

# Blakestown Parish Messenger

September 2017

St. Mary of the Servants, Blakestown

Issue No. 3

## BLAKESTOWN PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

**We, the Parish Community of St. Mary of the Servants, Blakestown, are committed to working together in providing for our community a sense of Welcome, Belonging, Acceptance, Support, Understanding, Respect and Inclusiveness as we strive to grow in and share the Message of Jesus.**



## Supporting Lives

*A couple of weeks ago while climbing Croagh Patrick I watched with admiration a father and a mother going up the Reek with their small children. The father carried his 3 - year old daughter on his shoulders. The mother carried the baby in a baby-carrier on her back. While observing them, I thought of how the climb was so challenging even for me. The weather was quite cold with intermittent showers and wind. The slippery loose stones of the steep path made the ascend very difficult.*

*However, these unfavourable conditions did not deter that young couple from taking their little ones with them on the hike to the Holy Mountain. If the parents wanted, I am sure, they could have found a number of options for not taking the children up on such an arduous climb. Nevertheless, their decision gave the babies an opportunity to have the fun of trekking and being at the summit of that sacred mountain.*

*In our lives too we may come across situations where we have options to avoid others in order to make our journey*



*easier. I thought of how in our lives we all meet with situations where others may be calling for help to climb the mountains of life and so often we tend to even deliberately avoid them. Are we not all Christians called to help those of our sisters and brothers of our human family who are finding the climb difficult? It may be a family member who seeks understanding, a neighbour who is lonely, a friend who is financially broken, a young person who struggles with addiction or a student who finds learning difficult.*

*A timely help to those in need can often provide them with an opportunity to realise their dreams and come to the summit of God's Holy Mountain.*

*Binoy Mathew SVD*

## We are a Welcoming Parish

Whatever your present status in the Catholic Church, whatever your current family or marital situation, whatever your past or present religious affiliation, whatever your personal history, age, background, race or colour, sexual orientation, whatever your self-esteem...you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected by the Catholic Community of St. Mary of the Servants Blakestown. Welcome to the House of God.

## Priests of the Parish



Fr. George Adzato SVD  
0874504338



Fr. Binoy Mathew SVD  
0871762515

## Welcome to Our Catholic Family

*"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." Galatians 3:27.*



Beau-Ricci Quinn



Eric Huynh



Josh Edmund



Lily Ella O'Sullivan



Mason Kevin Byrne



Zak Russell Hoey

## From Death to New Life

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. Psalm 116:15.*



Bernadette Spence



Margaret Hannon



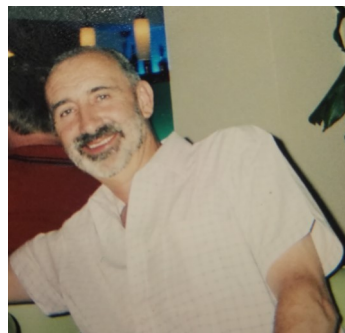
Lee Stephan Kelly



Patrick Brady



Patrick McLaughlin



Patrick Grace



Sharon Mullarney



Walter Herdman

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

## Anniversary Mass of a Loved One

Memory is a powerful thing. It keeps the past alive. The cherished memories of our loved ones who have died are a personal thing and we hold what they meant to us deep within our hearts. So, we are beginning a new initiative at anniversary Masses. We invite you to bring a photograph of the person for whom the Mass will be celebrated. This will be attached to an easel stand beside the sanctuary. A member of the family will be invited to come forward and place a lighted candle in that sacred space in memory of a life gone away but of one who still continues to be a light for us in the presence of God.

## My First Holy Communion

We made our First Holy Communion on Sunday the 7th of May, 2017. It was a lovely sunny day. The Mass was lovely and all of us took an active part in the celebration of the Mass. Fr. Binoy was the Main Celebrant and there were four other Concelebrants. Some of us read the Scriptural Readings; others did other things to make the day really great for us.



