



CONFIRMATION

The FIRE of the Holy Spirit ... or Goodbye Catholic Church?



A few years ago Bishop Bill Murphy of Kerry wondered aloud about our approach in Ireland to the Sacrament of Confirmation. Speaking at a Confirmation ceremony he questioned what kind of connection (if any) exists between what we say Confirmation is, and what, in practice, we believe Confirmation is. Answering his own question he put it this way:

- i) That what we say Confirmation is involves 'confirming' that we want to bring and use our gifts — given us by the Holy Spirit — for the benefit of our parish. This is so that, together, all of us help build up the Kingdom of God among us.
- ii) That what (in practice) we believe Confirmation is involves marking the end, for many, of any meaningful attachment to the Church. It is 'a church leaving sacrament', or the 'sacrament of retirement' from the church.
- iii) There is a third option — which involves seeing our faith as important, but also seeing it as mainly a private affair. This understanding suggests that there are gifts among us — given us by the Holy Spirit — for the benefit of our parish, that are not being used as they might.

The popularity of this third option is very understandable. Traditionally Irish Catholicism was experienced as a 'provided-for' church where the clergy did everything. And so, not encouraged to become involved, the idea of faith as a private devotion became widespread. Indeed, this is how another Irish bishop, Willie Walsh, put it:

I am deeply aware of criticism of bishops and priests when we speak of the need of lay involvement. People have a sense that we were not that eager to give way in the past. I know in my heart that when we had a plentiful supply of priests we neither allowed nor encouraged people to take on their rightful role in the life of the Church. Today's shortage of priests has created a "needs must" situation and people are not slow in pointing this out to us. As a bishop and priest I acknowledge our past mistakes and I humbly invite you to answer our shared calling to do God's work together.



The challenge for each parish is to live in option one, 'confirming' that we want to bring and use our gifts. This is the parish where the Holy Spirit is alive (Romans 8), and so it is the parish that is vibrant, and prophetic, and energising. It is the parish where the gifts of each one are offered and acknowledged and used, for the benefit of each one. Pope Francis has spoken often on this — encouraging every gift to be used in the building up of the Kingdom of God among us. Of course he is not the first ... This is how the early Church figured it: (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

We're
ALIVE
with the FIRE
of the HOLY
SPIRIT



Here in Celbridge & Straffan, as the biggest parish (of the 199) in the Archdiocese of Dublin, we have huge needs but also huge opportunities. We need the gifts of each one of us — given us by the Holy Spirit — to be used for the benefit of our parish. May the Spirit of the Living God show us the way.

More next week ...

Parish Team

- Fr. Paul Taylor P.P. tel 6275874
- Fr. Kevin Doherty C.C. tel: 5031429
- Fr. Brian McKittrick C.C. tel: 6288827
- Fr. Douglas Zaggi P.C. tel: 6012303

Parish Office 01 6288827 Office hours Mon - Fri 9am - 3.30pm.

Sacristy 01 6275942 10am -11am

Information about Baptisms please ring 085 8519110

email celbridgeparishoffice@gmail.com

Parish website: www.celstra.ie

Weekend Mass Intentions:

St Brigid's Church:

Saturday 6pm Kathleen Keegan

Sunday 11am Thomas Donovan

St. Patrick's Church:

Saturday

6.30pm: Mary O'Shea (m.m.)

Sunday

8.30am: Mollie & Andrew Clarke

9.30am: Sr. Maeve McDevitt (m.m.)

11am: Frances Fitzharris

12.30pm: Thomas & Kathleen Cummins

7pm: John & Josephine Swift, Christy & Lucy Keogh

PLANNED GIVING: Weekly Envelope Collection:

€1,946.95 Your continued support is very much appreciated. Thanks also to the collectors.

ENROLMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2014 will take place in

the following schools on **Wed 5th Thurs 6th February**

10am – 1pm. Scoil Bríd, Scoil Na Mainistreach,

Scoil Mochua, St. Patrick's.

Please bring the following documentation: Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, Current Utility Bill.

Baptismal Certs: If your child was baptised in our Parish and you require a Baptismal Certificate please **text parents' names, name of child and child's date of birth to 085-7021882.**

Family Blessing Prayer of Saint Brigid

- The Peace of the Father be with you,
- The Peace of Christ be with you,
- The Peace of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- Always, each and every day and night.
- Amen.

- Síocháin an Athar libh,
- Síocháin Chríost libh,
- Síocháin an Spioraid libh,
- Gach lá agus oíche.
- Amen.



Weekday Mass Intentions

Mon 3rd 10am Margaret & Elizabeth Bolger **7pm** Peter Kelly

Tues 4th 10am Patrick Cummins **7pm** Maura Doyle

Wed 5th 10am Special Intention **7pm** Pat & Allie Cornally

Thur 6th 10am Patrick Campion **7pm** Johnny Murphy

Fri 7th 10am Altar List **7pm** Altar List

Sat 8th 10am Patrick Dempsey

The ANNUAL COLLECTION of ACCORD, The Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be made at all Masses on the weekend of 15th/16th February 2014 The Collection for ACCORD will replace the usual Share Collection.

We pray for the Children receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in the coming weeks, that the Holy Spirit will give them wisdom, courage and confidence to fulfil their Christian calling. Confirmations will take place in the parish on the 10th, 11th, 13th, 14th February 2014.

22nd World Day of the Sick - 8th /9th February 2014

On 13 May 1992, a number of years following an assassination attempt on his life that led to a time of suffering and the experience of being seriously ill in hospital, Blessed John Paul II launched a World Day of the Sick, which coincides each year in the Church across the world with the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11 February. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued this special World Day - an occasion during which the whole Church bears witness with special concern to the tender mercy and love of God towards all who suffer.

It is a time to pause and be prayerfully in solidarity with the sick and with all who care for the sick. The themes of the letters for the World Day of the Sick from the Holy Fathers are included as these pages follow the twenty-two years of this celebration.

On the occasion of the Archdiocese of Dublin celebrating the 22nd Anniversary of World Day of the Sick, this Prayer Book, in the spirit of its title - the words of Psalm 90, 'I am with you' - offers prayers and reflections which are person-centred for those giving and receiving care - praying as we experience illness and as we care for the sick and suffering.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for us.
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us.
Blessed Joseph her Spouse, Pray for us.

The World Day of the Sick Prayer Book 'I Am With You' of use for the sick and carers and for personal prayer in parish - at home, in hospital and healthcare facilities ... are available from the bookstand at the back left hand side of the Church at a cost of €4.