

Parishes of Clontarf & Dollymount



*"The Family is the Nearest Hospital
The First School of the Young
The Best Home for the Elderly"*
Pope Francis



JANUARY 2018

HAPPY NEW YEAR

SAINT ANTHONY'S PARISH



CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK 18TH—25 JANUARY 2018 THEME: "THAT ALL MAY BE FREE" A STORY



On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat. But

the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves went out day and night tirelessly searching for the lost. Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding area, wanted to become associated with the station and give their time and money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews trained. The little life-saving station grew.

Some of the members of the life-saving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea. They replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged building.

Now the life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they decorated it as sort of a club. Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do this work. The life-saving motif still prevailed in this club's decoration, and there was a liturgical lifeboat in the room where the club initiations were held.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boatloads of cold, wet and half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick and some had black skin and some had yellow skin. The beautiful new club was in chaos. So the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where victims of shipwrecks could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's life-saving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. Some members insisted upon life-saving as their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save lives of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast. So they did just that.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It evolved into a club, and yet another 'spin-off' life saving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself, and if you visit the sea coast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along the shore. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown."

Is there a danger that our Churches have become "Exclusive Clubs" and are losing our Life Saving Mission ?

Clontarf Christian Churches Together
Ecumenical Service
Thursday 18th January
7.30PM in St Anthony's RC Church
ALL ARE WELCOME

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 14th January—

Sunday 21st January

Sun. 10.00am	Mervyn Morrison Rec Decd
11.30am	Marie Mc Clean Anniv
	Esther Sheeran Anniv
	John Mc Neice Anniv
Mon. 7.45am	Donor's Intentions
10.00am	Anne Parkin Anniv
Thurs 10.00am	Michael Joyce Anniv
Fri 7.45am	Donor's Intentions
Sat. 5.30pm	Michael Murphy Anniv
Sun. 10.00am	Stephen & Nan Roche Annivs
11.30am	Michael McMahon Anniv
	Joseph O'Shaughnessy Anniv



RECENT BAPTISMS IN ST. ANTHONY'S

We welcome into our Christian Community

Milo Patrick Kavanagh	Fairview
Alexander David Kidd	Vernon Ave
Millie Belle Graham	Donnery Castle Ave
Edie Florence Yates	Surrey
Nóra Marie Pigrée	Marino
Sophia Katie Yore	Clontarf
Alexander Edward Duffy	Lawrence Grove
Lillabeth Bridget Rooney	Howth Road
Oisín James Bunnett	Beaumont
Leon Francis Foy-Hebib	Killester

Congratulations to Parents, God Parents, Grand Parents, Families and Friends



MEETINGS IN St ANTHONY'S THIS WEEK

Tuesday 16th January
Parish Pastoral Council will meet in the Sacristy Meeting Room at 7.30pm



OUR CHRISTMAS THANK YOU PARTY

for all Parish Helpers and those involved in Ministries will take place on **Thursday 1st February** at **St Anthony's House at 7.30pm**. Invitations will be sent out during the coming week.





PARISH DETAILS

Parish office : Monday—Friday 9.30am-12.30pm Tel 01 8333459 e-mail saint anthonysclontarf@gmail.com
Fr. Larry White PP 0864143888 St Anthony's House 01-8335300
Mass Times: Monday—Friday 7.45am & 10.00am Saturday: 10.00am & 5.30pm (Vigil Family Mass)
Sunday: 10/00am & 11.30am

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April 2016 was indeed a milestone in our nation's history and also in my own career. Having reached fifty one years as a local optometrist in Fairview and I have none but happy memories of my time there, thanks to the kind people of the area, who were very nice to deal with, in my role as a local optician. As well as looking back we are also looking forward, as two family members, Helen and Teresa, having graduated in more recent times, will continue assisting me in the practice in the future at the same location. We will try to do our best in the future years as we have tried to do during the previous fifty. Many thanks for your loyalty to our practice.

