

THE RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I write to you as we enter the Lenten period. The Church sets aside the six Sundays before the great feast of Easter as a time of preparation. In secular society Christmas has become the great focus of celebration for the year. However, Easter Day, for the Christian, has a much greater and deeper significance, without which our faith is meaningless. In three short days, God focuses his divine power towards earth in the most radical and awesome way. Jesus, the very essence of his being is brought low upon the cross before being lifted high through the resurrection.

For the Christian these happenings, between Good Friday and Easter morn, draw us closer to God and thereby make our human existences meaningful. The pain is replaced by joyful celebration and the sadness by incredible reality that is everlasting life.

As a Christian community all we are and all we do must radiate that reality, whether it is through the banality of our daily chores or through the joy of great celebrations. Each one of us is given the opportunity to show forth resurrection joy in our daily lives through what we do and who we might meet.

This Lent I am running a Lenten Services Series which take place on the 4 Wednesday evenings in March. The services start at 7.30 pm and look at the 4 cornerstones of our faith: The Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments, The Nicene Creed and the Beatitudes.

May this Lenten period be for you one that leads you deeper into God and into the revelation that is his Son, sent to lead, redeem and transform our lives. My prayer for your household is that you sense God's presence with you as you prepare for his Son's Resurrection celebrated at Easter. May each one of you be given the chance for quietness and so through that quietness find your peace. May the Spirit that led Jesus into the wilderness be in your homes and in your hearts as you prepare for this most holy and joyous season of Easter.

Yours in Christ,
Derek

Lenten Services Series

All services on Wednesdays in March at 7.30pm

7th March—Evening Prayer
Theme: The Lord's Prayer

14th March — Compline
Theme: The Nicene Creed

21st March — Late Evening Office
Theme: The Decalogue

28th March—A Service of the Word for Evening
Theme: The Beatitudes

Mothers' Union

Our Overseas meeting will be held on the 8th March at 7.45p.m. in 37 Kincora Road. Mrs. Anne Keenan is our guest speaker. We are looking forward to hearing about her recent visit to Africa.

Overseas donations and branch subscriptions would be much appreciated at that meeting as the books close at the end of March to prepare for the AGM.

I. Acheson

Clontarf Womens' Group

We started the 2007 season on Tuesday 6th February at 8.00p.m. in Clontarf Methodist Hall, by kind permission. The evening was entitled 'Colour Me Beautiful' and was very popular. This month we meet on Tuesday 6th at 8.00p.m. in the Methodist Hall. The subject is Interior Design and we look forward to welcoming Jenny Deasy for this meeting.

Looking forward to seeing any new parishioners to our group. Details from Heather (8535594) or Breda (833 1181).

B. Sargent & H. McCullagh

GB past members

Next meeting will take place in my house, 1a Vernon Heath on Thursday 1st March at 8.00p.m. Looking forward to seeing everyone. There will be a surprise demonstration.

I McMullen

Bowls Club

Unfortunately our Honorary Secretary, whose absence is very much regretted, had a misadventure. We wish her a speedy recovery - Helen please come back soon!

As a result of the unceasing energy of our Honorary Club Captain - the Singles Tournament is in full swing and all first round matches have been played in a very sporting, friendly and keenly contested spirit. Due to the lack of the availability of the second night, the Selection Committee voted to omit the Doubles Tournament for this Season and we look forward to the opening of our New Parish Centre.

We are very grateful to the Select Vestry who have allowed us to continue the Club's activities by paying our rent in Belgrove Hall.

We have recommenced raffles to boost the Club's income and hopefully a surplus will be revealed for the 2006/7 season. A big 'thank you' to all who donate prizes. The AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 8th May at 7.30p.m. Venue to follow.

E. Maude (Hon. Treasurer)

Women's World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer Service will be held in our Church on Friday 2nd March at 3.00p.m. The Service was prepared by women from Paraguay and is entitled 'United Under God's Tent' We are delighted to welcome back Rev. Ashling Shine who will give the meditation. The service will be led by Susan Connolly our Youth and Childrens' Pastor.



