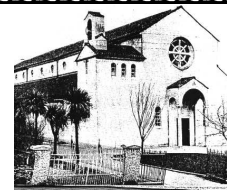


# St. Brigid's Parish, Killester

## NEWSLETTER

### MARCH 2010



#### NEW BEGINNINGS

Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write this I am conscious that I am privileged to join the long list of Fr. Michaels who have been appointed to serve as Curate in St. Brigid's.

At the outset I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome that has been extended to me; I already feel very much at home. When I left St. Paul's secondary school 20 years ago this year I certainly never thought I would end up a priest just up the road - the ways of God are indeed mysterious!

I come here among you following a very interesting chapter in my life. When I was a boy I knew I wanted to be a priest, but was never sure what kind - Diocesan, Religious, Missionary, or Contemplative. I thought a bit about it and eventually chose the Diocese, thanks to the wonderful priests who served in my home parish of St. Gabriel. I entered Holy Cross College in 1993 and studied there for seven years. During my time there I shared bread with a man who one day would become my boss, Fr. Alex; as I said God's ways are mysterious!!

Since Ordination though the call of deeper contemplation was never too far away. I began to do my annual retreat in Glenstal Abbey, a Benedictine Monastery in County Limerick. As the years passed by my attraction to that way of life grew all the stronger and I began to visit much more frequently. Over more recent years I truly began to discern a possible Monastic Vocation with the help of a Spiritual Director. This all led to me asking the Archbishop for permission to as it were test the spirits. I entered the Abbey in August and spent just under three months living the life of a Novice. I enjoyed the experience immensely but very soon on began to miss my ministry as a Diocesan Priest. I decided then to leave, a decision that was very difficult to arrive at. However I will always carry Glenstal in my heart, and will return there as often as I can. The Abbey is known for its hospitality to guests, and readily accepts people who want a few days away to recharge the batteries or just to enjoy the peace of the Abbey and its extensive grounds. The Abbey has a web site [www.glenstal.org](http://www.glenstal.org). I cannot recommend Glenstal highly enough. All of us today need these places of prayer away from the often chaotic world.

And so after what I have deemed 'a convulsion of the Holy Spirit', I have returned to priestly ministry and am raring to go. I have been very impressed with what I have experienced so far, the great sense of community that is here in Killester, the huge involvement that is so evident, and the great spirit of optimism that is here in abundance. I am in awe of the magnificent Resource Centre and the many volunteers who help to make it such a welcoming place.

I look forward to many years of ministry here among you, all of us sharing the many joys and hopefully few sorrows of life, and ultimately laying our individual brick as we together help to build the New Jerusalem.

*Fr. Michael*

#### The Gospel of St Luke

To mark the Diocesan Year of Evangelisation and as part of our journey through Lent we are happy to offer a series of talks on the Gospel of St Luke. These talks will take place on the Wednesdays of Lent, with the exception of St. Patrick's Day. On the final night Dr. Eileen Kane will reflect with us on St. Luke's Gospel with a slide presentation. The talks will take place in the Board Room of the Resource Centre at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4 <sup>th</sup> March Thursday	Parish Finance Meeting in Resource Centre at 7.30 p.m.
9 <sup>th</sup> March Tuesday	Training Session for Volunteer parents of Confirmation programme in Resource Centre at 7.30 p.m.
11 <sup>th</sup> March Thursday	St. Brigid's Boys' National School First Penance in Parish Church at 7.30 p.m.
16 <sup>th</sup> March Tuesday	Training Session Two for Volunteer parents of Confirmation programme in Resource Centre at 7.30 p.m.
25 <sup>th</sup> March Thursday	St. Brigid's Girls' National School First Penance in Parish Church at 7.30 p.m.

## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – Killester Parish

Accompanied by: Mgr. Alex Stenson - Tuesday 5th to Wednesday 13th October 2010

### **Suggested day-to-day programme:**

**Day 1: Tuesday 5 October:** Depart Dublin via Frankfurt to Tel Aviv. On arrival meet and greet at the airport and transfer to Tiberias for overnight.

