



The Catholic Parish  
of  
Celbridge  
and  
Straffan



**Funeral Ministry Team**

The training of the Funeral Team has now been completed. We now hope to induction each of them in their chosen ministry on Sunday 14th June at 9.30am, 12.30pm in St. Patrick's Church, Celbridge and at the 11am Mass in St. Brigid's Church, Straffan. We pray as they being this new endeavour in there ministry and that we as a Parish continue to pray for them and support them

We are aware that this pastoral service to the Parish requires sensitivity and commitment and we thank the team for accepting this role.

**Crosscare Youth Services**

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR SUPPORT AT ALL MASSES this WEEKEND

The Annual Collection for CROSSCARE Youth Services - Social Support Agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin will take place at all masses this weekend (23rd & 24th MAY) It will replace the normal SHARE Collection

**Advance notice about forthcoming events**

**Sunday 7th June** at 4.30pm an opportunity to visit the Tea Lane Cemetery and the Ancient Church ruins. There will be a short ecumenical prayer service and blessing of the graves. Organised by the Celbridge Community Council.

**Sunday 14th June** The Cemetery Mass in Donacomper Cemetery at 3.30pm

**Sunday 15th July** The Cemetery Mass in Straffan Cemetery at 8pm

**A Prayer for Exam time.**

Loving God, as I begin this time of exams, I sometimes feel anxious and frustrated. Help me to stay focused and give me a clear mind to perform to the best of my ability. Help me to study with dedication and vigour. Grant me silence so I may process the knowledge I have obtained. Let me sleep peacefully at night so that I am refreshed and renewed for my exams. Be with me, gentle God, during these days. Undoubtedly, there will be moments when I want to quit and give up. Please sustain me, Holy Spirit, guide me through times of trouble. Help me be satisfied with the work I have done, and guide me to where I will be happiest in the future. Amen.

**Fr. Brian will celebrate Mass for Exams students, family and friends on Wednesday 27th May at 7pm in St. Patrick's Church. We pray that God will entrust them with the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and as a Parish we will continue to pray for them at this time.**

**PLANNED GIVING: Weekly Envelope Collection:**

The amount this week €1,507. Thank you for your generosity to the Planned Giving Collection. Thanks also to the collectors.

**Corpus Christi (The Body and Blood of Christ)**

On the feast of Corpus Christi, Saturday the 6th of June, the procession will begin at 5.45pm at the convent behind the Church and process down the convent avenue in the small gate and into the parish Church for the celebration of the Eucharist.

The First Communion children are encouraged to come dressed in their First Communion outfits. Their will be some treats for the Children in the forecourt following Mass.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place immediately after the Mass in St. Patricks Church from 7:45pm until 10pm, ending with Night Prayer and Benediction.

**Weekend Mass Intentions:**

**St Brigid's Church**

**Saturday 6pm:** Special intention

**Sunday 11am:** Nora Blake

**St. Patrick's Church:**

**Saturday**

**6.30pm:** Thomas Walsh

**Sunday**

**8.30am:** Terasa Kennedy

**9.30am:** Tom Kirwan

**11am:** Catherine McGrath

**12.30pm:** The Cushen Family

**4pm:** Filipino Mass

**7pm:** Liam Barnes

**Ecumenical Service at Tea Lane Cemetery**

On Sunday the 7th June at 4.30pm there will be an Ecumenical Service of prayer and thanksgiving in Tea Lane cemetery

**Weekday Mass Intentions**

**Mon 25th 10am** James Kenny, Esther & Frank Kenny, Cora Studley,

Greta Brady

**7pm** Phyllis McMahon

**Tues 26th 10am** Patricia Jennings

**7pm** John & Sheila Flanagan

**Wed 27th 10am** Anne & James Rice

**7pm** Mass for exam students,

Special Intention

**Thur 28th 10am** Kathleen & George Leech, Philomena Horan

Byrne, Marty Maller

**7pm** Maureen

**Fri 29th 10am** Thomas Walsh

**7pm** Bea Pratt

We pray for the children from Scoil Bríd who received their First Holy Community this Saturday. A wonderful day was had by all and we continue to pray for all the kids and their families.

The 71st. Anniversary Mass for the Venerable Edel Quinn will take place in St. Patrick's Church, Celbridge on Sunday 31st. May @ 4p.m. All welcome.

**Sacred Heart Novena**

This Novena is for the nine days leading to the Feast of the Sacred Heart. It begins on Thursday 4th June and finishes on Friday 12 June in St. Patrick's Church after Mass

The novena leaflet will be available at the back of the Church.

**The Holy Spirit Alive in our Parish**

We could not have known when we set out last September what an exciting journey it would turn out to be. Certainly, as a parish, we knew that it would be different, but we also hoped it would be better. And we were right ... it was very different, and much better. But, then again, we couldn't just keep on keeping on, with Confirmation that is. So, we took the first steps in pioneering a new approach to how we prepare our candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation (not just new in Celbridge & Straffan, but anywhere in Ireland)! The reason for this initiative was to respond to the changed culture for faith in Ireland.

Of course, as with anything new there were some potholes and pitfalls along the way – but these were more than overcome by the HUGE generosity of response. So many of our parishioners came forward to be involved. Families really embraced the idea. Our schools joined in the spirit of what we were doing. And as for our Candidates (of whom a lot was asked this year), we are so proud of them and thankful for the spirit with which they responded.

And so today, on this Feast of the Holy Spirit of God, we give thanks for the many blessings this journey has brought to our parish family. Along the way we have encountered many challenges, wonderful surprises, extraordinary generosity, some failures, new lessons, great faith, abundant imagination. We have encountered laughter, joy, hope, courage, wisdom, sacrifice and love. The Spirit of the Living God has truly graced and fed our Community on this journey. As a parish family let us give thanks to those from among us who were the voice and the presence of the Spirit.

**FORMATION DAYS:** To the (almost 100) parishioners who volunteered so generously your time, your spirit and your gifts to these days. as catechists (including the four from our neighbours in Leixlip who came to our aid).

**THE GIFTS AND TALENTS PROJECTS:** This took a lot of imagination (275 Candidates have a lot of gifts and talents)! We had to learn as we went along, and we did. Everything from Trocaire Projects to the Welcoming Ministry (Special mention to Lydia from the Trocaire office in Maynooth), from Fasting Friday to The Great Bake-Off, and Card-making to Good Friday drama. There was the Christmas Nativity Choir and Nativity Play, Altar-Serving and Reading at Mass and, again, to everyone who came forward to help, to coordinate, to take responsibility ... thank you..

All this is part of the journey we made as a parish this year. The main part is bigger – it is about helping bring a change of understanding, so that we can all celebrate and take responsibility for our parish making it truly alive in the Spirit. Hopefully next year we will build on what we have achieved.

Thank you

**Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage**

To help send sick people to Lourdes whose financial circumstances are limited you are invited to become an associate member of the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage by placing an offering in the box provided at the top of the Church and placing your name on the sheet provided.

**The Annual Lourdes Pilgrimage**

will take place from 6th August 2015 (6 nights, full board). Staying at the Hotel Solitude, the all in cost is €759 per person sharing. The fare includes full board, travel insurance and coach links from/to the airport in Lourdes.

Accompanied by **Fr. Brian McKittrick** as spiritual director. Further details from Liam at 0873868959