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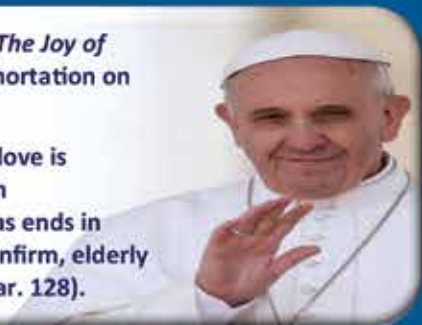


Photo taken by Fr. Martin

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH CLONTARF

From *Amoris Laetitia*, The Joy of Love, the Pope's apostolic exhortation on love in the family

"The aesthetic experience of love is expressed in that 'gaze' which contemplates other persons as ends in themselves, even if they are infirm, elderly or physically unattractive" (Par. 128).



Cluster Group Meeting

There will be a meeting of the three-parish cluster group this Monday, 15th January, at 7.30 pm in Saint Gabriel's Sacristy. This group, composed of parishioners and priests from the three Clontarf parishes, tries to view the three parishes as something of a unit and to consider ways in which the three parishes could pool their combined resources.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The next meeting of the PPC is on Wednesday, 24th January, at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre. If any parishioner would like an item on the Agenda, please mention it to Fr. Martin, Fr. John to Brian O' Kelly, the chairperson of the PPC or any other member of the PPC.

Clontarf Historical Society.

A.G.M Of The Society At 7.30pm Followed By Talk On "The Clontarf Atlas" By Colm Lennon. Monday 15th January 2018 At 8.15pm In Resource Center, St.Johns Church, Clontarf Road. Visitors Welcome €5.

Baptisms

We welcome into the Christian community the children who were baptized during the month of December: Jude Byrne, Sarah Prendeville, Harry Dolan, Arthur O'Sullivan, Alex Mulvey-Kavanagh, Henry McElhinney, Lilly Fitzmaurice



Clontarf Prayer Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

There will be an ecumenical prayer service for the opening of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Saint Anthony's Church on Thursday, 18th January, at 7.30 pm.

Mass Intentions

Sunday

- 6.00 pm: Agnes Butterly (Anniv)
- 10.00 am: Nial Humphries (Snr and Jnr) (An)
- 12.00 pm: Eileen Griffiths (An)

We also remember

Geraldine McKeown, Eileen and Tom Brennan, Margaret Kavanagh, Joe Healy, Pat McEvoy, Mary, Angela and Mauren Nolan, Alan Kavanagh, Michael Daly.




Parish Book Club

The next meeting of the Parish Book Club is on Thursday, 25th January, at 7.30 pm in the presbytery, 186 Clontarf Road. We are reading, 'How we killed God... and other tales of modern Ireland'

by David Quinn. David, who is a parishioner, is one of the country's best-known commentators on religious and social affairs. He has been a fierce critic of an aggressive secularism that is pushing religion to the margins of public life.

Deepest Sympathy

 We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those who were buried from our parish church during the month of November : Brendan Kearney, Mt Prospect Ave, Alan Kavanagh, Fortview Ave, Joan Ó Fiacháin, Clontarf Park, Martin Drew, Kincora Drive, Deirdre O’Dea, Churchgate Ave, Ben Church, Vernon Gardens, May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th to 25th January

The material for this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been produced in the Caribbean. There are 1.4 million Christians living in the Caribbean region, across a vast geographical spread of island and mainland territories. The Christian communities in the Caribbean region have chosen the theme ‘That all may be free’ (Exodus 15) for this year’s week of prayer.

Holy Hour

The next Holy Hour will take place in our parish church next Sunday, 21st January, at 7.30 pm. We will be reflecting on the gospel reading for next Sunday, the marriage feast of Cana, and the meeting of Jesus and Nicodemus which follows closely after that passage in the gospel of John.

This is a prayerful, reflective time before the Lord in the Eucharist at the beginning of the week.