**Day 2: Wednesday 6 October :** Commence the day by enjoying a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee. Afterwards visit Capernaum and proceed to Tabgha - visit the site of the Miracle of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes. Continue to the Church of the Primacy of St. Peter (Mensa Christi). Then drive to the Mount of Beatitudes - Site of the Sermon on the Mount. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

**Day 3: Thursday 7 October:** Breakfast at hotel. Drive to Mount Tabor - scene of the Transfiguration and ascend the mountain by taxi. Then onwards to Cana of Galilee - site of the first miracle at the wedding feast. Drive to Nazareth.

Visit the home of the Holy Family, St. Joseph's workshop, the Church of the Annunciation and Mary's Well. Return to Tiberias for dinner and overnight.

**Day 4: Friday 8 October:** Breakfast at hotel. Check out and drive to Yardenit - the Baptismal site on the River Jordan. Continue through the Jordan Valley and onwards to Jerusalem. On arrival enjoy the panoramic view of old and new Jerusalem. Visit the Church of the Ascension, Pater Noster and Dominus Flevit. Afterwards visit the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. Check into hotel in Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

**Day 5: Saturday 9 October:** Breakfast at hotel. Drive to the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu. Visit Schindler's grave. Afterwards visit the Tomb of King David on Mount Zion, the Upper Room and the Dormition Abbey. Visit the Shrine of the Book to see the Dead Sea Scrolls. Continue to Ein Karem – Birthplace of St. John the Baptist – visit the Church of St. John and the Church of the Visitation. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

**Day 6: Sunday 10 October:** Breakfast at hotel. Drive to Bethlehem (10 kms). Visit the Church of the Nativity and the site of the Nativity, the Manger Square and Grotto of St. Jerome. See the Shepherds' Fields. On return journey stop at Haas Promenade to view the Kidron Valley. Dinner at hotel. Optional Holy Hour in the Church of All Nations. Return to hotel for overnight.

**Day 7: Monday 11 October:** Breakfast at hotel. Drive to St. Stephen's Gate. Enter the Old City. Visit the Church of St. Ann and Pool of Bethesda. Proceed to the Chapel of Flagellation. Continue to Lithostrotos, walk along the Via Dolorosa. Visit the Holy Sepulchre. Walk through the Jewish Quarter and the Cardo to the Temple Area. Visit the Western Wall. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

**Day 8: Tuesday 12 October:** Breakfast at hotel. Drive through the Wilderness of Judea bypassing the Inn of the Good Samaritan, along the shores of the Dead Sea to Qumran - site of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Take a dip in the Dead Sea. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

**Day 9: Wednesday 13 October:** Depart to airport in Tel Aviv for your return flight home to Dublin via Frankfurt.

*Further information to follow.*

### **THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

This year prior to the celebration of Holy Week the Church celebrates the great Solemnity of the Annunciation on March 25th. In these days there are repeated calls for the transmission of the Angelus to be removed from our National Airwaves. But what exactly is the Annunciation about? This Feast goes back to the Fourth Century and its central focus is the Incarnation, God becoming one of us. In the Creed at Mass each Sunday we declare our belief that 'Jesus was eternally begotten of the Father and that by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary and was made Man'.

