

## HOpe! HO!pe HOpe!

In these challenging times worldwide, within which Christmas will be celebrated for yet another year, the geographical location of the cradle of Christianity continues to have to live with the contradiction of the birth of Love. The countless incidents of hatred and madness, of man's inhumanity to man, replicate themselves incessantly, not only in the Middle East, but across our five continents and countless centuries of human life. Hope has to remain stronger than hurt for those who believe in God.

For adults everywhere within the Christian tradition, but particularly for parents who are blessed with the privilege of bringing new life into this world – the charm of Christmas is mystery and magnetic. When celebrated though in the midst of conflict, terror, sadness or fear of any kind, the lustre of the season's promise is decidedly diminished. The light of excitement and love that twinkles in the eyes of children (and adults) at this time, reflects so well what defies our words alone to express what we'd like them to – 'this is love lived as best we try to'!

Christmas is the starting point and the compass point that roots us and guides us, in season and out of season, the length of our days. It has to be more than just a fantasy story, or indeed only a Santa Claus story! The illuminations of seasonal decorations with baubles and bells, with tinsel and glitter greatly enhance the festive atmosphere. When they're all packed away for another twelve months, it's the truth of the Christmas story that we hope will continue to glow in our lives and in our world, where it needs to.

Here's wishing you and those dear to you a happy and a peaceful celebration of the Truth to which all Christians lay claim; that the birth of the Christ child is not just a moment in history - but rather an event that continues in time. Was any generation ever more in need than ours, for that Truth of God as Love in which we hope to be lived as well as believed?

*Frs. Arthur, Conor & Tom*



Crib at St. Brigid's Parish Church

Picture by John Hickey

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

**5.00pm & 7.00pm The Park Mass Centre** – Families with young Children  
**8.30pm Parish Church** – Cantor / Carols  
**10.30pm Parish Church** – Choir / Carols from 10.00pm

### CHRISTMAS DAY – 25TH DECEMBER

**8.30am Parish Church** – Cantor / Carols  
**10.00am Parish Church** – Choir  
**12.30pm Parish Church** – Gospel Group

There will be no **11.15am Mass** in the **Park Centre** or **4.30pm Mass** in the Church on **Christmas Day, Sunday 27th December** or **3rd January**.

**There will be no Vigil Mass on Saturday, 26th December or Saturday, 2nd January.**

**On Mon. 28th, Tues. 29th, Thurs. 31st December and Fri. 1st January, 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 Monday 4th January 2016 at 9 am. If you require a Mass card or a Mass booking during this time, this can be arranged in the Sacristy after 10 am mass daily.

The **Parish Centre** will be open daily.

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

Sunday Mass times are 6.30pm (Saturday Vigil), 8.30am, 10am, 12.30pm and 4.30pm in St Brigid's Parish Church; with 11.15am Mass in St Brigid's Girls' School Mass Centre in the Park.

# What Really Matters – our stories and memories

On Monday November 30th, St. Brigid's Parish Pastoral Centre hosted a workshop on the theme: 'What Really Matters? - Our Stories and Memories Matter'.

Our Parish Mission Statement includes the words 'Believing we are loved and accepted by God, our aim is to make this love visible, by working together to nurture a truly Christian community...as in a home, all know they are welcome and have a real sense of belonging.'

This has been the purpose and aim behind a series of Art workshops held in our Pastoral Centre, where different generations in our community get to know each other and have fun collaborating on making something creative together. The finished works are displayed in the

local Community Centres, the Church and in our local schools.

We approached a group of adults representing our local Parishes and also the wider community of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and asked each participant to bring an object that would help share a story or memory of something 'that matters' to them.

The programme included simple team building moments, a 'journalist style' Q & A session and lots of animated conversation! We took photographs, relaxed over a delicious Afternoon Tea provided by some very generous local volunteers and collaborated in an Art installation to support the theme. The fruits of these few hours together were a wonderful collection of stories

and memories. The afternoon's activities were enthusiastically supported by Transition Year Students from Loreto College Foxrock.

We aim to have an exhibition in Spring of 2016, curated from the completed artwork, photos and written accounts which highlight the worth of how our seemingly 'ordinary' of experiences become 'extraordinary,' when shared.