We dressed very well and were looking really angelic like angels since we were going to receive the precious Holy Body of Christ. We were prepared inwardly and

outwardly. Since we all had something to do, everyone was very busy. The choir sang really well. It was a great day.

Some of us were presented with awards for making the effort to attend regular Mass.

Since it was a nice day, we went to various places to socialise with our families and friends.

It was really a memorable day. We would like to thank our teachers, the priests of the parish, our families and all the parishioners for making our day successful.

*Sophie McMahon, Hannah Cooney, and Michaela Dawnay.*

## The Anointing of the Sick



The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was administered by Frs. George and Binoy to about thirty parishioners during the noon Mass presided over by

Fr. George on Sunday, 25th June 2017, in a simple, prayerful celebration. After the priests had prayed over the people and anointed them with the Holy Oil of the Sick, the choir sang Hymns like: “Lay your hands gently upon us, let their touch render your peace.....” to implore the grace from above to accomplish the grace of healing because Jesus is the healer of both body and the soul.

Parishioners of an older generation will remember this Sacrament being known as “Extreme Unction”, as it was only given to those at the point of death. Thankfully, since Vatican II, this beautiful Sacrament is available to the sick and the elderly as well as to the dying and all who ask for it. May it bring to all who received it the healing they desire!

## House Blessing

“May it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you; for you, O Lord God, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever”. 2 Samuel 7:29.

There is a very old tradition in Ireland of having your house blessed by a Priest. Fr. Binoy would be very happy to continue this custom for those who request it. Don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office to arrange a suitable date with the Priest. It is a way of thanking God for His protection in the past and asking for His care in the future. Do you remember the old Irish 'Te Deum'? A line that comes to mind is:

“Thanks be to God when our pockets are empty, Thanks be to God when again they o'erflow

## Boiler fund: Let's bring up the heat!

Let's turn up the heat! The church boiler has reached its end of service life and now it has to be replaced. We hope a new system which is more efficient will be installed later this year. The purchase of the new system along with the removal of the old and the installation of the new one will cost around € 20,000. The PPC appeals to your generosity for this special cause. There are different ways through which you may be able to contribute to this fund-raising effort.

- There are “Boiler Fund” marked envelopes available in the parish church.
- If you would like to donate through other means please mark your donations “Boiler Fund”.
- We have introduced a Copper Coin Jar for “Boiler Fund” and it is available in the church during the weekend Masses. If you have copper coins and would like to donate them, you are very welcome.
- If you have any fund raising ideas and would like to volunteer, you are very welcome to contact Fr. Binoy Mathew

Our campaign has reached € 9097.38

## Blessing of Expectant Mothers

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations” Jeremiah 1:5*

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of June at our 10 o'clock Family Mass we held our first special Blessing for Expectant Mothers by Fr. Binoy. This was a special occasion for our 6 mothers and their families. We shared this blessing on Trinity Sunday. A beautiful expectant mother's prayer was eloquently read by one of the mothers to be. This is something we hope to do again in the future and continue as a new tradition in our Church. We wish all the expectant mothers in our Parish and beyond well on their beautiful journey.

God is the giver of life. Life is not the result of chance. Life comes about because God gives it. He grants life to each baby before birth. Your baby has been filled with His gift of life.

## Hosting the Holy Family in Our Homes

Ireland was personally chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families in 2018. Families and others from all over the world will gather in Dublin from 21-26 August 2018. It is important that we prepare ourselves to celebrate this great event undertaking different spiritual exercises in our parish too. This will help us make the Holy Family, the model and example for our Christian families. Keeping this in mind, we have designed a seven day prayer entitled ‘Hosting the Holy Family’ to be prayed by each family.

It is hoped that everyone in the family will pray together these seven days of prayer and reflections in front of the statute of the Holy Family which can be collected from the Parish Church. It is suggested that a candle be lit before prayer begins each day. One person could be the lead-



er. Reading, reflection and prayers could be shared among other family members. The prayers are designed in such a way that they begin on a Sunday and finish on a Saturday. Families are encouraged to take the statue and prayer books home on a Sunday and return them the following Sunday. If you are interested, please book a week when you will be able to host the Holy Family in your home (01 8210874/0871762515/0874504338).