If you ever are privileged to visit Nazareth you will see the following inscription in the grotto of the Virgin: '**Verbum caro hic factum est – Here the Word was made flesh**'. Our salvation depended on the generosity of a young girl who scarcely understood what was being asked of her. Mary was as human as you and me; she had no idea where that "yes" spoken in Nazareth would take her. She got no quick preview of how her life would turn out, nothing about Bethlehem, nothing about how her Son would be the sign that would ultimately be rejected, nothing about the darkness of Calvary as the sun darkened in the sky. Yet as she said her "yes", she put her trust in God and at the moment the Word became flesh in her womb. A modern song sums up the awesome mystery of the Incarnation:

*Mary did you know  
That your baby boy  
Will give sight to a blind man?*

*Mary did you know  
That your baby boy  
Will calm the storm with his hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Has walked where angels trod?*

*When you kiss your little baby  
You've kissed the face of God.*

*The blind will see  
The deaf will hear  
The dead will live again  
The lame will leap  
The dumb will speak  
The praises of the Lamb.*

It is not for nothing then that the Angelus Bells ring out daily and hopefully will continue to ring to remind us to be grateful to God for the gift of his Son Jesus, and to remember also his courageous Mother who is a model for all of us who try to be as open to God as she was.

**Recently deceased - please pray for the souls of:**

Mary Hackett, Maryville Road

Eddie Purcell, Brookwood Rise

Noelle Coughlan, School Avenue

**Baptisms**—We are happy to welcome in to our Christian Community:

Conor Harrington, Ennafort Grove

Dylan O'Connor, Ennafort Road

Baileigh Rock, Abbeyfield

Martha Murphy, Brookwood Road

Mia Chandler, Beaumont

Cillian Costello, St. Brigid's Grove

Sophie Costello, St. Brigid's Grove

Tamsin Connolly-Stevens, Vernon Drive

**Resource Centre News**

The **St. Brigid's Seniors' Club** celebrated its first very successful year, by putting on a comedy presented in the Centre by the Drama Group entitled "Murphy's Hotel", to a packed house on 31<sup>st</sup> January. This show was very well received, and was repeated in the Sacred Heart Residence on 21<sup>st</sup> February with great success. This is a fledgling group and we look forward to great things from them in future - all are local people who enjoy their drama.

Anyone who would like to join the group, in whatever capacity, is most welcome.

**Line Dancing**

A very successful group has started line dancing under the leadership of Maggie Egan and Carol Nash. They have a full class at the moment and there is a waiting list for vacancies.

*Well done Maggie and Carol!*

**Tai Chi**

Tai Chi continues every Thursday, with dedicated participants enjoying it very much.

**Back to Work Course**

The second Back to Work course run by Kevin Sheridan will commence Mid-April. This is an excellent course designed to get people ready for when that job comes up.

This a very supportive, non-judgmental course, designed to give confidence and the right attitude, and is run by a committed professional. It will cost nothing but your time....why not give it a go?

Enroll now. Telephone 087 289 3675.

**Coffee Dock**

Have you been to the Coffee Dock lately? Have you got the wonderful aroma of freshly baked bread and cakes? Well there's a treat in store for you if you haven't. We have a wonderful selection.

You name it, it's there. *Also.....*

**Fair Trade Tea** will be served *free of charge* on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February from 12. p.m. until 1.30 p.m.

**St. Brigid's Parish Shop**

There is now in the Parish Shop a large selection of First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Baptism cards together with a wide range of rosary beads, prayer books and other items associated with these sacraments on display. We also have St Patrick's Day and Easter Cards.

Also in stock is a new CD by **Bryan Hoey** called ``*Just for Today and Always*`` and **Antoinette Heery's** debut CD ``*Memories*``.

So why don't you call into the shop and see this lovely display for yourself before you go anywhere else.

The shop is located at the car park side of the Church.

*All proceeds go to Parish funds.*

**Parish contact details:**

Parish Office Ph. 01 833 2974

Parish email: [killesterparish@eircom.net](mailto:killesterparish@eircom.net)

Parish website: [www.killester.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.killester.dublindiocese.ie)

Resource centre Ph. 01 853 4030

Resource Centre email: [resourcekillester@eircom.net](mailto:resourcekillester@eircom.net)

*You can access the on-line version of this Newsletter on the Parish Website.*



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Irish Dancing Classes Monday and  
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Venue: 126 Abbeyfield  
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