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SUMMER BBQ

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FRIDAY 25TH MAY

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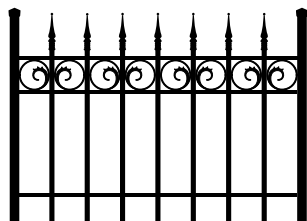
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Girls' Brigade

At this stage in the Session the P.E. National Competitions are over and we are delighted to report that overall the Company performed very well with the following results: - Associate Team - 3rd Place, Brigader 'A' Team - 3rd Place, Junior/Senior 'A' Team - 5th Place (having been 'recalled'), Explorer 'A' Team - 7th Place (out of a total of 19 teams). In the solo competitions - Associate Section - Irene McCormack and Alison Blay came 2nd and 4th, Brigader Section - our girls came in 6th, 7th and 10th places, Junior/Senior Skipping Solo - Emma Jackson, Christine O'Regan and Julie McDunphy all performed beautifully. In the Sibbald Cup Drill Down we had 1st, 2nd and 3rd places - namely Laura McDunphy, Lauren Maxwell and Casey Stirling. We are at the moment practicing for the Modern Dance Competitions - March 9th, and the Musical Theatre Competition - March 24th and also the District P.E. Competitions - March 31st - as you can see a very busy schedule.

Our 99th Annual Display this year will be held in St. Pauls' College on Friday 27th April 2007 at 7.30p.m. and all are welcome.

As next session 2007/2008 is our 100th we are very busy, even now, organising the year ahead and would like to hear from anyone who was in the 5th Company over the past 100 years!! to contact us in case your name has slipped through the net!

There will be a Cake Sale in Aid of Centenary Funds, in Howth Road School on Saturday 10th March between 1.30 and 4.00p.m.

M. McElhinney, Captain Tel: — 087 2333751

Anchor Boys

The boys are working hard for our Annual Display, it will take place on Saturday 31st March in St. Paul's College. Thanks to all who have helped both on Monday nights and at the practices.

H McCullagh

Boys' Brigade —Junior Section

Work is continuing towards Badges, Scripture Test and the Annual Display. Susan Connolly, the Youth and Children's Pastor, is working with us on an item for the display.

The Annual Display will take place on Saturday 31st March at 7.30p.m. in St. Paul's College. Our Chief Guest will be Mr. Phillip Daley, National

Director, Boys' Brigade, Republic of Ireland District. The date is 'forced' upon us by the College schedule and Easter - therefore the date is not ideal or suitable for everyone.

As we write we hear our Battalion President, Alec Thackaberry, is recovering in hospital following a procedure. We are remembering Alec in our prayers and wish both himself and Kitty God's love and care through this time in particular.

Company Section

We are extremely proud to be able to report on the success of our 'B' and 'A' Squads who came first and second respectively in the Battalion Lewis-Crosby Squad Drill Competition held in St. Andrew's College, Blackrock. Congratulations to all concerned who worked very hard to achieve this excellent result.

Squad 'B' - Graham Maxwell, Nathan Maxwell, Peter O'Byrne, Ryan McConnell and David Shanahan.

Squad 'A' - Ian Clayton, Andrew Taylor, Steven McCullagh, Keith Doolan and Geoff Garrett.

M.Acheson

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Pastorate Study Group

Following the Alpha Course last year all the participants got back together and decided it would be great to meet regularly to do some Bible Study in the form of sharing/teaching, as well as have some social activities. We have been enjoying the experience so far but would like to invite anyone who is interested to come along.

We hope in time that the Pastorate will participate in the Mission and Social Action Projects that will be developed in the Parish, help with Alpha courses, and more. Parishes who have started Pastorates found them to be a good way for people to get integrated into the heart of the Church, to build community, to make friends and to have fun. Our Pastorate group is led by the Rector.



At present 12-15 people meet fortnightly (Second and fourth Thursday's of the month) in the Howth Road Primary School.

If you have any questions feel free to approach the Rector or Church Wardens.

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SERVICES FOR MARCH



4th March

8.30 a.m.

10.30 a.m.

Lent 2

Holy Communion

Morning Prayer

7th March

7.30 p.m.

Wednesday

Evening Prayer - Theme: The Lord's Prayer

11th March

8.30 a.m.

