters of finger prints and handprints, 'signing off' on the evening together with statements summing up the contribution that each one of us want to make where we live. Some feedback at the end of the session:

"[That was] really fun....much better then standing around doing nothing"..... "Everyone working together".....

"Inspirational.and we got to use paint!"....

"The evening included everyone".....

..... "I have a new way to live!"

Have you read the Parish Mission Statement and the Youth Club's interpretation at the back of the Church? The participants of our Parish Youth Club suggest you do...we can all make a difference.

M&P Delaney

Disclaimer

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If you are interested in the work of the St. Vincent de Paul, or would like to talk to someone about it; please leave your details in a sealed envelope in the parish office, marked for the attention of **St. Vincent de Paul**, or call the confidential Line **087 12 49 212**.

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Frank Quinn @ **086 359 8258**

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Easter Revision Courses

Southside Institute, Leaving Cert Grind School, behind SuperValu in Deansgrange are offering comprehensive Easter Revision Courses commencing on the 2nd April for Leaving Cert. subjects: Irish, Maths, English, French, Spanish and Accounting. Other subjects are available on demand. We are also offering Adult Computer classes for all levels and ages.

To enroll and ensure your place in our classes call **01 2899 635** or online at www.southsideinstitute.ie

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we come to you!

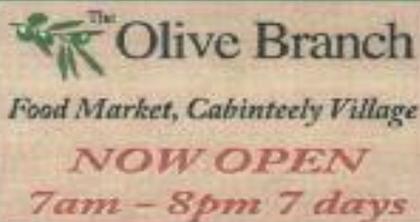
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