

We are one

This is a wonderful time of the year. The days are getting longer. The long winter has passed and the flowers are starting to bloom. There is more light around and that does the soul good. It truly does one good to see life in full bloom. But Holy Week and Easter is not just another week, another set of public holidays. It is the most important week for the Christian. At Easter, we celebrate the fact that God, the creator of the Universe, the source of all that is, loved us so much that he became one of us and lived among us. So great was his love, that he allowed himself to be unjustly condemned and crucified in order to rise from the dead. God did this for no other reason other than that it was an act of pure love for each one of us. No agenda. No hidden motives. Just profound love for you and me. This is what we celebrate. We celebrate God's victory over death, for in Jesus we have learned that there is no death. We are born to live forever and no one and nothing can take that away from us.

I was very struck by the interview with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin at a conference in aid of the organisation "Aware". He was asked what his faith meant to him and his reply was simple but profound. The Archbishop said his faith encapsulated three things: the dignity of every person as God created them; that God created us as a family and we must give expression to that in the way we live; and that God gave us a home on earth which we must care for. When you think about it, if our faith encouraged us to have such a belief, what a world we could have. It would be a world where there is respect for all life, where we are brothers and sisters who look after one another, and a planet that we recognise that we share and have responsibilities to look after it. That is revolutionary. It is also what the Easter message is all about. We are one and in "God we live and move and have our very being". The words "Thy Kingdom Come" have a lot of consequences so be careful how you pray it.

Happy Easter!

Fr. Aquinas



Holy Week and Easter Celebrations



Penitential Service

Monday 10th April – St. Brigid's Parish	7.30 pm
Tuesday 11th April – Foxrock Parish	7.30 pm
Wednesday 12th April – Johnstown Parish	7.30 pm

Holy Thursday 13th April

Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by 'Watch and Pray', a period of quiet, reflection and prayer	7.30 pm
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Good Friday, 14th April

Way of the Cross (Mass Centre, The Park)	12.00 noon
Celebration of the Lord's passion	3.00 pm
Stations of the Cross	7.30 pm

Easter Saturday, 15th April

Morning Prayer	10.00 - 10.30 am
Easter Vigil Mass (no 6.30 pm Vigil Mass)	8.00 pm

Easter Sunday, 16th April

Parish Church (Choir)	10.00 am
(Gospel Group)	12.30 pm

The Park Mass Centre

(Family Mass)	11.15 am
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On Mon 17th morning mass will be celebrated at 11am.

On Tue 18th, Thurs 20th and Fri 21st April, morning mass will be celebrated at 10 am.

The Parish office will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday, 17th April until Friday, 21st April. It will be open again on Monday, 24 April from 10am to 1pm.

Living life to the full



CARA Mahjong Group

Active Retirement Ireland is a national network of groups that support and empower older people in our communities to get the most out of their lives. We are very fortunate to have one such group based in our local area, aptly named C.A.R.A. - Cabinteely Active Retirement Association.

Marie Lou Brennan organised their first meeting on 1st May 2003. Her husband Brian Brennan credited her as the principal animator, suggesting the idea originated because she was looking for ways to "keep him from under her feet!"

Parishioner Jean Cole is the present Chairperson of CARA and has been a passionate supporter of both



CARA Boules Group

ARI and our local group for many years. She credits the organization for offering an environment "where everyone feels they have a place and are accepted for who they are. People from all walks of life are involved." The Parish of St. Brigid's has been a long-term supporter and many of their gatherings and activities take place in the Pastoral Centre. Activities include mah-jong, boules, outings to the theatre and musical events, weekend and day trips, visits to historical, artistic and cultural venues. They also organise short holidays in Ireland and abroad.

Jean, along with the other members in our local group are keen to increase their membership, clarify-

ing "you don't need to be a member of this Parish to get involved!" Jean is passionate about the need to provide opportunities for social interaction and fun, an antidote to loneliness and isolation, especially after retirement or bereavement. "We are not a group that looks to Government for hand-outs. ARI collaborates with Age and Opportunity and Third Age to promote active ageing in the community working on issues relating to the needs and rights of older people.

"A warm welcome awaits each new member joining CARA."

Jean may be contacted via the Parish office, or email at caradublin18@gmail.com MD.

What does the future hold?

A priest that I know was telling how he has a lovely Parish Pastoral Centre. But he commented that it was proving very expensive and challenging to keep it going. One of his parishioners told him that she had more or less resigned herself to the fact that the Church in their parish would close at some point. This did not trouble her but she said that she would be very upset if the Parish Pastoral Centre closed as it was useful to the community. The priest asked her to

elaborate on why she was so pessimistic. She said that her own grown up children did not go to Church or support it by financial contributions. She had also noticed that her family was no different from other families. In a sense her children had already made a decision about the future.

