

THE RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write to you from my study in the Rectory. The Parish Centre has taken great shape over the last number of months. It is a fine building that we can all be truly proud of. It is tasteful and fitting in the manner in which it compliments the Church. The stone work at the front facade is magnificent and we all look forward to its final unveiling. As a Parish Family it will be of immense value as we come to witness to this community in the name of Christ. It will be hugely beneficial having such a fine state-of-the-art facility set so close to our worship base.

We look forward to a number of Parish events in the coming months which I would like to bring to your attention. The Needs Group is again organising a Cheese and Wine evening for adults on Friday 23rd February. It will take place in the Irish Wheelchair Association on Blackheath Drive. It will run from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. All are welcome so please make a special effort to attend. Last year this was a most enjoyable social occasion. Thanks are expressed in advance for the generosity of the members of the Needs Group and others who prepare and organise the event.

Michelle Harper and her team of helpers will again be organising a Parish BBQ and Strawberry Fair. More details will follow in March's edition of Parish Matters.

The Parish Fun Day takes place on Sunday 24th June which is, of course, the Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist to whom our Church is dedicated. Since coming to Clontarf four years ago this event has been held in Greenlanes National School, by kind permission. It is hoped that we can hold this event in our newly opened Parish Centre, giving all present the opportunity to enjoy a day of celebration, worship and fellowship together in our wonderful new facility.

I would like to thank all who so generously supported our Stepping Stones initiative. Thanks to Sandie for the idea, John for the printing and Ronan for the background work. It continues to be a huge success. Stepping Stones may still be purchased in the names of your choice,

deceased family members and friends and, of course, anonymously. Thank you again to those who supported it.

We are on the brink of entering Lent, one of the two great seasons of preparation, the other being Advent. Lent gives each one of us the opportunity to reflect on our place with God. Traditionally it has been a period of abstinence. I encourage each one of you to observe Lent in a meaningful way. I have always felt that Lent is presented as a low season, one when you need to give something up. Lent can be a time of great spiritual growth. Perhaps this Lent you may wish to set aside time to rediscover the great depths of truth found in our Holy Scriptures. Why not join with me in reading, in your own time, the four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. So often, in Church, we read small portions of Holy Scripture thereby losing the impact of the entire text. Take this Lent as an opportunity to hear the entire story which has led generations of Christians to drink of the Living Water, and feed on the Bread of Life, Jesus our Friend and Lord.

God be with you

Derek

Wine & Cheese

A Wine & Cheese evening will be held in the Irish Wheelchair Association on Friday 23rd February between 7.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. All are very welcome. This event is organised by the Needs Group. This is a Parish social night and there is no cover charge.

Anyone wishing to supply wine or cheese please contact Declan 0868250099 or Mark 8318645.



Seafield Singers

Faure's Requiem and Haydn's Creation Parts 1 & 2

The Seafield Singers will sing Faure's Requiem and the first two parts of Haydn's Creation on Friday 2nd March at the Parish Church.

Tickets are Euro 15.00 at the door or from Joe Lonergan:
142 Vernon Avenue 8338711. All are welcome.



Mothers' Union

We had an enjoyable outing to Malahide for our New Year lunch on the 11th. Jan.

On the 1st Feb. Ann Walsh will be commissioned Diocesan President in the Cathedral at 8.00 p.m.

Our monthly meeting will be held in the Presbyterian School Hall, Howth Road on 8th February at 8.00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Kelda Barnes, manager of the Darndale/Belcamp Creche.

Friday 2nd March Women's World Day of Prayer will be held in our Church at 3.00 p.m.

We sympathise with the Bryan and Baldwin family and friends on the death of Daisy and Hilda.

Subscriptions are now due, please contact Thelma.

I. Acheson

Bowls Club

We are back bowling merrily after the Christmas and New Year festivities. We had a very enjoyable Christmas Supper in 'The Yacht' - partly supplied by the Club and partly by the staff.

We hope shortly to start the Club matches, when the names have been drawn for the doubles and singles. We also hope to arrange friendly matches with other Clubs.

New members will still be warmly welcomed - Tuesday evenings at 7.00 p.m. in Belgrove Boys' School Hall until we get our new Parish Centre later in the year.

H. Erskine

Anchor Boys

We have all settled back after the Christmas break and are enjoying skipping, arts and crafts and football.

Nineteen members and five helpers enjoyed a trip to the Lambert Puppet Theatre, on 13th January. Thanks to Mary Freehill, Lynn Boyle and Margaret Sargent for helping Breda and myself with this outing.