As we prepare ourselves for the World Meeting of Families next year, let us pray to the Holy Family that we will

emulate their holiness in our own families. Our prayers may help us to unite more closely to God and to one another. Let us also pray for all families to be drawn to the truth and peace of Jesus Christ.

**Editorial Board:** This Parish Newsletter is produced by the Parish Pastoral Council.

Susan Fox, Kathryn Coakley, Mary Leigh and Sr. Breda O' Hanrahan SSL

**Design & Layout :** Sr. Gini George SSps

## The World Meeting of Families Comes to Ireland



Ireland was personally chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families from 22 – 26 August 2018. The land from which so many missionaries set forth to bring the light of Christianity to every corner of the world now invites families and individuals from every part of the world to come to Ireland to join us for this amazing event.

### Volunteer for WMOF2018

**We need the support of many generous people, both individuals and groups, to assist us in organising and running this exciting event, welcoming and hosting our national and international guests. Please consider helping us and becoming one of the several thousands of volunteers we need, not only for the actual event but in the office and at various events starting now! All those interested will need to apply and will receive training. Contact us if you think this may interest you and spread the word among your friends and family. Be part of this historic event!**

[www.worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer)

### Amoris: Let's Talk about Family Programme

The WMOF2018 is more than a once-off event. Rather, it is a process by which we can celebrate and explore the riches of the Church's "Gospel of the Family". The "Amoris: Let's Talk about Family" Programme is an interactive multimedia catechetical platform of resources available through our website and a dedicated app.

[www.worldmeeting2018.ie/amoris](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/amoris)

### Tickets, Registration and Accommodation

Visit the ticket section of our website for information on how to register online for the Congress and other events. Additional information and sup-

port is also available to assist with registration, accommodation, tours and transport in Ireland for individuals and groups who wish to be part of WMOF2018 or who wish to extend their stay in Ireland.

Put World Meeting of Families 2018 in your diary and start planning to join us in Dublin, Ireland, from 22 to 26 August 2018. Come on your own, in a group, or with your family!

[www.worldmeeting2018.ie/tickets](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/tickets)

### The event has at its heart three main moments:

Three-day Congress (22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August 2018): a joyful and reflective programme of workshops, talk and discussions; an engaging and exciting programme for young people as well as faith and fun activities for children.

Festival of Families (25<sup>th</sup> August): a special concert style event within a prayerful and joyful atmosphere, in which personal stories of faith will be shared by families representing the continents of the world.

Solemn Eucharistic Celebration (26<sup>th</sup> August) that will gather thousands of people from Ireland and all over the world.

**WMOF2018 will include** exhibitions, cultural events and musical performances, events around the city, gestures of solidarity with those in need, celebrations and much more. The main events of the WMOF2018 will take place in Dublin, at a large conference venue as well as in other venues in and around the city. It is also anticipated that related events, including the hosting of international groups, will take place all over the island of Ireland. Attendance to all events will require tickets and/or registration.

### Contact Us:

General Information, Programming and Exhibition:  
World Meeting of Families 2018

WMOF2018, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre,  
Clonliffe Rd., Dublin 3, Ireland

Tel: +35315676800

Email: [info@worldmeeting2018.ie](mailto:info@worldmeeting2018.ie)

For further information: Visit our website

[www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie)

**Amoris**  
*Let's talk Family! Let's be Family!*

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION? WE NEED YOUR IDEAS!**



*The Parish Pastoral Council wants to hear from you! Please place your suggestions in the “Suggestion Box” placed in our church.*

We want to hear your ideas as to how we can grow as a Parish Community and give back the gifts we have received.

Do you have suggestions for our parish ? Or would you like to give a feedback about a particular event? We would love to hear from you.

