

The Joy of Giving

Recently I was walking through Cabinteely Park, when a man came up to me and said "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son: Amen". I wasn't sure how to respond but instinctively I said "Amen Brother". I have no doubt that the Lord was speaking to me through that man who was truly filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit. In a word he had summed up the true spirit of Christmas in which we give thanks for the love that God has for us. God loved us so much that he gave his all, became one of us, fully human and yet divine.

Being on the receiving end of that love, inspires and prompts us to also give of ourselves to help others. It is wonderful at this time of year to see all the people who give so generously of their time and resources to help others; carol singers, hamper makers and those who prepare to celebrate the Christmas liturgies in the parish through music and decorations and in so many other ways. It is inspiring to see the trouble that parents go to in order to make it a joyful experience for their children. You can see in them the joy that they too experience by having the opportunity to give. It is part of our human condition that we are born to give and in giving we can experience great happiness and wellbeing. In the great words of the St Francis Peace Prayer "it is in giving that we receive".

For some Christmas can be a sad time. I hope that you will feel welcome to our Christmas Services so that together we can support each other through prayer and presence (not just presents).

I find it hard to believe that I am one year in the parish and this is my second Christmas here. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to Fr. Arthur, Fr. Tom and Deacon Jeremy, to all the office staff, Sacristan and the many volunteers, to the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee. It is only through the giving of many that we survive and flourish. May I wish you a peaceful and inspiring Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

Fr. Aquinas T Duffy



Joyful fun at the Christmas Fair

with Hannah Murphy; Susannah and Siobhan Rigby; Rebecca Baldwin, Abigail and Lucy Kennedy.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE – 24th DECEMBER

- 5.00pm Parish Church – Families with young children
- 6.30pm The Park Mass Centre – Families with young children
- 8.00pm Parish Church – Carols @ 7.30pm

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 Eve, Christmas Day, Sunday, 31st December or Sunday 7th January.

On St. Stephen's Day, Tuesday 26th, there will be one mass at 11am and on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th December, there will be one mass daily at 10am. No morning mass on Wednesday or Saturday.

The Parish Office will be open from 9am-4pm on 19th-21st December and from 9am-1pm on Friday 22nd December. It will be closed from Monday 25th up to and including Monday 1st January.

The Office will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January with normal hours 9 am-4 pm.

If you require a Mass card or a Mass booking during this time, this can be arranged in the Sacristy after 10 am mass. The Parish Centre will be closed from 22nd December to 2nd January.

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).

Give Joy, offer Love, share Hope

**“MAKING GOD’S LOVE VISIBLE,
BY REACHING OUT TO ALL
IN A SPIRIT OF WELCOME,
PRAYER AND SERVICE,
ESPECIALLY TO THOSE MOST IN NEED.”**

Taking inspiration from our Parish Mission Statement

The following are just some of the ways we’ve noticed these words being put into action in our Parish community. We hope they provide some inspiration in helping us prepare to celebrate and commemorate the birth of Christ this Christmas.

“Making God’s love visible”...

- leaving the last piece of homemade lemon cake for others to enjoy!
- slowing down to chat with someone who’s experienced a loss
- deciding to turn the mobile phone to ‘silent’ for an hour each day in order to give the person beside us a little more attention
- cleaning up, even when we didn’t make the mess
- celebrating birthdays with homemade cake!

“reaching out to all”...

- making an effort to include a ‘stranger’ at our table during the coffee break
- forgiving and forgetting a wrong doing
 - excluding no one
 - being open to other people’s ideas
- injecting some humour when tensions arise!

“in a spirit of welcome”...

- tea, coffee and delicious cakes, faithfully made and served in our Pastoral Center, following Friday and Sunday’s 10am masses...(a big THANK you to all those who contribute so generously with their time and baking talents)
 - offering a smile
- asking a friend who’s lonely to join in at an activity
 - saying “thank you”

“prayer”...

- our Prayer intention box at the back of the church
 - Each intention remembered and prayed for every week, in the certainty of obtaining God’s light and peace
- our wonderful choirs...those who sing, pray twice!
- the teams of volunteers who help support all our

liturgies so tirelessly week in, week out
- candles set out, every day...lit for every occasion, sorrowful and joyful. They do not go unnoticed

“and service”...

- gratitude to the often invisible teams of florists, cleaning groups, gardening, sacred art and maintenance volunteers, who keep our church environment so bright, warm and so harmonious
- the volunteers who tirelessly provide transport for our Senior community
 - our Parish Office team... always available, unsparingly patient and caring

“especially to those most in need”...

- slowing down with each other, giving our time
 - listening well
 - sharing our advice with someone who needs a dig out
 - visiting someone we haven’t seen in our community for a time
- generous giving...recognising material needs both local and further afield but also sharing our talents and expertise
 - posting a card instead of texting or emailing, expressing our sympathy, congratulations, thanks, encouragement or support. **MD**

In Focus: Funeral ministry team

One of the ministries that I would like to see develop in the parish is a funeral ministry team. Most parishes in the diocese now have a team of lay people who assist at the funeral liturgies in the parish.