I also want to thank Clive for letting us use ENRG, Artane, for the Christmas Party. Santa duly arrived and a fantastic party was enjoyed by all.

The Mead Day Care Centre was delighted with all the lovely presents which the Anchor Boys presented at the Giving Tree in the Church coming up to Christmas. Sincere thanks to all the boys for sharing with others at that time.

Soon we will be preparing to 'put the best foot forward' at the Annual Display. Best wishes to everyone.

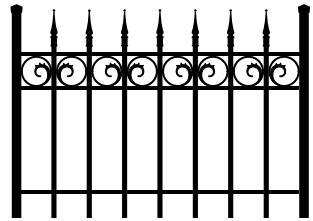
H. McCullagh

A trip to the
Lambert Puppet
Theatre



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Care Centre.

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BB Junior Section

We have recommenced after the Christmas break. At our first meeting we remembered, in prayer, our leader and friend Iris (Bryan) as well as her brother Alan whose mother, Daisy, passed away on Christmas Day.

Our work together now focuses on badges for the boys and our Annual Display items.

On Saturday 6th January we entered two teams in the Junior Section 5-a-side Soccer Fun Day. Many thanks to Keith O'Byrne and Leslie Dawkins who both managed a team each as well as ensured transport (in addition to some other parents) to and from the event. Fourteen teams in total were entered and our teams came in 4th (Sam Acheson, Richard Gleeson, Jonathan Byrne, Ronan Birch, Maccon Keane and Jamie Hickey) and 5th (Sam Stirling, David O'Byrne, Matthew Dawkins, Robert Duggan and Tommy Malone). Well done to both teams who did very well against difficult opposition.

We are still looking for help with our Leadership.

M.Acheson



Clontarf Women's Group

Clontarf Women's Group are meeting at Clontarf Methodist hall, by kind permission, on Tuesday 6th February at 8.00 p.m.

There will be a demonstration of 'Colour Me Beautiful'. Details from Breda on 833 1181 or Heather on 853 5594. See you there.

Above the Women's Group Christmas night out in Hin Keng's before Christmas.

B. Sargent & H. McCullagh

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Clontarf Parish Church Lawn Tennis Club

As the new Parish Centre rapidly makes progress the Tennis Club Committee have been working over the winter months making plans for the re-launch of the club.

One of the first initiatives has been the establishment of a new tennis club website which will become an on-line communication vehicle listing club activities and news items. The new website is www.clontarftennis.com

As we move forward the committee will be planning a range of activities for a 12 month tennis season. To help us with this we would ask anyone interested in joining or re-joining the tennis club to log on and register their interest. As we get nearer to the go-live date we will be in touch with you to bring you up to date with progress.

Our Ladies Singles Trophy (1932) has gone missing and we need your help to track it down. While not very valuable financially the trophy is a valuable link to the very foundation of the Tennis Club back in 1932. If it is sitting on your mantle piece — please let us know.

Contact Nigel Darragh — 087 2868456

Youth Notes

The Youth Club started back on the 13th of January, with both groups meeting in Raheny Parish Hall (by kind permission). Wired group (8-11) meet between 6.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m on Saturdays in Raheny Hall. We are now starting a programme called Rock Solid which explores the different aspects of faith with games, talks and activities. The Connect group (12+) also meet on Saturdays in Raheny Hall and we are continuing to discuss life's issues, ranging from self esteem, image and identity to bullying and how it all ties in to our faith. The Klub (4-7) meet on Wednesdays from 4.00 p.m. — 5.00 p.m., we will be continuing to do Bible stories with crafts, cooking, songs and lots of games. The Klub meets in the Methodist Church on the sea-front.

Post-Confirmation Group

The Post-Confirmation Group meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month in the Creche, under the Rectory at 10.30 a.m. We will be starting to use a book called Fuel that has been published by the Church of Ireland Youth Department which is a tool for young people to explore the Bible and see how God speaks to us through the Bible.

S. Connolly

ROC

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Baptismal Register

Amisha Mullick — 26th November 2006

Marriage Register

Juho Lipponen & Clara Thompson — 11th November 2006

Burial Register

Marie (Mamie) Jacques — 6th November 2006
Mount Jerome

May Violet Davis — 1st December 2006
Mount Jerome

Margaret (Daisy) Elizabeth Bryan — 29th December 2006
Mount Jerome

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SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY



4th February

8.30 a.m.