We were reminded of the value of finding ways in our busy lives to spend time connecting with others. When asked at the end of the afternoon 'what really matters', there were many responses... "friendship, empathy, integrity, authenticity, hope"... But we felt one participant summed up our time together when they answered, "listening matters."



**Brian Brennan**



**Dorothy Munden**



**Mary & Pat Delaney**, Art Project Coordinators, St. Brigid's Parish.



**Kay O'Hanlon**



**Madge Deegan**



**Sinead Conathy, Ruth Crowe, Mary Moore and Madge Deegan**



**Mary Moore**



**Tim Cronin**



*Pictures by Linda Plunkett and John Hickey*

## Planning for the future

Our recent outreach to parishioners and volunteers in the community highlighted key areas we must focus on for the future development of our Parish. These include supporting spiritual development and faith education for all ages; providing support especially for those experiencing loss or separation; volunteers, talents and local community involvement; effective communications and working together with other parishes.

Most significantly, we recognise that we must work within the context of a rapidly changing society, changes not least of which will come from the devel-



**Ruth Meehan and P.J. Larkin** who were married in **St. Brigid's** recently.



**Sheena Geoghegan and Cormac McCarthy** pictured on their wedding day in **St. Brigid's**.

opment of Cherrywood.

Our approach must therefore be forward thinking and we must be prepared for and embrace change, while ensuring we remain true to our vision.

Parishioners gave a ringing endorsement to the Parish for creating a sense of belonging, support and friendship as well as the opportunity to get involved – this must remain central to all we do.

We must also do our best to work practically within finite resources, while aspiring to longer-term ideals.

So under the guidance of our clergy, we will review current services in these key areas and work on identifying needs for the varying groups within our community. We will be establishing working groups to develop a plan with clear objectives and timeframe. If you would like to get involved, we would be delighted to hear from you. You can get in touch through the Parish office.

**P.P.C.**

## Feedback welcome

Over the coming few weeks we will be inviting you to feedback on proposals to change mass times throughout the week in the Parish. We make these considered proposals based on the pastoral needs of our parishioners as well as the availability of mass in other parishes in our cluster, all within a mile radius. We know that change can be difficult, but we hope that these changes will enable us to sustain a healthy pastoral service into the future.

**P.P.C.**



**Lynn Shakepeare and Barry Fenwick** who were married in **St. Brigid's** on **15th August**.



**Jack Peter Byrne** who was christened in **St. Brigid's** on **23rd August**, pictured with his parents **Louise Flanagan and Ian Byrne**.

## Times they are a changing



If you are of an age to remember that turbulent decade of the 1960's then you'll have to remember Bob Dylan's classic signature song "Times they are a-changin'". The lyrics read as relevant today as ever they did. How right he was - despite that prospect which caused our parents so many sleepless nights! Times are still a-changin'; I guess they always are. This is the case still in our world, in our country, in our society, our parish and in many of our family and friendship ties as well. The one change that impacts most with me is the obvious difference that last September's surprise sprung on me. Glad and grateful to be thus far on the road to recovery, I'm left under no illusion that what used to be 'par for the course' for me, is now to be seen only in my rearview mirror on my journey, once I've been given clearance to return.

The very generous support given by so many priests these past few months in keeping the weekly schedule of Masses as it always was, cannot be extended into the New Year – even when I return. To try to do so is foolishness in the extreme that would inevitably take its toll on far too many others. If you pause for a moment to think about the following: In our cluster area of Foxrock, Johnstown and ourselves, Mass is celebrated 46 times every week. This figure includes the two weekday celebrations in the Oratory in Cornelscourt. Each weekend, Mass in the cluster parishes is celebrated 14 times! Each of those church buildings is, give or take, no more than a mile apart from the next one. There are two ways to try to rationalise the present situation 1) is it that we have too many churches? or 2) is it the we have too few priests? Take your pick! Because neither option is sustainable for the future. Some reasonable rationalisation is going to have to be arrived at with the advice and suggestions of the Diocese, Clergy, Parish council members and other supportive parishioners.

My own recent history reminds me of another preteen chant in the early '60s that told the story of "Ten green bottles sitting on a wall" and if one green bottle should accidentally fall then...etc etc!! **AO'N**



# All the fun of the Christmas Fair

Another cracking good Christmas Fair was held this year November 29th, the proceeds from which support our two St Brigid's schools. The amount of adult/parent involvement in this event each year is powerful testimony to the high esteem in which all our teaching staff, our Principals, our SNA, maintenance, secretarial staff are held and appreciated by so many.