Parish Finance Committee

There will be a meeting of the Parish Finance Committee on Tuesday, 23rd January, in the Presbytery, 186 Clontarf Road, at 7.30 pm. I would like to thank the members of this Committee and, in particular, the chairperson, Eugene Gallagher, for their careful stewardship and management of the resources of the parish. Fr Martin

Garda Choir

The Garda Choir will join us for the 6.00 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, 27th January. They will lead us in song at that Mass. As always, their presence will give us all a lift.

Parish Prayer Groups

As we begin a new year, this is just a reminder of our Parish Prayer Groups. A Meditation group, in the tradition of the Benedictine monk John Main, meets every Monday from 8.00 pm to 8.45 pm in the presbytery, 186 Clontarf Road. A *Lectio Divina* (Sacred Reading) prayer group meets to reflect on the gospel reading of the following Sunday every Tuesday from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm in the prayer room of the Holy Faith sisters, in the basement of 182 Clontarf Road. All are welcome.

Photo taken by Fr. Martin



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St. Gabriel's Notes

Looking Back with Thanks



As we bid farewell to another Christmas, we do so with gratitude for all the blessings that the wonderful Season celebrating the coming of our Lord has brought to St. Gabriel's.

Once again we had a big attendance at all of our Christmas Masses. We ordered extra cards for our Christmas trees, and even with 1,500 they still ran out before Christmas Day.

The Church looked splendid as always, and grateful thanks for that to all involved. In the weeks leading up to Christmas there was a great air of cheerful busy-ness about the place as everyone went about their particular tasks—the Monday Maintenance crew erecting the crib, others putting up the trees with their lights and decorations and regularly moving your cards up to make room for more, the ladies who keep the church so clean and tidy, choirs practising, others rehearsing their lines—it all helped to bring the true meaning of Christmas to life.

Fr. Pat



No need for lights around the Church over Christmas with the wonderful display across the road on Dollymount Park.

Over €1,000 was collected for the local St. Vincent de Paul Society as well as bringing great cheer to the area. Well done to all the family!

DEIRDRE McDERMOTT,

We bid farewell and a sincere "Thank You" from our three Parishes. Her gentle nature, and her ability to encourage others to get involved, especially in the "You Shall Be My Witness" Confirmation programmes, was greatly appreciated by all.

We wish Deirdre God's blessings in her new Parish—Rathfarnham.

Our loss is their gain.

Fr. Pat & all the Priests



Looking Forward

(Adapted from Article by Orla Rutledge)

When the youngest of a large family finally heads away to college, the father might remark to the mother; "Now we're back where we started". He is right in one way - once again there is just the two of them. On the other hand, however, he may be wrong, because they are in no way like the young couple who had many years earlier entered together into the shared venture that is marriage.

One of the sayings regularly mentioned to couples getting married is the importance of give and take; the theory being that over the course of the marriage the giving and the taking will more or less equalise. This saying can also apply to the joint venture that is parenthood, except, that in this case, it might seem that the giving is done by the parents, and the taking, or, in early years at least, the receiving, is done by the child. But if we look more closely we realise that the unconditional love given by parents is matched by the unconditional trust given, even if unconsciously, by the child. And that trust is a gift beyond measure.

Trust confers responsibility. Parental loving is a bit like the sun shining - it shines because it is what it does, and parents love because it is what they do. But the unconditional nature of the child's trust can be fragile, and trust itself can be eroded. It must be earned, otherwise it disappears. To maintain that trust is a lifelong challenge that requires unselfishness, humour, courage and patience....(and a thick skin!)



This is a photo of our beautiful BAPTISM BOARD taken last week after the last of our 76 Baptisms of 2017. With a special thought and prayer for one little angel in Heaven, we congratulate all the parents and wish them well as they enter into that challenge. You will find that your babies are not the only ones growing and changing. The journey will twist and turn, but it will bring you many joys. Don't expect to find yourselves ever again back where you started. Keep looking forward.

The board has now been cleared as we start again and welcome the Babies being Baptised in 2018.

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