10.30 a.m.

3rd Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion

Morning Prayer

11th February

8.30 a.m.

10.30 a.m.

2nd Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion

Parish Family Communion

18th February

8.30 a.m.

10.30 a.m.

Sunday next before Lent

Holy Communion

All-Age Worship with Holy Baptism

21st February

8.30 a.m.

10.30 a.m.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Ash Wednesday Liturgy

25th February

8.30 a.m.

10.30 a.m.

The First Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion

Parish Family Communion

Scripture Readings for February

4th February

3rd Sunday before Lent

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Psalms 138

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Luke 5: 1-11

11th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-end

Psalms 65

Revelation 4

Luke 8: 22-25

18th February

Sunday next before Lent

Exodus 34: 29-end

Psalms 99

2 Corinthians 3: 12 - 4: 2

Luke 9: 28-43a

21st February

Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58: 1-12

Psalms 51: 1-18

2 Corinthians 5: 20b- 6: 10

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

25th February

The First Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

Psalms 91: 1-2, 9-16

Romans 10: 8b-13

Luke 4: 1-13



Parish Centre — Update

We finally took back the vestibule from the contractor in mid-December. The new west door has been fitted but there are a lot of 'finishes' needed to it and we have covered the area with a curtain. We'll have a grand opening of the door when the centre is finished in the Spring. The new toilet is in place but again finishes are needed. It is not useable yet. The work on securing the tower and steeple is practically complete and we should now be bird-free.

The refurbished and repainted church gates have been refitted. These are to have a few more coats of paint but they are a great improvement both in looks and freedom of movement. Meanwhile the main work on the new centre continues apace with the bulk of the exterior work nearly complete. There is a lot of work to be done on the external drainage, pavings and landscaping and this is scheduled for February and March. The coming months will see plenty of work on the interior, including all electrical, mechanical and carpentry work, lots of painting, and floor and ceiling work. The new kitchen will be installed in February as well as the important flooring for the main hall.

The following table gives an outline of the rooms and facilities in the new centre and grounds.

Ground floor

Lobby and entrance hall

Store room off lobby

Committee room (20' x 15'; 6.2m x 4.5m)

Rector's study and secretarial office (not for general use)

Mens (2+2) and ladies (3) toilets

Accessible toilet

Kitchen

Minor hall (33' x 26'; 10m x 8m)

Main hall (66' x 33'; 20m x 10m)

Store rooms off the main hall (6, various sizes)

Cleaners closet

Main stairs to first floor
Exit door to side, towards grounds
Stairs to first floor from side entrance
Lift to first floor

First Floor

Landing
Mens and ladies changing rooms, showers/cubicles(2)
and toilets (M 2+1; L 2)
Social area, overlooking both main hall and grounds
Tea station in social area
Store room off social area

Tea station, first floor

Fitted hot water boiler
Sink
Presses and cupboards
Fully fitted with cutlery and crockery, for communal use by all

Kitchen facilities

Fitted hot water boiler
Double sink
Cooker
Fridge/freezer
Dishwasher
Presses and wall units, some lockable
Fully fitted with cutlery and crockery, for communal use by all
Serving hatches to main hall and minor hall
Broom cupboard

Outside grounds

New all-weather surface for multi-use, available for tennis (3 courts), other sports and parish events; it will be completely enclosed by fencing, with 2 access gates, external boiler room, switch room, maintenance store
19 car parking spaces

The external structure of the new centre has been much admired, albeit from a distance. Just a few months to go and we will be able to admire the finished article.

B. Maxwell

Parish Fashion Show Update

Plans for the Fashion Show are continuing apace and we are nearly full at this point with fashion retailers who wish to exhibit at the event. All of the prominent Clontarf shops will be there on the night as well as boutiques from Clontarf, Blackrock and Ranelagh and of course Marks & Spencer and Dunnes Stores. We currently have twenty commitments and lots of interest in the remaining 4-6 places. We are looking for a big turn out on the night and we believe we will get great support from parishioners and all of our good friends in the wider community. Looking forward to seeing you on the night!

I am glad to tell you that Stepping Stones is doing very well. We are still hearing from people who wish to purchase stones and I am glad to say that there will be another opportunity to do so in February for those who have missed it so far.

J. Patten

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Sunday Club

We had finished 2006 with a 'Crib and Carol' Service in Church on 17th December 2006 where all the children had put something in the stable, sang a couple of Carols as we told the story of Christmas. Everyone did very well, especially as we hadn't had much time for a practice beforehand.