All of us who have lost a loved one, know the power and comfort of the funeral rite at a time when we are very raw inside. It adds greatly to the funeral liturgies when there are lay people who are part of the liturgy both at the removal ceremony and also at the funeral mass or funeral prayer service.

In recent years the Archdiocese has produced a set of guidelines for funerals (a copy of this document is in the downloads section of our parish website www.cabinteelyparish.ie). The guidelines propose that there are a number of stages to the funeral rites both in the home, in the reception into the Church, the funeral mass or funeral prayer service without mass, and the prayers at the graveside or crematorium.

The relatives of a person who did not have much involvement with the Church may well request a prayer service instead of a funeral mass or indeed opt to have a service at the graveside or crematorium. All is possible and all are welcome.

The establishment of a funeral ministry team prepares the way for trained lay people to lead some or all of the stages of the funeral rite. The reality is that there are less and less priests and only a few deacons and we need to prepare for the future.

If you are interested in being part of a funeral ministry team in Cabinteely Parish, please send your details to the Parish Office. Training will be provided. You will be part of a team who can add so much to the funeral liturgies and be a source of comfort to those who are bereaved.

Fr. Aquinas

Christmas Chocolate Truffles



Makes 24-28 truffles – a delicious homemade gift.

Ingredients

- 1 X 100g bar dark chocolate
- 1 X 100g bar milk chocolate
- 80ml double cream (you can use single cream but the consistency will be less rich!)
- Half a teaspoon of ground cinnamon (optional)
- Cocoa powder or Christmas-themed edible sprinkles for dusting.

Method

1. Break the chocolate into squares and along with

the cream (and cinnamon if using), warm very gently over a low heat until the mix has melted.

2. Cool for about an hour, then chill for about another hour until firm.
3. Use a mini ice cream scoop (or a teaspoon) to form your truffles.
4. Put the cocoa into a small bowl and one by one, dust each truffle generously with the powder (or sprinkles if using)
5. Place the truffles on a baking sheet lined with parchment. They can be stored up to 5 days in the fridge or frozen for a month.



Deacon **Jeremy Seligman** with **Stephen** and **Melissa O’Shaughnessy** and their twins boys **Simon** and **Jonathan**, who were baptised in St. Brigid’s on Sunday 29th October.



Congratulations to **Fiona Lehane** and **Liam Magee** who were married in St. Brigid’s Church on 2nd November 2017. The happy couple are pictured here with bridesmaid, **Michelle Holland** (left) and Best Man, **Paul Magee** (right).

Growing Together in Love

The act of giving is the heart of happiness in any community. This is certainly the witness of service that our volunteer community offers in St. Brigid's Parish, Cabinteely.

Having been aware for some time of the need to acknowledge and thank the many volunteers who donate their time and talents so faithfully to the benefit of so many, the Parish Pastoral Council hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Day on October 8th 2017.

The morning began with a thanksgiving mass attended by many of our volunteers, both past and present. Several groups participated in the beautiful service, including our own 10am choir led by Tara Bolger, who put together a wonderfully fitting musical programme and local musician Andrew Basquille, who played a beautiful guitar solo at the offertory procession.

Fr. Aquinas' homily struck a chord with all. The gifts and service of so many did not go unnoticed and we were all reminded of the value of each one's talents and time, offered to the advantage of many in our Parish but also further afield. As the mass drew to a close, the congregation was invited up to the altar to help add 'foliage' (paper leaves) to the 3D Tree Mural representing each volunteer group in our community.

Everyone was then invited into a reception in the Pastoral Centre where homemade cakes, coffee and tea were served by a wonderful team of newly recruited helpers, giving our 'regular' volunteers a rest day. Each person was treated to a gift-wrapped goody bag as they were leaving and as not all our volunteers were able to attend, enough gifts were made and distributed further over the following days.

Special mention should go to our Wednesday

Senior Club who prepared the gifts for everyone to take home, the hospitality team led by Margaret Berry who took care of the delicious refreshments in the Centre following the mass, our Parish photographer John Hickey whose work is so evident on these pages, the members of the Parish Pastoral Council who were on call 24/7 in the lead up and Niamh, Jenny and Saoirse Down and Kyle Tormey for their invaluable help with balloon set up and poster and paper craft duties!

The wonderful, life-affirming photos featured on this page say more than any words can. Being open to the needs of others really does bring true happiness and we were reminded that no act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted. The day was joy filled and a witness to what we can do when we prepare as a 'family' and work together in service of each other.

MD



Pictures by John Hickey

All the fun of the Christmas Fair

The annual school fair is now very much part of the Parish calendar. This year yet again there was a very successful school fair, which took place on the 26th November. Thank you to the parents associations, the parents and teachers who make this event so special and such a success. With the hard work and dedication of all involved it would not happen and at the end of the day it is the pupils who benefit from the fruits of this event.