Each month suggestions and questions from the "Suggestion Box" will be examined. A representative from the Parish Pastoral Council will compile the comments and present them in a report for discussion at the monthly meetings. Please be as specific as possible in your comments.

If you include your email address we will respond to you. Anonymous comments are accepted. Thank you, the parishioners and friends of St. Mary of the Servants, for all your suggestions and questions.

We want our church to be the best it can be. Your suggestions will help us do that. Thank you for your help!

**“THE MOST WONDERFUL DAY OF THEIR LIVES ARRIVED”.**



The 28 children from the Syro-Malabar Church of Blanchardstown received their First Holy Communion on 29<sup>th</sup> April at St. Mary of the Servants Church, Blakestown. The Syro-Malabar Catholic Church is one of the 22 Eastern Catholic Churches in full communion with Rome, the Pope and it traces its origins back to the St. Thomas, the Apostle, who went to India in 52 AD.

The celebrations began at 2.15pm with lamp lighting

ceremony and the Eucharist was celebrated in the East Syrian Rite with traditional music sung by the church choir. The main celebrant was Mar Jose Puthenveetil, the Auxiliary Bishop of Ernakulam–Angamaly. The children received their training from their Catechism teachers as well as from Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara, Vicar of the Syro-Malabar Church, Blanchardstown.

At the end of the celebration the children received certificates of Papal Blessing and First Holy Communion. There was great excitement all over as they posed for photos with their proud parents to remember the momentous day. The event concluded that evening after the reception at St. Peregrine’s G.A.A club.

The Syro-Malabar Community expresses their sincere thanks to the Parish of St. Mary of the Servants for their support throughout this ceremony.

**Parish Newsletter**

*This Newsletter is produced and circulated by the Catholic Parish of St. Mary of the Servants. While it is primarily intended for our own Catholic Community, we are pleased that many other people and families well beyond our own tradition receive it and find it interesting. We hope it gives offence to none, but should it do so, we offer our sincere apologies. – The Editorial Board*

## Our Outing as Altar Boys and Girls

Our trip to the cinema and McDonald's was really fun and we enjoyed it a lot. We, the altar servers were accompanied by chaperones. We watched a movie entitled 'Fast and Furious 8' which we found amazing. It was a comedy and action film which we would recommend to everyone to watch. We were really delighted and we all had a great evening. We would also like to show much gratitude to the priests in the parish and to Nuala and Emilia who helped with the organisation of the event.

After the movie was over, we went to McDonalds which was also great. We had a fantastic and a lovely evening and really appreciated everyone who helped in the organisation.

*Jayden, Anita Ononikpo, Shanessa Onanikpo*



## A letter of Gratitude from the Sisters of St. Elizabeth, Russia



We, the Sisters of St. Elizabeth are sincerely grateful to you for facilitating the sale of our crafts at your parish on Saturday 20 May, and supporting us in our challenging, yet rewarding social work. We appreciate the hospitality and love that we experienced in your very parish and we always remember you and your flock in our prayers here at the Convent. We also dare hope that we left behind good memories.

The Sisters of our Convent provide spiritual and social help to the sick and the suffering. In fact, since it was founded over 15 years ago, the Convent has been supporting more than 200 orphans with special needs. Our assistance stretches from purchasing diapers for the bedridden children to their rehabilitation and socialization. About ten years ago, the Convent established a Rehab Centre where socially vulnerable and disadvantaged people can find support, spiritual care and shelter. Today, there are about 300 people undergoing rehabilitation at the Centre.

Many of the people working at our workshops are those who lost all hope to realize their potential due to various illnesses. Together with the Sisters, they produce beautiful articles with love and prayer. By joint efforts and thanks to God's abundant mercy we support the ongoing construction of a Christian Primary School, a Church that will be available for patients of the national psychiatric hospital and develop many other charitable projects.

It is truly a blessing for us to receive support from many kind hearted people in Ireland.

Thank you very much for your kindness and support.

## The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism takes place on the last Sunday of every month after 12 o'clock Mass.