**A big thank you to all concerned.**



Kyle and Conan Tormey



Hayley May O'Connell



Tommy Greene

## Craft Fair

Our own Christmas Fair took place in the Parish Centre on Sunday 6th and 13th December with a beautiful selection of crafts, cakes, stained glass, Christmas decorations, cards and many more great Christmas gift ideas on display.



Erwin and Antoni Danilewicz with Sharon Barry



Oliver and Arthur Ryan



Clare and Sam Crowley



Fiona Tyrell and Patricia Kelly



Winner Alright!



Aryn and Lucca Kelly

*Pictures by Denis Burke*



# Money matters

The last few years have been difficult financially for everyone. Thankfully, our income, your donations, has remained fairly constant, falling slightly each year, but we have controlled our costs very effectively.

A reduction of over €70,000 per year has resulted in the parish being in a position to meet its outgoings. And with the Parish Centre generating enough income to pay for itself, including the repayments due to the

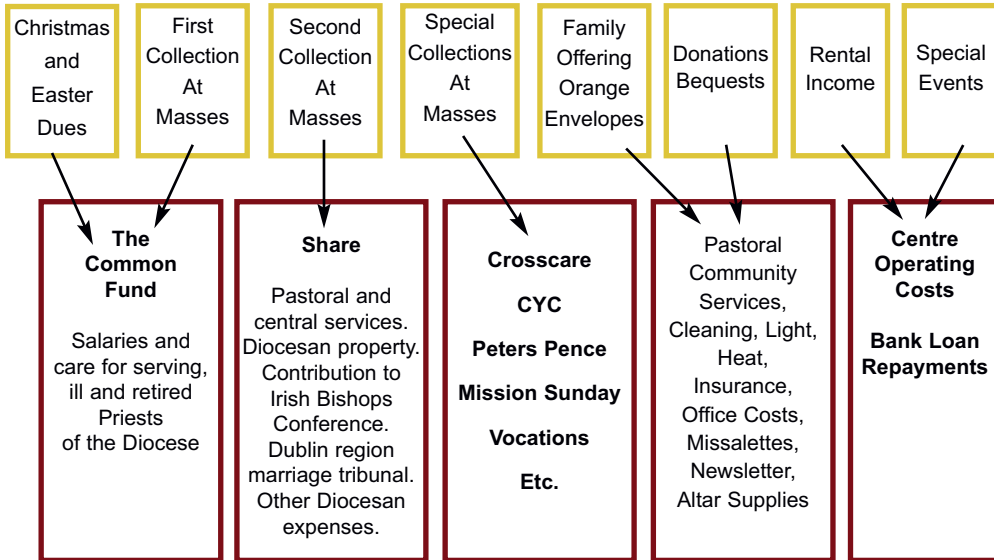
bank, we are, at last, on a sound financial footing. We can now focus on the provision of the pastoral and community services, which we would all love to provide.

At this point, I thought it might be informative to let you know where the money which you give in the parish, actually goes. The charts below will, I hope, explain.

DM

## DIocese

## PARISH



Dr. James Reilly TD, Deirdre Smith, Frances Cushion and Des O'Mahony, Marketing Manager, SuperValu Cabinteely Tidy Towns being presented with their Bronze Medal.

## Keeping Cabinteely tidy

The Cabinteely Tidy Towns Team has had a very successful year in 2015 claiming 4 accolades for the village.

In September, the Team won the Best Small Town/Village Award (Population under 3000) in the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Tidy Districts Competition. In the same month, the Team also won its first medal in the National SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition, a National Bronze Medal (Population 2501-5000).

Meanwhile in the IPB National Pride of Place Competition Awards Ceremony held in Ennis on Saturday 14th November, Cabinteely Tidy Towns representing Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, achieved 2nd place nationally in the Urban Neighbourhood category.

A big thank you to all who helped to make this possible.

Of course, the primary purpose of the Cabinteely Tidy Towns Team is to make Cabinteely a nicer place for residents and visitors. Any observant person will have noticed the improvements made in the Village and estates since the Team's formation eight years ago. However the prize money, DLRCoCo funding and donations from Cabinteely & District Resident Association and some estates, keep the Team funded without having to seek donations from residents, to date. Donations are always welcome and would help in improving the village further. The Team always has a welcome for new members. Just say Hello when you see them around the village on Saturday mornings.