Pictures by John Hickey



Aedeon Sweeney, Principal, Girls School, Sinead Goldrick, Dublin Ladies Football Captain and Fiona Griffin, Principal, Boys school.



Claudia and Sophia O'Connor.



Lexie and Nicky Maher.



Eve and Kyle Lawson.



Tom and Jeanie Long.



Lorna, Ryan, Darren and Ally Brennan.



Ian, Hannah Rose, Beth and Naomi Wardle.



Sean Rogerson.



AnnaHelena and Kate Fullam



Helping hands.



Harry, Erin, Emme and Alan Dalton.



Kitty Moran.



Layla and Megan Keane.



Isobel Solan



Emma McDonald and Susanne, Face Painter.



Jemma Spain and Fabiana, Face Painter.



Kate Carty, Sarah Carty and Roberta Hennessy.



Joe and Lucy Byrne.



Christopher Murphy



Ryan Brennan.

Money Matters



New chair of the Parish Finance Committee, Simon Holmes.

Parishioners make an important contribution to priests and the Diocese through the first collection at Sunday mass and through the Easter and Christmas dues.

St. Brigid's Parish's main form of income, which supports administration and the operation and upkeep of the

Church and other buildings is through Planned Giving and income from activities in the Pastoral Centre.

Planned Giving contributions are vital to the Parish and are made through regular standing orders and Planned Giving envelopes. Much of the Planned Giving is now made through standing order, which is the cheapest and most efficient way of processing donations.

Additionally, the Parish can claim a tax refund on donations, resulting in a significant additional 40% of qualifying donations being refunded to the parish by Revenue. We are very grateful to parishioners who provide the needed information, ensuring this important contribution can be reclaimed.

A highlight of 2017 is that the Parish will complete the full repayment of the loan on the Pastoral Centre in December.

A number of projects are planned during 2018:

- Parish participation in the World Meeting of Families.
- St. Brigid's Church needs some work including review and repair of the roof; painting the interior of the church; repair of the front door; review of the lighting in the church;
- A survey of the church is planned to allow budget for the next 3-5 years.

- The doors in the mass facility in St. Brigid's School require replacement.
- The prefab in the car park has reached the end of its life and requires replacement.
- The parish has quite limited financial reserves, to provide resilience for future work and unforeseen events.
- A new Accounting and Pastoral Management System is being implemented which will allow the parish to better manage its accounts, secretarial and administration activities.

The Diocese's human resource team, have recently conducted a review of the working processes in the parish and you may see some administrative changes during 2018.

2017 has also seen a number of changes to the Parish Finance Committee and particular thanks go to Dee Murray, the outgoing chair and all committee members, for their dedicated and committed work.

Thank you for your continuing support of priests and the parish, without which the parish would not operate. We hope your contributions and support of fundraising events, such as the upcoming Golf Classic, will also contribute toward the projects and repairs mentioned above. **SH**

World Meeting of Families Comes to Dublin

In August next year, visitors from over 70 countries will come to Dublin to celebrate the World Meeting of Families 2018. Held every three years, this is a major international event, which brings together families from across the globe to celebrate, pray and reflect on the central importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society and the church.

The meeting will begin with a National Opening on the 21st August, followed by a three day Congress of workshops, exhibitions, music and prayer, with separate child and youth programmes. A concert – style

Festival of Families will take place on Saturday, August 25th and it is hoped that Pope Francis will celebrate the Final mass on Sunday 26th.

The Festival of Families and the Final Mass are free of charge but advance booking is required for all events. There are a range of ticket options including 1-day Congress tickets and concessions for students and pensioners, with a 1-day adult ticket price of €38. Children under 18 go free but must have a ticket.

For bookings and more information please visit www.worldmeeting2018.ie If you do not have access to the internet or for other enquiries please contact our parish representatives Anne Corcoran and Susannah Healy through the Parish Office.



Counting our blessings – a huge thank you to collection counters, Bill Smith, Madge Deegan and Jim Fox who have recently retired after 12 years of dedicated service. They are pictured here with Fr. Aquinas.

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aislingtaichi@gmail.com

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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 from 7th November, the Parish email address will change to **info@cabinteelyparish.ie**.

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GOLF OUTING

St. Brigid's Parish Cabinteely 18th Parish Golf Classic

Thursday 17th May 2018 Old Conna Golf Club

Format - Rumble - Four Person Team (any combination)

Special Prizes:

Nearest the Pin – Ladies & Men

Longest Drive-Ladies & Men

Timesheet open January 2018

Entry Fee including Golf and Meal:

€300 per team or €75 per person

Meal served in Parish Centre from 8pm

Prize-giving at 9.30 pm

Sponsorship of Hole €100

Contact Parish Office 285 8835

to book your tee-time (tee-times from 12 noon).

Donations and Prizes would be most appreciated.

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