This conversation is probably one that could be said about a lot of parishes. It is not Archbishop's House or the priest who will close a church, it will

probably be the Health and Safety Authority. What the future holds is very much dependent on the support that Parishioners give by their active involvement and by their financial contributions. Choice has consequences. What we give to the Planned Giving Fund and the Church Collections reveals our decision about the future.

Fr. Aquinas

Win this brand new 171 Hyundai i20!

Tickets are €75 each on sale from the Parish Office. Pictured are Fr. Aquinas and Ann Lehane.



ST BRIGID'S PARISH CABINTEELY

Fundraising 500 Limited Raffle

1st PRIZE - HYUNDAI i20 DELUXE

Raffle on Friday 30th June 2017 at 8pm
in St Brigid's Parish Centre

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Helping hands in St. Brigid's parish



Altar servers **Chloe Falkner, Jasmine Banye & Isabella Byrne**

We see them every weekend at our Masses.

Enthusiastic and faithful, attending every Sunday mass, Jasmine Banye, Chloé Falkner and Isabella Byrne have been assisting our community as altar servers for over two years.

Sometimes we can overlook the contribution our youth make in our local community, so we made an appointment to meet up with these young girls and talk about their experience.

So how did the girls get involved? Well Isabella's Dad asked her to try it out and two years later she's still

on board. Jasmine's Mum mentioned the idea to her and as she had already been impressed by the altar servers she had seen at mass, she decided to give it a go, while Chloé talked about Fr. Tom visiting their class. She had never seen an 'alb' before (the white garment they wear) and she really liked what Fr. Tom told them. Her Dad had been an altar server as a young boy, so she was happy to continue the family tradition!

The girls spoke about the different people they meet each week and the fact that the occasion brings

all their family together, including grandpas and grandmas, aunts and uncles. They all said they feel "closer to the community of the Parish" and they talked about how much they've learnt about the mass, for example, what a chalice is and why the bells are rung. In particular, they mentioned they understood the prayers better... "they meant more now." Initially the girls thought they'd be nervous out in front of so many people, but they said the training provided by Deacon Jeremy Seligman, along with Siobhán Seligman, Cathy Sands and Fr. Tom, helped keep everything simple and meaningful. "Even if we forget something, the priests are very kind and give us a reminder!"

They credit their parents for being very supportive, as they help get the girls to the church on time and are sometimes even known to give a little signal from the pew if they notice something they need to do! They all love "ringing the bells" and find the mass easier to follow. Their friends are supportive and often interested, so they would definitely encourage more boys and girls to volunteer, especially those who are making their Communion and Confirmation shortly.

We want to say a big THANK YOU to all involved, past and present, in supporting this very important service to our community.

MD

For anyone interested in getting involved, please contact the Parish Office.

What is a Parish Pastoral Council?

The Parish Pastoral Council is the body that generates new ideas for the pastoral development of the parish. It is the group that tries to discern and encourage others in the parish to volunteer their talents for the service of the parish and its future development. A dynamic Christian community is one in which the complimentary and diverse ministries and gifts of all the members of Christ's body work together in a spirit of unity and love, in a spirit of communion. The Parish Pastoral Council is concerned with issues that affect the lives of parishioners rather than the administration or financial management of the parish. It is not a board of management dealing with the day-to-day issues of administration. Its focus includes the following areas

- the proclamation of the Word of God
- faith formation and catechesis
- liturgy, justice and peace
- family life
- evangelisation
- caring for the sick and the poor
- encouraging parishioners to become actively involved in the mission of the church



Members of the Parish Council (Back row from left) **Brendan Henderson, Tomás Murphy, Jim Kirwin, Deacon Jeremy Seligman** and (Front row from left) **Maura Reynolds, Elizabeth Murphy, Fr. Aquinas and Mary Delaney** (Chair).

The Parish Pastoral Council uses the Parish Mission Statement as the ideal to strive towards and as a way of evaluating how it is doing. It should be made up of the different age groups in the parish. One group that is particularly hard to find is the 18 to 30 age group. It would be great to find someone in that age group who would be willing to come on to the PPC.

I would like to express my deep appreciation and

thanks to all the former members of the Parish Pastoral Council under the Chair Caroline Heywood. I also thank the new members of the Council for their willingness to serve. The new members so far are **Mary Delaney (Chair), Niamh Down, Liz Murphy, Tomás Murphy, Maura Reynolds, Jim Kirwin, Brendan Henderson, Deacon Jeremy Seligman, Fr. Aquinas Duffy.**

Your Parish Needs You!