There are three steps involved in the preparation for Baptism:

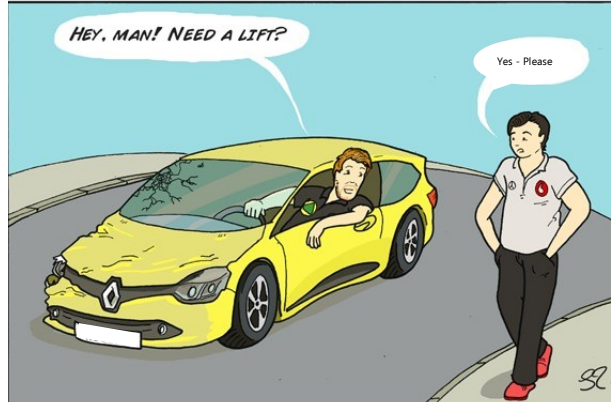
- ◇ Parents request a Baptism form from the Parish Office. When filled in, it is to be returned to the Parish Office at least four weeks before Baptism along with a copy of the child's Birth Certificate.
- ◇ A Preparation Meeting will take place at 8pm on the Wednesday evening prior to the Baptism
- ◇ The child is presented for Baptism by parents, godparents and guests.

Baptismal Team – Tina Bateman, volunteers needed and welcomed.

## Caring and Sharing : Do you need a lift to Mass on Sundays?

Some of our elderly parishioners are finding it difficult to get to Church on Sundays and would appreciate a lift. If you know of anyone in this situation, would you please send his/her name, address and telephone number to one of the priests or to any member of the Parish Pastoral Council.

We will do our best to link you with a volunteer from your area who would be happy to bring you to Mass on Sundays and



bring you home afterwards.

We hope to have our 'Caring and Sharing' project off the ground by early October.

Again, if you would like to be a volunteer to help someone to make it to the Sunday Mass, please leave your name and contact details in the parish office 01 8210874

## First Holy Communion and Confirmation Registration 2017-18

Registration for the preparation of the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation Program 2017-2018 is now taking place in the Parish Church. It is compulsory that parents register with the Parish, if your child/children would like to be part of the preparations.

Registration Form and Information Packets are available from the Parish Office ( 01 8210874/ 0871762515/ 0874504338), if you have not collected them yet.

### Baptismal Teams

Baptism is the first and primary Sacrament of our faith. The celebration of a Baptism is a joyful and special occasion in the life of a family. The Parish wishes to enrich and enhance the celebration of the Sacrament by establishing Baptismal Teams.

The Team assists in the preparation for and celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. Its members represent the Community by welcoming the child to be baptised and their families on their faith journey.

If you are interested in knowing more and getting involved, please contact the Parish Office at 01 8218910/0871762515/0874504338

### Eucharistic Adoration

"It consoles a soul far beyond what the world can offer."  
- St. Alphonsus Ligouri

Coming before the Most Blessed Sacrament for Eucharistic Adoration enlightens us to our many faults and heals them. Speaking specifically of the sin of pride St. Cyril of Alexandria stated: "If the power of pride is swelling up in you, turn to the Eucharist; and that Bread, which is your God humbling and disguising Himself, will teach you humility." St. Cyril of Alexandria

Adoration takes place in the Day Chapel every day from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and every Tuesday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am and from 3.00 pm until 7:00 pm.

Adorers are needed.

## Join the St. Mary of the Servants Choirs



God is blessed when we use our talents to glorify His name. Has he set a fire in your heart? Join us!

The St. Mary of the Servants Children's Choir is made up of young children both in Primary and Secondary Schools. The Choir sings for the 10:00 am Mass every Sunday all through the year. Bring your instrument if you have one.

Rehearsals are on Sundays from 9.30 am until the Mass time at 10 am.

Parent help is greatly appreciated by Choir leaders. If you are interested to be part of the Choir, please come to our Family Mass on Sundays.

