

Treasure The Moment

It is my third Christmas in Cabinteely Parish. I must be getting old, as it only seems like yesterday when I arrived. I love this time of year. It is wonderful to see and experience all the nativity plays and school choirs as they sing beautiful Christmas carols. The music opens up memories for us; images of former Christmas times, family gatherings, Christmas mass, the excitement of anticipating what Santa might bring, and also sad memories because there are empty seats.

At Christmas, we celebrate the profound love that God has for us. God so loved us that God became human and experienced fully the human condition with all its joys and sorrows. We live in a world that is often very focused on self and status. Jesus inspires us to love one another and love God with our heart and soul. We see the fruits of that inspiration in the extraordinary goodness of people at this time; the carol singing for charities, the generous donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and other Charities who assist us in sharing our resources. Christmas is about family but it teaches us that we are all one family, brothers and sisters in Christ. And as one family, we are called to share what we have with one another.

As I look back at this year, I have mixed emotions. This will be my third Christmas in Cabinteely and my first Christmas in Foxrock Parish. It has been a challenging few months. It has only been possible because of the goodwill and generous assistance of parishioners and staff in Cabinteely and Foxrock parishes. I express my deepest thanks to Fr. Arthur, Fr. Tom and Deacon Jeremy in Cabinteely and to Archdeacon Ciaran and Fr. Francis in Foxrock and also Fr. Vincent McMahon LC. Without them and the staff of the two parishes it would be impossible.

This year partial remains of my first cousin, Aengus Shanahan age 20, missing from Limerick for 18 years was found. Because of him I set up missing.ie 18 years ago. On the 10 November I finally got the privilege of celebrating his funeral mass in Limerick. The searching is finally over.

Treasure the moment and those around you. On behalf of all the priests and deacon may I wish you a very peaceful Christmas and every blessing for 2019.

Fr. Aquinas T Duffy



Happy Christmas from the Contact team

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

On St. Stephen's Day, Wednesday 26th, there will be one mass at 11am.

On Thursday 27th and Friday 28th December, morning Mass at 10am.

Bank Holiday Tuesday 1st January 2019, Mass at 11 am.

No morning mass on Wednesdays or Saturdays.

The Parish Office will close at 1pm on Friday, 21st December 2018 and will reopen on Wednesday, 2nd January 2019 at 9am. If you require a **Mass Card** or a **Mass Booking** during this time, this can be arranged in the Sacristy after 10am Mass. The **Parish Centre** will will close on Friday, 21st December and reopen Wednesday, 2nd January also.

Sunday Mass times in St. Brigid's Parish Church are
6.30pm (Saturday Vigil), 10am and 12.30pm.

Changing of the Guard



We wish to acknowledge the special contribution of **Caroline Heywood** who steps down as editor of our Contact newsletter after nine years of faithful service. Caroline has many great strengths but in particular we valued her ability to keep our Contact team focused on deadlines and help us be always mindful of casting as inclusive a net as possible to include stories and events that reached a wide audience and celebrated so many memorable events. A lot of time and effort goes into getting each edition to press; Caroline has made a huge contribution to this integral part of our community life and we all want to say a huge **“THANK YOU!”**

We are delighted to introduce **Felix Larkin** as our new editor. Felix is a long-standing member of the choir in St. Brigid's and is also a reader at the 10am mass. He retired from Public Service but having studied history in UCD, his academic interest continues, particularly in the areas of history of the press and in political cartoons. Felix extends an invitation for new talent to come on board in the pursuit of our ongoing search for fresh material and writing. Contact Newsletter plays an ever more important role in communicating the 'good news' in our local areas and acknowledging the positive impact made by so many in our community ... the format is very accessible in both its hard copy issue and our online version via the Parish website. New volunteers for our Contact Team would be sincerely welcomed!

MD



In a few weeks time we'll all be crossing the threshold into the nineteenth year of the twenty first century. It is hard to believe 2019 is already upon us - and so quick. It seems like no time since the prospect of year 2000 (Y2K) hinted at such catastrophic changes - that never happened!