The immortal words of President John F Kennedy could also be changed to "Ask not what your parish can do for you but what you can do for your parish". We are blessed in Cabinteely to have so many volunteers involved in so many aspects of parish life. Without volunteers, our parish could not exist. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for

all who give of their time and energy for the good of the community.

May I also take this opportunity to appeal for more volunteers as all areas and ministries are in need of new volunteers from altar servers to ministers of the Word and Eucharist, to the music ministries, liturgy and sacristy, hospitality and support groups

and greeters, meals on wheels, St. Vincent de Paul, Communications groups for social media and the website, to the funeral ministry and baptism ministry teams, home visiting group. And that list is just the start. Please consider some aspect of parish life that interests you and let the Lord do the rest.

Fr. Aquinas

Confirmation 2017

Congratulations to all the Boys and Girls from St. Brigid's who made their confirmation. All of us are so proud of you. All of you have wonderful talents and gifts, which we hope you will share in your parish and so contribute to making it better.

A huge word of thanks is due to both schools, their Principals and their teachers, for their commitment, which always takes them that extra mile. We are so fortunate in this parish to have two excellent schools, which truly help our students to be the very best that they can. May the gifts of the Holy Spirit continue to enrich each of the boys and girls as they continue to grow in their faith.

Pictures show the girls' confirmation, which took place on Saturday 25th March. Pictures of the boys' confirmation will be featured in the next issue of Contact.

Pictures by John Hickey



Update on Cherrywood

I was looking back at some previous issues of the "Contact" magazine and noted that the topic of "Cherrywood" has appeared more than once. Indeed I saw that it was even an item on an agenda of the 'Pastoral Development Renewal' group in the parish in the late 1990's and again in the early 2000's. But now it does appear to be actually happening. The diggers have begun their work and the roads and the Parks are about to be built.

Recently "Cherrywood Developments" had an Open Day. When one sees the plans for the new town, it is overwhelming in terms of scale. It is also a very impressive development in the way that it is being planned. There is no doubt that its development will have huge consequences for all of South Dublin and particularly for our own pastoral area of Cabinteely, Foxrock and Johnstown-Killiney.

My understanding is that the building of the first

Primary School there will begin in about 18 months time along with a Shopping Centre and 1,300 apartments. When the development is complete it will have about 7,500 homes with a population of 30,000.

It is very much our hope and the wish of the Archbishop that we will have a presence in the new town of Cherrywood by way of a small Catholic Church. But the plans are at an early stage.

All of the area of Cherrywood is currently within the boundaries of Cabinteely Parish. But clearly the pastoral care of Cherrywood Catholic Community will be under the care of the pastoral area team of Cabinteely, Foxrock and Johnstown-Killiney. As we move forward that pastoral area could also include other parishes as we try to address the issue of rapidly declining numbers of priests.

We will keep you posted.

Fr. Aquinas



St. Brigid's Church looking pristine again with thanks to the generosity of parishioner Tim Cronin, who organised for the Church to be repainted over recent months. Tim has also been instrumental in various other repairs and upkeep of the Church and Parish Centre for which we are extremely grateful.

Home Contact

Would you or anyone close to you like a friendly person to call to see you once a week? The Home Contact Group visits people in their own homes for a chat, to share a cuppa or just to say hello. Please let us know if you would be interested in having someone call to you. Please phone Yvonne on **0851248131** if interested.

Ministers of the Eucharist are available to bring Holy Communion to the house bound. Please contact Joan O'Shea on **01-2824814**

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Make Contact

Like to get involved or have a story, please make contact through the Parish office at

(01) 2858835

Please note that the Parish email address has changed to **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.



Congratulations to **Mark** and **Hilary Hedderman** on the baptism of their son **Shay** in St. Brigid's on Sunday, 12th March 2017.



Congratulations to our very own parish photographer, John Hickey whose talents have been recognized with a Distinction award from the Irish Photographic Federation. We're very fortunate to have John at our disposal to record the life of the parish and this accolade is well deserved.

John is pictured above receiving his Distinction from IPF Vice-President Sheamus O'Donoghue and below is a selection of his work.



Congratulations to **Lauren Howard** and **Alan Browne** who were married in St. Brigid's on 24th September 2016.

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and wholesome foods. Also Fully Qualified Silver Service Waiting Staff

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- * We provide options that are simple to make from.
- * We can use the facilities, crockery, silver and glass.
- * We will go wherever your venue is, be it the local pub, your home, or a marquee.
- * BBQ's of the day, in a hot hot hot tent can be arranged.
- * Staff provided if needed.
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Chef Frank Quinn Tel : 086 3598258

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