The Adult choir which sings at the 12 noon Mass every Sunday would also welcome new members. If interested please come to our Sunday Masses or contact the Parish Office at 01 8218910/0871762515/0874504338.



## Become a St. Mary of the Servants Greeter: A Ministry of Hospitality

St. Mary of the Servants parish is looking for volunteers to welcome visitors and greet parishioners as they enter the Church. If you are someone who likes meeting and talking to new people or are looking for a way to start getting involved, then this role may be perfect for you! The time commitment is minimal, but so important to the spirit of each liturgical gathering.

Your primary role is to be present in the Church entrance fifteen minutes before the Liturgy,

welcoming people before the Mass begins. Join this ministry for a limited time to see if it fits into your schedule and life. Commit to a short time frame beginning in mid-November and ending in February.

Please contact one of the priests, at 01 8210874/0871762515/0874504338 if you are interested in becoming a member of the 'Welcoming Team'.



## Why do Catholics do that?

### Why is the Church referred to as “She” or “Her”?

Imagery and symbolism help describe Christ’s relationship to the body of believers known as the Church. For example, the Church is called Christ’s “*pure bride*” (2 Corinthians 11:2). St. John wrote of the Church as the New Jerusalem, “*prepared as a bride adorned for her husband*” (Revelation 21:2). The Church is also a “*mother*”. “Because we receive the life of faith through the Church, she is our mother” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #169). Through Baptism, we become her children.

### St. Mary of the Servants, Blakestown Mass Times

#### **Sunday Vigil Mass:**

07:00 pm Saturday

#### **Sunday Masses:**

10:00 am Family Mass and Children’s Choir

12:00 noon Parish Choir

#### **Daily Masses:**

10:00 am

#### **Holy Days of Obligation**

07:00 pm – Vigil

10:00 am (on the day of Feast)

### Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession

Saturday after 10 am Mass and on request

### Devotions

#### **Morning Prayer of the Church**

Monday to Saturday - 9.45 am

#### **Eucharistic Adoration** - Daily 4.00 to 5.00 pm

On Tuesdays 10.30 am to 11.30 am & 3pm to 7pm

**Devotion to St. Peregrine** - First Monday of the month at 7.30 pm ( Eucharist and blessing with the relic)

**Divine Mercy Holy Hour** - Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 7 - 8 pm

**Holy Rosary** - Wednesday after the Morning Mass

**Alliance of Two Hearts** - First Friday & First Saturday devotion 7pm - 2 am

**Neo-Catechumenate Community Mass** - Saturday 8.30pm

**Legion of Mary meeting & prayer** - Tuesday 11.30 - 12.30

### Celebration of Wedding Anniversaries

All couples celebrating their wedding anniversaries ending in 5 or 0 (eg: 5, 10, 15, 20 etc.) this year are invited to a special Eucharistic celebration on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017 during 12 noon Mass at St. Mary of the Servants, Blakestown. Please give your details to Frs. George or Binoy in Blakestown.



### Welcome to Pauline Morley

The Parish Community extends a very warm welcome to Ms. Pauline Morley, our new Principal at Scoil Mhuire Senior. We wish her very best of Luck.

We thank Ms. Sinead Armstrong for her dedicated years of service as the Principal. We wish her God’s Blessings.

### Welcome to Mr. Mervyn Nutley

The Parish Community extends a warm welcome to Mr. Mervyn Nutley, the Manager of the Blakestown Community Centre. Mervyn is new to the job and the area, and would love to meet and welcome you all to the center.

## Child Protection

### Child Safeguarding Policy Statement

We, in the Parish of Saint Mary of the Servants, Blakestown in the Dublin Diocese, value and encourage the participation of children and young people in all parish activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development. We recognise the dignity and rights of all children and are committed to ensuring their protection.

In keeping with this we will work to do all in our power to create safe environments for children and young people in order to secure their protection and enable their full participation in the life of the Church.