That said though, these last eighteen years have seen many changes for all of us, personally, as well as for our parish community. The most recent change in St. Brigid's is Ann Lehane's decision to take early retirement after 14 years as our Parish Office Administrator, 19 years of employment in the parish and 20 years since she first offered to 'help' in a voluntary capacity in St. Brigid's in 1998. Ann's two decades of service have been the bedrock on which so many of our parish activities and events ran so smoothly and successfully.

Over her two decades with us, Ann has seen any number of parish Clergy come and go, each one different pastorally as well as personally. Every priest with whom Ann worked shares a common appreciation of the support, encouragement, ideas and the friendship that characterised our time with her and her staff throughout those years. As a parish community we owe her and her family a huge debt of gratitude for all her commitment that saw her go way beyond the 9 to 5 perception of any parish office hours. To Eoghan, to Niall, Aoife, Seán and Conor, we extend a big thank you as well - for sharing with us the time that you could rightly have claimed for your-

selves and by extension your family's identification and involvement with the work and the mission of St. Brigid's.

Every best wish and blessing as this page turns for Ann and family, from all in your parish 'family'.

AO'N



Church Renovation Update

The current St. Brigid's Church has been part of Cabinteely Village and Parish since 1836. It holds many memories of baptisms, weddings, First Holy Communion Days and Confirmations and Funerals, Daily and Sunday masses and Christmas and Easter Celebrations. Thanks to the generosity of previous generations it has survived. It is now our turn to continue to maintain it to the highest standard for the current and future generations.

The audit on St. Brigid's Church has been completed and a full costing report issued. We are doing our best to try and put finances in place through fundraising events and by appealing to parishioners. We will prioritise the work in terms of urgency. There were a number of emergency electrical issues that had to be put right immediately and that has now been done. The main components of the proposed project are:

1. **Electrical:** Full rewiring of the Church including replacement of all lights, fire and alarm systems and CCTV, upgrading of all external lighting
2. Internal plaster repairs and redecoration to walls and doors.
3. Remedial works to stained glass windows
4. A new Baptismal Font space within the Church that would find a permanent place for our Penal Baptismal Font. The entire project is estimated to cost €440,000. If you are in a position to make a donation, to be a patron, you can do so by;
 1. Electronic Transfer: St. Brigid's Parish, IBAN: IE19BOFI90118310060920 BIC: BOFIE2D
 2. Via Paypal or with a debit or credit card: details on the 'Donate to Parish' section of Parish website cabinteelyparish.ie
 3. By Cheque payable to St. Brigid's Parish and posted to Fr. Duffy c/o St. Brigid's Parish Office, Johnstown Road, Dublin 18.

Fr. Aquinas



In Focus: Eucharistic Ministers



The term Eucharistic Minister, or more properly, Lay Eucharistic Minister is used to describe a lay person who assists a priest in administering the sacrament of Holy Communion at Mass. They may also take the sacrament to those who are ill or otherwise unable to attend Mass.

Eucharistic Ministers play an important role in all Masses whether that is each Sunday, or Holy Day, Easter, Christmas and First Communions. To be able to do this is very special, to help nourish the family of St. Brigid's Parish with the Body of Christ, and to bring the host to the sick, housebound and those in hospital. Eucharistic Ministers come in all ages and may be students, workers, retired, parents and grandparents. It is wonderful to see the joy it brings to those that participate in the Mass in this way.

There are currently over 50 active Eucharistic Ministers in St. Brigid's Parish. A rota is prepared and is available in the parish office so Eucharistic Ministers can see in advance what their commitment is for the coming two months. No Eucharistic Minister is expected to commit to more than four masses in that two-month period. A short training session is also carried out for any new Eucharistic Minister. Three Eucharistic Ministers are required for the 6.30pm Vigil Mass each Saturday, 5 are required for the 10.00am and 12.30 pm masses each Sunday. Special arrangements are made to cover Holy days, Easter and Christmas. If a minister cannot attend for one of their allocated masses they can ask another minister to cover for them. During the Summer months there is no rota and a more flexible

Ministers of the Eucharist arrangement is put in place.

This year was very special for Eucharistic Ministers as Pope Francis came to Dublin to take part in the World Meeting of Families and said mass in the Phoenix Park. Thousands of Eucharistic Ministers, including those from St. Brigid's, helped with the distribution of communion helping Bishops and priests to ensure everyone received communion on this special day. It was wonderful to be part of this event and the spirit of love and joy was palpable.