We have heard from our girl, Kratae, whom we sponsor in Thailand. She has drawn a lovely picture and wished us well for the New Year.

Each week we collect money to go towards our sponsorship. We also, send a very small gift for her birthday (due to postal difficulties) and a little extra money toward her and her family at Christmas. We get the chance to write to her with some news and she sends us a note in return.

It is a great way for our Sunday Club to hear a little about Thailand, her lifestyle and know we are helping Kratae too.

We have just started back after our Christmas break and looking forward to the new year of Bible readings and topics to explore.

J.Acheson

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

4th	Sunday Club (Belgrove Hall)	Morning Prayer
11th	Sunday Club (Belgrove Hall)	Holy Communion
18th	Half Term	All Age Worship
25th	Half Term	Holy Communion

MARCH SCHEDULE

4th	Sunday Club (Belgrove Hall)	Morning Prayer
11th	Sunday Club (Belgrove Hall)	Holy Communion
18th	Sunday Club	All Age Worship
25th	Sunday Club (Belgrove Hall)	Holy Communion

J.Acheson



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Pastorate Study Group

The Pastorate has been meeting in Howth Road School, by kind permission, over the last number of months.

This is an open group that have followed on from the Alpha Course held last year.

New members are always welcome. We meet on every 2nd and 4th Tuesday night.

Details from Declan on 086 8250099.



Reflection

It is often said (and said by many of the late David Ervine) that 'he was the right man at the right time'. Also, in world affairs, this is not often enough the case and chaos ensues. The evidence is all around us. The purpose of man is flawed by his (or her) very nature and dubious motivation, too often inspired by greed for money and/ or power.

Happily and of enormous comfort to Christians, is the indisputable fact that God's choice of man or woman for his constructive purpose and our benefit, is always and ever, the prime person for the task and the timing spot-on. Instances abound in the Bible and Moses is a case in point. An outline analysis of Moses as revealed in Scripture, establishes his qualifications — he was an Israelite, a Prince of Egypt with unique inside knowledge of Israel's enemy, a natural advantage. He was where and who he was, in the knowledge and purpose of God who chose his man when time was ripe, to lead God's people out of captivity. Moses' protests of ineptitude were countered by God who had provision in hand. The account in the Bible is compelling. After the Red Sea miracle, Moses tended sheep in the desert, a sure preparation for the ensuing 40 years wandering in such terrain. His brother Aaron's ease of speech had been invaluable. All contingencies were met, including the entrusting of the Law or Ten Commandments, to this faithful servant.

At age 120 yrs Moses died! What a blow! But God's purposes are eternal and he had his next man waiting. He said to Joshua "now, Moses, my servant is dead, here's what you do." Once again, the "right man for the right time". The Old Testament is far from boring, as some claim. To-day, we should rest in the sure and certain knowledge, that God's appointments transcend those of mankind. In today's lingo, the buck (not blame) stops at God's throne and this buck never loses its divine value. We must have faith and trust.

A. Maharry

PARISH GROUPS/CONTACTS

RECTOR: The Rev'd D. C. Sargent (833 1181)
clontarf@dublin.anglican.org

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S PASTOR: Susan Connolly
(086 882 7258) susanconnolly04@yahoo.co.uk

GREENLANES NATIONAL SCHOOL

Principal: Ms. C. Atkin (8331554) greenlanes@oceanfree.net

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ANCHOR BOYS: Mrs. H. McCullagh (853 5594)

WOMEN'S GROUP: Mrs. B. Sargent (833 1181) and
Mrs. H. McCullagh (853 5594)

YOUTH GROUPS: Ms. S. Connolly (086 882 7258)

BOWLING CLUB: Mr. H. Maude (833 1056)

BADMINTON CLUB: Mrs. P. Watts (832 6078)

JUNIOR BADMINTON: Mr. R. Watts (832 6078)

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER: Mr. J. Rowden (831 0486)

SUNDAY MORNING CRECHE: Mrs. B. Sargent (833 1181)

FLOWER GUILD: Mrs. I. Acheson (833 8288) and
Mrs B. Gallagher (833 8683)

GB PAST MEMBERS: Mrs. I. McMullen: (853 0356)

BROWNIES: Mrs. P. and Ms. M. Watts (832 6078)

LADYBIRDS/GUIDES: Ms. W. Kelly (848 1569) and
Ms. N. Flynn (8476110)

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