## Cabinteely Calendar 2016

Parish administrator, **Ann Lehane** (left) with PPC Chairperson **Caroline Heywood** at the launch of the 2016 Cabinteely Calendar.



Brainchild of the parish administrator, Ann Lehane, the inaugural Parish calendar produced last year was such a success that it's been brought back for 2016. This year, each month has been matched with photographs taken by parishioners that capture the beauty and spirit of what makes Cabinteely such a special place, as well as the parish outreach 10 years ago to Kitui, represented in a school flourishing today. With the generous support of sponsors, the calendar costs just €5 or €20 for 5 and is an ideal stocking filler to give to both those living locally or living elsewhere around the world. Contact the Parish Office at 01-2858835



## Holy Water

Rain didn't dampen the spirits of those attending the blessing of the latest St. Brigid's Cross conducted by Fr. Tom in the church grounds. The bricks commemorate in stone the names so special to so many people in the Parish in Cabinteely.

## Coming soon...

In the next issue of *Contact* we plan to recognise our appreciation of the enormous contribution of two great friends of our parish, Fr. Conor Ward as assistant priest and Chris Sullivan as leader and musical director of the Gospel Choir. Both of these men have only very recently decided to turn a page in their lives, which will result in them heading off to pastures new. They will be sadly missed.

## Changes to Baptisms in 2016

From 1st January, baptisms will take place each month on the second and fourth Sundays @ 1.45pm. A pre-Baptism meeting will take place on first Tuesday of each month @ 8pm.



Cabinteely Church Choir, under the direction of Tara Bolger, sings at the 10am Mass in the Church on two Sundays each month. The Choir will also sing on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

## Beginner Bridge Classes

will take place in St Brigid's Parish Centre in January 2016. Registration 14th January at 7.00 pm / Classes begin Thursday, 21st January at 7.30 pm. Expert tuition. €100 for 8 weeks. Phone the Parish Office for further details.



## Make Contact

Like to get involved or have a story, please make contact through the Parish office at  
**(01) 2858835 info@cabinteelyparish.ie.**

## 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.

# NOTICEBOARD



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[playdays@hotmail.com](mailto:playdays@hotmail.com)

Contact Jane 086 8536433 or (01) 2824692

### Fundraising Gala Concert St Brigid's Parish Church

**St Brigid's Day – 1st February 2016 – 7.45 pm – doors open 7 pm.**

(Bring cushion for comfort)

**Niamh Murray, International Soprano and accompanist  
Sweeney's Jazz Men, Faye Maxwell, Irish Dance Troupe**

**Tickets €20 available now from the Parish Office**

Proceeds to fund external painting of Church,  
balance to be donated to local conference of

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**

**Promoted and Presented by Tim Cronin.**

### Local RSA Approved Driving Instructor

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or check out [safemotoringschool.ie](http://safemotoringschool.ie)

### Social Welfare Information

Our Social Welfare Information Service takes place in

**St Brigid's Parish Centre every Tuesday -10.30 am-12.30 pm.**

This service will continue until **Tuesday, 22nd December** and will return on **Tuesday, 5th January.**

This Service is also available in Johnstown Parish Centre on Mondays and Fridays and in Foxrock Parish Centre on Thursdays.

### Supervised Study

For **3rd, 5th & 6th Year** Secondary School Students

Supervised study will recommence in **St Brigid's Parish Centre** Saturdays and Sundays from 10am. to 1pm. and 2pm. to 5pm.

**on 16th/17th January**

€5 per 3hour session or €15 for Sat and Sun (4 sessions)

**PH: 2858835** for more information.

Date for your Diary  
**Parish Golf Outing  
May 2016**

Further details to follow

### Mindfulness

**Improve your Well-being and Calm your Mind**

Mindfulness Classes in St Brigid's Parish Centre

January 18 x 8 Weeks - evenings

January 19 x 8 Weeks - mornings

**Ph: Pamela Maria on 087 2544184**

**Proven to give results. Limited places - book early.**

### Parish Pastoral Centre

Available for family occasions and celebrations

Contact the **Parish Office (Tel: 2858835)**

for more information