#### *Child protection Contact details*

### Diocesan Child Safeguarding & Protection Service

Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe College, Dublin 3

**+35318360314 Fax: (01)842599**

Email: [cps@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:cps@dublindiocese.ie)

Web: [www.cps.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.cps.dublindiocese.ie)

**Director/Diocesan Designated Person:**

**Andrew Fagan**

General Information:

**Geraldine Tierney or Aileen Byrne: +35318360314**

Towards Healing: Counselling and Support service: [1800 303 416](tel:1800303416)

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre: 1800 77 88 88

Towards Healing: Counselling and Support service: [1800 303 416](tel:1800303416)

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre: 1800 77 88 88

## Forty Hours of Adoration



Last weekend we held 43 hours Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in thanksgiving for the visit of the Centennial Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima to Ireland this year but especially for her visit to Blakestown Church on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Why Eucharistic Adoration in thanksgiving ?



## Al-Anon Meeting

Al-Anon offers understanding and support for families and friends of problem drinkers in an anonymous environment, whether the alcoholic is still drinking or not. This meeting takes place every Monday at 7.30 pm in the presbytery at St. Mary of the Servants, Blakestown.

Jesus gives Himself to us everyday, 365 days a year in the Holy sacrifice of the Mass. Under the humble species of bread and wine Jesus feeds us with His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity so we can live in Him, He can live in us and we can be part of the Mystical body of Christ. In Eucharistic Adoration we visit Jesus, we pay Him homage but most importantly keep Him company. Remember His poignant words to Peter, James and John “could you not watch one hour with me?”.

We have been watching 1 hour every day with Jesus in Blakestown since the papal conclave of March 2013. We have been watching with Jesus in our Divine Mercy devotions every month for years. How appropriate we should watch 43 hours with Him day and night to say “Thank You Jesus for giving Yourself to us and for giving us your beautiful Mother.”

## Annual Memorial Mass

Annual Memorial Mass for the deceased (A Mass of Remembrance will be celebrated on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm for the intention of all the faithful departed. Each year St. Mary of the Servants remembers in a special way those members of our parish community who have died this year by calling out their names. We also remember anyone who has died and acknowledge that many still mourn the death of loved ones and continue to pray on their behalf to our compassionate God. (Please note the 10:00 am morning Mass will still be celebrated.)

## The Story of Blessed Helena Stollenwerk



Helena Stollenwerk, Co-Foundress of the Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Holy Spirit.

It all began with a dream to go to China. Speaking to the parish priest and her mother she was discouraged. She even

looked for a congregation that went to China but found none. When she was 29 years old she went on a pilgrimage and heard about Arnold Janssen and his mission dream which had already come true and two priests had been sent to China. Helena found his address and wrote to him and in 1882 she met him. He was interested in starting a Congregation for Sisters if it was the Will of God. He gave her no hope for the present and only offered her a job as kitchen maid. Helena already trusted this holy man and she felt confident her dream would come true. On the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1882 her parents accompanied her to the Mission House and by 1884 there were four women longing for the foundation of a congregation for sisters. They lived an austere almost monastic life. They had constant work in the kitchen as the number of the seminarians and brothers increased. When brothers took over the kitchen the four women moved into a little old shabby house which the seminarians called 'The Convent of the Three Lindens'. Helena realised that China was too dangerous for women but the Argentinian Mission gave hope for their congregation to be founded.

In 1889 the congregation was founded and the women became postulants. They were its foundation stones, tried and tested in the crucible of waiting. In 1892 Hendrina and fourteen others became novices and Hele-

na was given the name of Maria. Sr Maria became novice directress. Slowly she realised that she was called, but that her way might not necessarily take her to China. She prepared her sisters to go to the missions and led the congregation from 1891-98. Working with Arnold Janssen they prepared the constitutions.