We are always looking for new Eucharistic Ministers and if you are interested you can contact the Parish Office. New ministers are given training and practical advice. Once commissioned Eucharistic Ministers can help at any mass they attend.

KM

A Story of Social Inclusion

My name is Tomás Murphy and I have an Intellectual Disability. Recently I became involved in a research programme with Inclusion Ireland and Trinity College called "19 Stories of Social Inclusion". The research involved travelling around the country interviewing people with disabilities.

During a conversation with (fellow parishioner) Mary Delaney about the project she asked me the question, "What does it mean to you to be included in your community, and would I like to write a few lines about it?"

It means a whole lot for me to be included and involved in my parish community, from being an active member of the Gospel Group to being part of the Sacristan Team, which I am honored to be! Also I'm one of the Ministers of the Eucharist Team and on the Parish Council!

It is a very worthwhile thing to do, becoming a volunteer in your parish community. There are so many people with their own special talents and gifts out there who can give back to their parish! Just like any other volunteer in the parish, I also have my gifts and talents, which I share with my parish community.



Tomás Murphy



Christmas Eve, 1966. I was 10 years old. My sisters and I watched our Mum light a large wax candle and put it in a tin bucket, packed securely with sand and gravel from the garden. She placed it on a small table near the window, facing the road to the front of the house and struck a match to light it. The candle would remain there throughout the night... Mum always told us "if baby Jesus passed by, he'd see the candle and know there would be a warm welcome for him here with us." MD

I attended my first Christmas Mass with my parents on Christmas day 1938 at 8 AM. We travelled the three miles to St. Martin's Church, Piercestown, Co Wexford by Donkey and cart. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Harpur PP. We were just one of many families attending the mass. 'Car parking' was reserved for Donkeys and carts. JK

Christmas day and the cheery sound of sleigh and church bells chiming in unison across snowy fields and empty scenic roads. A calling to the faithful to come and celebrate, With hymns and prayers and joyous greetings. To re-calibrate lives in and out of sync. This Seasonal gift comes but once a year, To blossom in hearts and homes alive with spirit. **BM**



Celebrating together at the annual Christmas Fair

The annual Christmas Fair was without a doubt another resounding success! Thanks to the superb organisational skills of our Parents Association and the talents and time generously offered by a multitude of volunteer helpers, this year's Christmas Fair hosted in St. Brigid's Boys School in Mart Lane, ticked so many boxes.

The event not only raises much needed funds that hugely benefit both schools, it also

provides a very special environment where children and their families and friends enjoy a wide ranging choice of fair-ground inspired games, seasonal songs, raffles, refreshments and a very special opportunity to participate in a day that leaves a legacy of lasting memories for the young and not so young.

A big thank you to the team of organisers, the Principals and staff of both schools, Boards of

Management members and so many others who support the day with their time, sponsorship, hands on help and enthusiasm.

It was a powerful community witness to our Parish mission to remind us all how much we accomplish when we work together for the common good!

MD

Pictures by John Hickey



Volunteers



Olivia Scannell



School Principals Aedean Sweeney and Fiona Griffin with Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor



Ali Breen and face painter Fabiana Azevedo



Siun Stanley



Ahmadiyya Muslim Association.



Lucy McDonagh, Darragh Solan and Lucy Solan



Caroline and Jim Lawless with Ellie and Ethan



John Keela and Clara Donnelly



Leah Gallagher and face painter Orlagh Morehead



Ruth Maguire, Sarah Carty, Juliana Lougue, Katie Carty and Martha Maguire



Chloe and Charlie Hamilford with face painter Barbara Sweetman.



Ryan, Lorna, Alex and Darren Brennan



McGovern Family.



Fr. Aquinas with exhibitors and guests at the recent Parish Art Exhibition



Congratulations to **Seán Lehane** and **Louise McGlynn** who were married in St. Brigid's Parish Church by **Fr. Tom** on 10th November 2018.



