



**Our Parish Rejoices
and Celebrates!**

Be sealed with the GIFT of the HOLY SPIRIT



Our Parish celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation this week. On Monday, our Candidates from Straffan will be confirming their readiness to be active members of our faith Community, in response to the call of the Holy Spirit. Following that, our Candidates from Celbridge will confirm their desire and readiness to act as disciples of our Lord Jesus. This will occur on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

At this time we think of all our Candidates who will be confirmed. They have prepared well to take on this responsibility among us. They have completed our parish preparation programme *You Shall be my Witnesses*. We thank them for this, and the spirit they brought to their participation in the programme. As a parish we also owe a debt of thanks to the parents and other leaders (especially students from TY in St Wolstans), who facilitated the Candidates on this journey.

Confirmation — The Old Milking Stool

In the past, occasions such as 'Confirmation' (or Holy Communion, or Baptism) were seen really as private events — not really connected with those outside of the family. While the celebration of these sacraments are still a time for families to gather and celebrate, we no longer understand them as private events only. Today we see them as times of celebration and joy for our whole parish community — because it is from our Parish Family that the Candidates come, and into our Parish Family that the Holy Spirit is giving the immensity of gifts that the Candidates are 'confirming' they want to use.

An image that might help us understand this 'new' (but, in fact, really old) approach to Confirmation is the milking stool. The three legs of the stool represent the three 'legs' of our parish family where these girls and boys come to know about the love that Jesus has for them.



1. There is the leg of the family home. It is here, in every way that is possible, they come to know that they are loved more than life itself. And, as St John reminds us: *Whoever abides in love, abides in God* (1 John 4:16).

2. There is the leg of the school community. It is here they learn, in a very special way, about the story of Jesus. We are truly thankful in our parish for the dedication of our schools and teachers to this.

3. There is the leg of our parish community. It is here that they gather at Sunday Mass with all of us — as one parish family, as the Body of Christ. We gather to give praise, to celebrate, to be nourished by Word and Sacrament, and to be sent to give witness to the life and love of Jesus in our lives.

Not too many of us would try to sit on a stool where one or two of the legs are missing — the balance would be all wrong! So it is with our parish family. If one or two of the legs are missing then it doesn't really work. The dream that the Holy Spirit has for us in Celbridge and Straffan is not being responded to as it might.

Benediction

May the Spirit of the Living God be with our Candidates this week. We thank them for the joy they have brought us by 'confirming' they want to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit among us. We thank their families and rejoice with them. And may we, as their parish Family make them always welcome — and know that each one has been anointed by the Holy Spirit to tell us something about God we did not already know!

More next week ...



**We're ALIVE
With the FIRE
of the HOLY SPIRIT**

Weekend Mass Intentions:

St Brigid's Church:

Saturday 6pm Maureen Hanan

Sunday 11am Harry Pedreschi

St. Patrick's Church:

Saturday

6.30pm: Ann O'Brien (m m.)

Sunday

8.30am: Patricia & Mary Bermingham

9.30am: Mary Kirby

11am: Pauline Farrell

12.30pm: Marge Feehan, Jane Harte

7pm: Christopher Bridget, & Donagh Holt.

**Wellsprings - Holy Faith Convent
UNDERSTANDING THE MASS**

A 4 week course on the Mass

Mondays 7.45 -9.15 p.m.

Dates: 17th, 24th February, 3rd, 10th March

Presented by: Sr. Olive Cullen, PhD (Theology)

Cost: 4 nights 20 EURO

Next TAIZE PRAYER,
28th February, 8 p.m.

We pray for the Children receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this week, that the Holy Spirit will give them wisdom, courage and confidence to fulfil their Christian calling.

Confirmations will take place for:

Scoil Naomh Bhríde Straffan on Monday 10th

Scoil Bríd & The Children's Ark on Tuesday 11th

Scoil Mochua & St. Patrick's on Thursday 13th and

Scoil Ná Mainistreach on Friday 14th February.

TEA, ANYONE?

Calling all 10 am weekday Mass attenders

By any standards our parish family is truly blessed by the many of our members who attend weekday Mass. It is a wonderful grace inspired by the Holy Spirit among us. But ... is there more we could do? For example, what about this? One of the lessons we learn from the life of Jesus is how important hospitality is to him. Much of what Jesus teaches happens when he is sitting at table with people. Obviously, the Last Supper comes to mind, but there are many others

- ◆ For example we see Jesus eating with Levi, the sinner, and his friends!
- ◆ There is the famous story of Zacchaeus, to whom he brings liberation.
- ◆ At table Jesus reminds us how we often have things in the wrong order (when he washes feet he teaches that leadership is about the ability to serve).
- ◆ Then there is the scandal of the woman who washes his feet when he is at lunch with Simon the Pharisee (and how Jesus contrasts the attitude of love with the blindness of Simon).

And there are many more. So, learning from this, we are hoping to do some table hospitality of our own. Starting on **Wednesday, 19th February** (and Wednesdays after that), after 10 am Mass, there will be a cup of tea offered in the back sacristy. This will be a chance to meet with others who come to the Mass. There will even be biscuits! Everyone is welcome.



Weekday Mass Intentions

Mon 10th 10am Annie, Dick, Paddy & Peggy Bolger, Brendan Hannigan

7pm Patrick Swayne

Tues 11th 10am Sean O'Connor

7pm Joseph Thornton

Wed 12th 10am Patrick, Brigid & John White

7pm Fidelma Concannon

Thur 13th 10am Brian Blackwell

7pm Jack & Anne Daly

Fri 14th 10am Marie & Paddy Harnett

7pm Mick Reidy

Sat 8th 10am Special intention

PLANNED GIVING: Weekly Envelope Collection: €1,862.03 Your continued support is very much appreciated. Thanks also to the collectors.

Copies of the Tablet and other Catholic papers and booklets are all to be found in the area to the right of the statue of St. Therese of Lisieux. Catholic papers and periodicals can both inform and nourish us with a different perspective to that found in the secular papers.

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.

The Collection for ACCORD replaces the usual Share Collection.

22nd World Day of the Sick - 11th February 2014

The theme this year is *Faith and Charity: "We ought to lay down our lives for one another"* (1 Jn 3:16). When we draw near with tender love to those in need of care, we bring hope and God's smile to the contradictions of the world. When generous devotion to others becomes the hallmark of our actions, we give way to the Heart of Christ and bask in its warmth, and thus contribute to the coming of God's Kingdom.

'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.