In 1896 Arnold founded a third congregation – Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration. Fr Arnold clearly wanted Sr Maria to be in that new congregation. It was very painful for her but in 1898 she left the missionary sisters and became a novice. By now the missionary sisters were 120 in number. Fr Arnold had thought that Sr Maria would become Superior General of both congregations but it was not to be. Ten months into her noviciate in the Cloistered Branch she became ill and was soon confined to bed. By January there was no hope of recovery and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1900 she died. Her last words were "Jesus for you I live, Jesus for you I die"

Sr. Carmen Lee SSPS

### Parish Social

On Friday, September 29th from 7.00pm-9.00pm. Come & join us for a chat, tea, coffee, or a glass of wine.

### Blakestown Parish

### In Aid of a New Church Boiler

### CAKE SALE



And More .....

On Sunday,

At Blakestown

8 October 2017

Parish Church

From 11 am



### Farewell

We thank Mr. Clinton Maher who served the parishes of Blakestown, Heartstown, Huntstown and Mountview as the Pastoral Worker for the past eight years. As he takes up a new assignment in the Finglas West, we wish him God's blessings and fulfilment in his ministry. Thank you Clinton for your dedicated service to these areas.

The parishes of Blakestown, Heartstown, Huntstown and Mountview welcome Ms. Gertrude Gill who is appointed as the Pastoral Worker for these parishes. We pray that God bless you as you begin a new ministry in this area.

## Fr. Joseph Yang Shuai SVD visits Blakestown Prish



The parishioners of Blakestown were very happy to give a warm welcome to Fr. Joseph Yang Shuai when he visited our parish church on Sunday, 20th August. Fr. Joseph, who comes from China, was ordained on 9th July, 2017 at St. Peter and Paul’s church, Portlaoise. He is a member of the Divine Word Missionary Congregation just like our own Fr. Binoy and Fr. George. He has been studying in Maynooth for the past five years and has really mastered the English language. His next challenge will be to learn Spanish for his mission in Argentina.

Fr. Joseph was the Main Celebrant at both the 10 am Family Mass and 12 noon Mass. Both children and adults responded well to his homilies as he engaged the congregation very well. After each Mass all were delighted to receive individual blessings. This was much appreciated as nowadays we rarely enjoy the privilege of having a newly-ordained priest in our midst.

We are grateful to Fr. Joseph for coming to us and wish him every blessing on the completion of his Scriptural studies in Ireland and on his mission to Argentina. As



Fr. Binoy remarked at the end of the Mass, Fr. Joseph’s coming from China to Ireland and then going on mission to Argentina brings home to us very vividly the universal nature of the Church.

Sr. Breda O’Hanrahan

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Blakestown  
Community Resource Centre Limited

## Blakestown Community Resource Centre

Blakestown Way, Dublin 15, D15 TX62 Phone (01) 820 3096  
Email: [Info@blakestowncrc.com](mailto:Info@blakestowncrc.com) Opening Hours: Mon – Fri 9am – 9pm



*The centre provides a multi-purpose venue suitable for many uses. Some of our regular activities include:*

### **Community Crèche**

*Our crèche offers a quality childcare service, with both free and affordable places currently available for 2017/18. Classes are small and friendly, offering a home from home service for both children and parents.*

### **Community Employment Scheme**

*We have 22 participants at the moment and currently have 3 vacancies. 1 x coffee shop assistant and 2 housekeeping (cleaning positions) Should anyone be interested in applying for these positions they need to check with their local employment office to see if they are eligible. All participants work 19.5 hours per week. Whilst working on the project the participants gain valuable work experience and can avail of some training to assist them in their quest for work.*

### **Blakestown Community Youth Project**

*Open Monday to Friday for 12-18-year-old young people from the greater Blakestown area. Groups range from Youth Cafes, Sports groups, interest based groups and Citizenship/leadership programmes. If you are interested in becoming a member you can contact either Liz Devlin @ 086 8209996 or JK Onwumereh @ 086 1700373.*

### **Sports Hall and Meeting Rooms for Hire**

*The Centre also has an excellent Sports Hall which is used for many activities, football, basketball, gymnastics and keep fit classes and non-sports uses such as Slimming World, meetings etc. We also have two training/meeting rooms available for hire to community/business organisations.*

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