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The Schools of the Parish begin their new term on the Feast of the Epiphany January 6th. Our parish has 5 Catholic Schools, Scoil Ná Mainistreach, Principal: Ms. Anne Corrigan, Scoil Bríd, Principal: Delia O'Donnell, St. Patrick's N.S. Principal: Ms. Ann Marie O'Halloran, Scoil Bhríde Straffan, Principal: Mr. Séamus McGowan, Scoil Mochua, Principal Mr. Paul Ryan.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

A Holy Year of Mercy

To mark the Jubilee of Mercy initiated by Pope Francis, on Sunday 20 December Archbishop Diarmuid Martin opened a Door of Mercy at St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Marlborough Street, Dublin. The door chosen by Archbishop Martin [an entrance to the left of the main door on Marlborough Street] leads into an area of the Pro-Cathedral that has two confessionals, a statue memorial to Venerable Matt Talbot, whose life was healed from addiction when he encountered God's mercy. It is Pope Francis' desire that it becomes a "Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instils hope."
When Pope Francis opened the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, he said: "To pass through the Holy Door means to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of them." See more at: <http://www.dublindiocese.ie/archbishop-opens-holy-door-of-mercy>

If you haven't yet collected the free envelope with the logo for the Year of Mercy which you can attach to the car, or put on your hall door they are available at the back of the Church.

Planned giving amount will be given next week

Recently Deceased:

Noel Doolan died peacefully at home after a short illness. His funeral was one of the largest seen in Celbridge in recent years. A Garda Inspector he was due to retire next year and was an esteemed colleague, held in the highest regard by his fellow gardai. He was always quick to do a good turn and was multi-skilled. He will be greatly missed by his wife Mary and his 3 children, his parents, brother and sisters and a wide circle of friends. The world is a poorer place for his passing from us. May he rest in peace.

Madeline Darlington whose funeral took place last Tuesday died suddenly in her home where she lived alone with her husband. She was a strong and single minded woman with a dry sense of humour. Around Celbridge she was well known with her shopping trolley. May she rest in peace.

Parish Pastoral Council: Our New Parish Pastoral Council will have their first meeting on Monday night 4th January at 8pm in the St. Eustace Centre (beneath the Parochial House). We welcome the new members joining the council. The new members are: Helen Boothman, Meg Neville, Pat Sexton, Niall McCusker. They join Sr. Olive, Ciaran Barry and the Priests of the Parish who were on the previous council.

St. Vincent De Paul

The Society of St Vincent de Paul would like to thank parishioners for their extremely generous support for their annual Christmas Appeal and throughout 2015. All funds raised go to those in need in our local community. Conference members wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

Congratulations to the Boys and Girls of 6th class from Straffan school who raised €664.79 (correction from earlier newsletter) for St. Vincent De Paul in their recent cake sale.

Christmas Dues:

Thanks to all parishioners who have returned the Christmas Dues envelopes. The contributions made you, for the support of the priests of the parish is deeply appreciated.

THANK YOU.

Weekend Mass Intentions:

St. Brigid' Church

6pm: Alec & Kathleen Sweeney

11am: Special intention

St. Patrick's Church:

Saturday

6.30pm: Ellen Kelly

Sunday

8.30am: Nancy Fahy

9.30am: Margaret Hill

11am: Janie & Thomas Burke

12.30pm: Dick Lawlor

7pm: Kitty Slaughter

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
WISHING YOU MANY BLESSINGS
FOR 2016**

Mon 4th 10am: Eoghan Kelly

7pm: Laurance & Bridget Bolger

Tues 5th 10am: Noreen Carney, **7pm:** Bridget Doyle,

Months Mind - John Osborne Tuesday 5th January in St. Raphael's at 7pm

Wed 6th 8am Eileen & Henry Gunn **10am:** Poppie Guinan **12pm** PJ O' Sullivan **7pm:** Sean Healy

Thur 7th 10am: John Finan

7pm: Catherine Bell

Fri 8th 10am: Special Intention, David Joyce

7pm: Kevin O'Sullivan

Sat 9th 10am: Louis & Elizabeth Maher

The Feast of the Epiphany is a Holy Day of Obligation and is known as Little Christmas (Nollaig Ná mBan). 'The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his Baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation' **Mass times are as follows: vigil Tuesday 5th - 7pm, Wednesday 6th - 8am, 10am, 12noon, 7pm. Mass in Straffan: Tuesday 6pm Wednesday 10am.** We are having an extra Mass in Celbridge, 12noon. We will assess if that is supported.