10.30 a.m.

Lent 3

Holy Communion

Parish Family Communion

14th March

7.30 p.m.

Wednesday

Compline - Theme: The Nicene Creed

18th March

8.30 a.m.

10.30 a.m.

Mothering Sunday

Holy Communion

All-Age Worship with Holy Baptism

21st March

7.30 p.m.

Wednesday

A Late Evening Office - Theme: The Decalogue

25th March

8.30 a.m.

10.30 a.m.

Passion Sunday

Holy Communion

Parish Family Communion with Holy Baptism and Easter Vestry

28th March

7.30 p.m.

Wednesday

A Service of the Word for Evening:
Theme: The Beatitudes

Scripture Readings for March

4th March

Lent 2

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27

Philippians 3: 17- 4: 1

Luke 13: 31-end

11th March

Lent 3

Isaiah 55: 1-9

Psalms 63: 1-9

I Corinthians 10: 1-13

Luke 13: 1-9

18th March

Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2: 1-10

Psalms 34: 11-20

Colossians 3: 12-17

Luke 2: 33-35

25th March

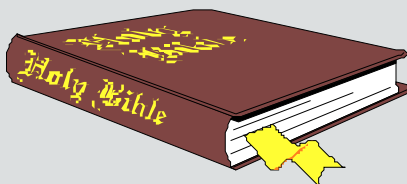
Passion Sunday

Isaiah 43: 16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3: 4b-14

John 12: 1-8



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Youth News

Clontarf Parish have 3 very active Youth Groups catering for ages from 4 right up to 18. The three groups are divided up into:

The Klub which is for 4-8 year olds. The Klub are an active bunch who meet weekly on Wednesdays from 4.00 — 5.00p.m. The group do Arts & Crafts, Memory Verses, Bible Stories, Cooking & Seeing, as well as Sports & Games. This is a great group and new members are always welcome!

Wired is the group for 9-11 year olds. They meet from 6.00 — 7.00p.m. every Saturday. This group enjoys sports, discussions about faith and how that works in everyday life. Also outings including Bowling, Ice Skating and the Cinema. This is a group full of enthusiasm and activity. Again new members are more than welcome.

Connect is the biggest of the groups and caters for 12+. This group again meets on Saturdays from 7.30 — 9.30. This group join in discussions and debates about life, relationships and school, image and identity. This group

has been built almost entirely on relationships and is a friendly group who are welcoming and enthusiastic about exploring and learning more about our faith, God and life and how they all combine.

For more information please contact me on 0868827258

Post Confirmation Group

One of the more unique things in Clontarf is the Post Confirmation Group. In an effort to avoid the traditional loss of young people after Confirmation, Clontarf have set up a Bible Study based group which is held on the last Sunday of the month during the Sunday Service. Then onto a local restaurant for breakfast after the Service for discussion.

This Group is open to anyone who has been confirmed in the past three years, or is of the age for Confirmation but hasn't made it yet.

The Group use a book called Fuel a resource book which is used to explore the relevance of the Bible and how to learn from the ancient Bible Stories.

S Connolly

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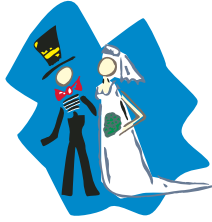


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Marriage Register

Mathieu Terzi and Sandra Burtenshaw — 10th February 2007



Baptismal Register

Rian Patrick O'Reilly – 11th February 2007
Matthew Charles McHugh – 18th February 2007

from left:
Melanie McHugh,
the Rector,
Eamonn McHugh &
Matthew Charles



Sunday Club

11th March 2007 Sunday School Society's table quiz — 'Brainarama' - We are hoping to put a team or two together to take part on the 11th March 2007 from 3.00 — 5.00p.m. We have had teams taking part for the last few years and it is always good fun.

Appeal to parents — We will need a few parents to come across to the quiz in St. Andrew's College, Booterstown, with new car seat laws in place (Anyone below 12 years of age must have the appropriate booster seats). Full details will be issued on 4th March.