Congratulations to **Laila Higgins** and **David Hannigan** who were married in St. Brigid's Parish Church by **Fr. Aquinas** on 18th October 2018.



Zara Kelly who was baptised in St. Brigid's recently with her parents **Niamh** and **Craig Kelly** from The Park Cabinteely (centre), Godmother **Shauna Kelly** (left), Godfather **Michael Lennon** (right) and big brother **Sean**. Zara's great grandparents, **Sean** and **Lily Smyth**, have been living in parish for over 79 years.



Fr. Aquinas with godparents, **Tom Barry** and **Anne Clarke** (left), **Michael Barry** and **Sarah Clarke** and their daughter **Amy Rose Barry**, who was baptised in St. Brigid's in October.

Christmas Coconut and Cinnamon Biscuits



Ingredients

- 250g butter, softened
- 5oz castor sugar
- 1 large egg yolk
- 2 tsp vanilla essence
- 80g desiccated coconut
- 300g plain flour
- Half a tsp cinnamon
- Zest of a small orange

Method

Heat oven to 160C

1. Mix the butter and sugar in a large bowl with a wooden spoon or electric beater.
2. Add the egg yolk and vanilla essence and beat briefly to combine.
3. Sift in the flour, and add the zest, coconut and cinnamon and mix to combine.
4. Cover the dough with cling film and leave in fridge for an hour to firm up.
5. Using a rolling pin, flatten out the dough to about 5mm. Using cookie cutters of your choice cut out the shapes and bake for 12-15 minutes till golden brown.
6. Cool and decorate with festive icing and/or coloured sprinkles and icing sugar.

MD

Foxrock Electrical Services

Local Electrician since 1999

Christopher Payne

Reg. R.E.C.I. and safe electric immersions, sockets, fuse boards, lighting, garden lighting, security lighting etc.

Phone: 01 2891328

Mobile: 087 6337116

Home Instead Senior Care

Leopardstown are currently recruiting CARERS

Full Training given to suitable candidates

Call us on **2068022** or email

kay.daly@homeinstead.ie

Pixies Montessori

Let your child enjoy the experience of learning through

play Age 2-6 yrs Tusla Approved

Qualified & experienced staff,

Safe & secure environment

E.C.C.E. Scheme available

www.pixiesmontessori.ie

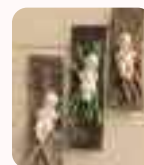
Tel: 2823845 / 087-7564539

Siolta Accredited by the Department of Education and Skills. The National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education.



Pamela Keane, Marian Monaghan, Ann Raythorn, Sally Connaughton, Frances McLoughlin and kneeling **Ann Lehane** in 5 Quests.

If you are looking for a fun family outing locally after Christmas, check out 5 Quests in Cornelscourt (above the Foxrock Credit Union). This recommendation comes from the girls in the Parish office, where they spent a most enjoyable hour recently trying to extricate themselves from one of the Escape Rooms. "We managed to get out with 43 seconds to go. Very exciting and a great way to work as a team. Natalia and her staff were most welcoming and even helped us out once or twice when we ran into difficulty!" Highly recommended by the two Ann's, Marian, Sally, Pamela and Frances.



Nativity Art & Craft Children & Family Workshop

PLEASE HELP US!

WHEN

Saturday 15th December

WHERE

St. Brigid's Parish Pastoral Centre
Cabinteely

TIME

2.30pm - 4.30pm

THEME

WELCOMING BABY JESUS
THIS CHRISTMAS

The afternoon will comprise games and activities, helping us to prepare for Christmas through discovering there are many ways to 'give' and put Jesus's message of love into action.

We will also make some very special Nativity themed gifts and crafts for our Parish Community, which will be offered at masses leading up to the 25th December.

To participate please register before 15th December. Contact:

Mary Delaney on 086 2075244 or email: info@cabinteelyparish.ie

NB: We will be using scissors so we recommend a minimum age of 6 years. Numbers are limited!

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**.

Lewis Motors

Cabinteely Village, Dublin 18.

01 235 2844 / 087 433 3333

Our Services:

- ◆ Car Sales
- ◆ Valeting
- ◆ Bodywork
- ◆ Service



Driven by
Excellence



WWW.LEWISMOTORS.IE