BLESSED CHIARA LUCE BADANO



Sometimes we would prefer that our lives be a different story than the one God seems to be writing. In our fragile existence it does not take much to turn a romance into a drama, or an adventure into a tragedy. At a glance, the story of Chiara Badano an only child conceived after eleven years of marriage, who died at age eighteen after a bout with a painful form of bone cancer-looks like an empty tragedy, but not from the perspective of the Divine Author.

Chiara seemed to have everything going for her as a teen. She had a loving, holy family and a rock solid faith that was nurtured by retreats and youth ministry programs. She was popular amongst her friends and was liked by boys. It is not hard to see why. She was beautiful. Chiara loved to hang out in coffee shops. She was great at tennis, swimming, and mountain climbing. Her outgoing personality and adventurous spirit made her dream of becoming a flight attendant. Chiara had a bright life ahead of her. One day while playing tennis, Chiara experienced excruciating pain in her shoulder. Shortly afterwards she was diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma. She watched her bright future slip away. But it is here that the real story of her life begins-the story of heroic virtue. Chiara's joy was explosive and it only increased with her suffering. After one very pain-filled night she said, "I suffered a lot, but my soul was singing." Search online for pictures of her on her death bed. Her eyes look like pools reflecting the glory of heaven. One of her doctors remarked, "Through her smile, and through her eyes

full of light, she showed us that death doesn't exist; only life exists." Cardinal Giovanni Saldarini heard of this amazing teen and visited her in the hospital. Awestruck, he said, "The light in your eyes is splendid. Where does it come from?" Chiara's reply was simple: "I try to love Jesus as much as I can."

Chiara had a profound sense of redemptive suffering. She often repeated the phrase, "If this is what you want, Jesus, so do I!" Like any teenage girl, she loved her hair, but with each lock that fell out she would pray, "For you, Jesus!" She frequently refused morphine, saying, "I want to share as much as possible in His suffering on the cross." During one of her many hospital stays, Chiara took walks with a depressed, drug-dependent girl, despite the pain of walking from the huge growth on her spine. When she was encouraged to stop and rest she said, "I'll have time to rest later." Ever thinking of others, she said, "I have nothing left, but I still have my heart, and with that I can always love." Chiara requested to be buried in a wedding gown. As the end of her short life drew near she told her mother, "When you're getting me ready, Mum, you have to keep saying to yourself, 'Chiara Luce is now seeing Jesus:'"

She died on October 7, 1990. Her parents and friends were with her. Her last words were: "Goodbye. Be happy because I'm happy." Thanks to her local bishop, Chiara was declared a "Servant of God." For anyone wondering if Chiara's cause for canonization was only opened to comfort grieving parents and friends, God recently put his stamp of approval on her story. A young boy in Italy was dying from meningitis. His organs were shutting down. There was no way to save his life. His parents learned of Chiara's story and sought her intercession. He was fully healed. A panel of doctors ruled that there was no medical explanation for this tum of events. On September 25, 2010, she became the first member of Generation X to be beatified! Reflecting on her pending death, Chiara said: "Previously I felt... the most I could do was to let go. Instead, now I feel enfolded in a marvellous plan of God, which is slowly being unveiled to me. The story of our lives with all its riveting twists and painful turns is written by an Author who loves us very much, and for Him, even death is only a comma, not a period. The greatest protagonists in life's story are the saints. They shared the eternal perspective of the Author. That is why not even the most profound pain could take away their hope. Here is to yet another teen saint! "Blessed Chiara Luce Badano, pray for us!"

By Christopher Stefanick

Dear Friends, may no adversity paralyze you. Be afraid neither of the world, nor of the future, nor of your weakness, the Lord has allowed you to live in the moment of history so that, by your faith, His name will continue to resound throughout the world

Pope Emeritus Benedict XV1