For Palm Sunday (1st April) we will be meeting in the Creche Room under the Rectory. We are hoping to do some Art or Craft work. We will then be going into Church to distribute the Palms to everyone in church.

MARCH SCHEDULE

4th	Sunday Club (Belgrove Hall)	Morning Prayer
11th	Sunday Club (Belgrove Hall)	Holy Communion
18th	None	All Age Worship with Baptism
25th	Sunday Club (Belgrove Hall)	Holy Communion with Baptism and Vestry

APRIL SCHEDULE

1st	Sunday Club (Creche Room)	Palm Sunday Service of the Word
8th	Easter Day	Parish Family Communion with Holy Baptism
15th	None	Morning Prayer
22nd	Sunday Club (Belgrove Hall)	Morning Prayer
29th	Sunday Club (Belgrove Hall)	Service of the Word

J. Acheson

Parish Fund Raising Group Update

Due to a double booking at Clontarf Castle in March the Parish Fashion Show has been moved to May 14th (same venue at 8.00p.m). In some ways this is possibly a better date for the show as I am told that retailers are keen to promote Wedding outfits and Summer wear at this time.

With the milder weather in mid May we are hoping for a really great turnout on the night. We have a big line up of retailers and I believe that with the support of our parishioners and the support of our good friends in the wider community we have the potential for a successful and highly enjoyable evening.

The Stepping Stones Appeal has been a great success but we are aware that a number of people still wish to buy a Stone but haven't yet had a chance to do so. With this in mind we are sending out more forms and we would ask that if you haven't subscribed already that you will take this opportunity to support the work of the parish and to mark the significance of the new Parish Centre being built. This after all is the most significant building the parish has built since the Parish Church was built in the 1860s.

Nearly 150 years after the church was built we are making a bold and confident statement about the future—truly a remarkable event which must be marked. You can do this by having your name, those of family members and friends both living and deceased entered into the book of record by purchasing a Stepping Stone(s) for each name you wish to record. Of course you can also purchase a Stone(s) anonymously if you so wish. The book of record will then be held for posterity in the Parish Centre.

Please don't miss the appeal by letting time run out — it marks a special development in our parish life and the funds will provide vital support for the increasing work of the parish.

J. Patten

Clontarf Parish Fund Raising Group



Reflection

That scriptural number “40” is again on the cards. It recurs in both the Old and New Testaments. In both, it applies to a wilderness experience and our focus is now on Lent, that unique forty days of fasting and temptation endured by our Saviour. We remember how He turned the trial into a triumph.

Vivid are the memories of our childhood disciplines — no sweets, no biscuits, no sugar in our tea! If we lasted the distance, we felt like heroes. At the end of this “martyrdom”, loomed like a mirage the chocolate feast on Easter Sunday! When we matured, we realised that deeds of commission rather than omission could have had infinitely more value! By comparison with the childhood discipline and its Easter Egg reward, we focus on the contrasting experience of Jesus. Our intents even in adulthood, however sincere during Lent, hardly merit mention when one reads and digests Christ’s wilderness experience, alone and in a death or life battle for us all, against the enemy of our souls. And at the end of the trial, awaited for Him the cross of Calvary, thankfully followed by the ultimate triumph of His rising from the dead on Easter Sunday.

We have the glorious promise as Christians, that “because He lives, we shall live also”. There is a hymn whose verses end with the words “Hallelujah, what a Saviour”! In pondering on the forty days of Lent, our emphasis must be on our Lord’s experience and His purpose therein for us. We must surely be lost in wonder. Today, a popular expression is “awesome” — in its pure and true meaning, we apply this word to our Lord’s trial and triumph.

A Maharry

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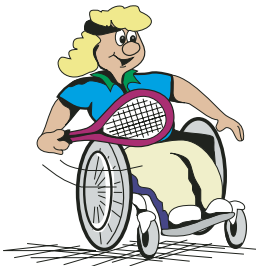
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BADMINTON CLUB: Mrs. P. Watts (832 6078)

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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
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MOTHERS UNION: Mrs. I. Acheson (833 8288)

SUNDAY CLUB: Mrs. J. Acheson (831 8645)

POST-CONFIRMATION GROUP: Susan Connolly
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