



Greater Finglas Parishes

St. Canice, St. Margaret's,
Annunciation, St. Oliver Plunkett's St Finians
Vol 1 April 21st 2024 No. 21 RCN 20016166

The Curates Reflections.

The old saying, 'you can bring a horse to water but you can't make him drink it', it's the same with young people. You can make them go to Church but you can't make them like it. In a conversation with a thirty something man he told me a little about his relationship with the Church. He said, I was one of those teenagers who did not want to go to Church with my parents or at all for that matter. I went to a Catholic school and felt that my once-a-week lesson on the Saints and once a month Mass was all the Church-going I needed. Everyone was nice at the local Church but I didn't want to be there. I wanted to sleep in instead. I had accepted Christ into my life as a child and loved learning about God and reading the Bible when I was younger. But as a teenager whose parents had separated, I was a little annoyed with God about how my life was turning out. I didn't want to go sit in a Church and praise a God who wasn't looking after me. I couldn't focus on the message of God's grace because I was too focused on myself. The rule in our house was as long as I was under roof and still in school, I would go to Church with my parents because they believed it was important. If I spent the night at a friend's house I was expected to go to Mass with them. I didn't dislike anyone in the Church, and in fact I liked the Priest. Later on, when I was struggling with my faith in college, I was able to turn to him and talk through some things. I look at our Church now that I'm grown up, and have two of my own and I see a wonderful Church that presents the gospel and loves people with God's grace. He went on to say, parents with teenagers should be patient with them and wait for the growth you want to see. Give them some space within the boundaries you set, and yes be their authority figure even when they oppose you.

Children and teens don't always know what's best, they will look to their parent figure to tell them what they can and can't do. As a parent you have the choice to say yes or no, but when you say yes or no, you're setting the importance of the topic at hand. If you say no you don't have to go to Church, what your teen hears is, *it's really not that important*. In our Church we baptise infants, and when we do, we make a promise before God to raise these children in the nurturing of their spirit and love of Jesus. I take that to mean that it is my obligation as a Christian, and as a member of the parish community, to be at Mass on Sunday morning. So, it is my responsibility to see to it that my children are in Church. It is also my responsibility to be sensitive and gentle and encouraging. I have to somehow find that fine line of being firm but loving, gentle and kind in that firmness. Again, I am accountable to God for their being there for the nurture and instruction of the things of God on Sunday morning. Looking at parents with their children preparing for First Holy Communion last Sunday and at other times at Mass I see lovely loving people, looking for the best for their children, and rightly so. I was in Saint Margarets last Sunday and even though Mass started late, I won't go into that!, it was a lovely warm atmosphere with the Church full of happy children and parents. I had a reality check during the Mass as I looked round. I need to stop talking in future tenses because as I looked at the children it is clear it means nothing to them. Children live in the present. I often make the mistake of telling the young they are the future. Saying things like that, especially to teenagers makes them think that its no harm to opt out and come back in when the "future" comes, whenever it arrives?.

Today is Vocations Sunday. I like to call it Promotion Sunday because we are to encourage an interest in the young for religious life. As teenagers all sorts is going on in their heads and if not channelled the good stuff can be lost forever. As adults, we have become well-worn as we have faced the demons of desire, disappointment and despair in our own lives. We practice coping strategies and we settle into patterns. The young have it all ahead of them. The Synodal is expected to present great plans for the future of the Church which will encourage the youth to participate more fully in active membership. The Church needs youth to model for adults what it means to be vulnerable, raw and tender. The Church needs reminders that we are called by Christ to be a community of faith that is relevant, authentic and courageously honest. Anything else is unacceptable. We are been waiting for a youth ministry to begin in the parish out of the Synodal.

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4th Sunday of Easter – The Good Shepherd

This Sunday is traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday. When we hear the words 'good shepherd' we think of someone who cares, who looks after the weak, the lost, the lonely. We need good shepherds in every walk of life. In our homes, parents caring for their children; in our schools, teachers who take an interest in the well-being of their pupils; in hospitals, doctors and nurses taking care of patients; in public life, people who care about the welfare of others rather than their own selfish interests; and of course, in the church, we need priests, sisters and parishioners who are willing to give a loving service to all their brothers and sisters.



Let us pray: O God, our Shepherd, you care for your flock, seek out and restore all who have lost their way, that we may all come together into the glory of the Kingdom of your risen Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SR IGNATIUS KELLY

As most people are all now aware, Sr. Ignatius Kelly passed away on 4th April. Sr. Ignatius played a huge role in the Parish of the Annunciation as Parish Sister for many years. When the news came of her passing, as the sadness subsided, many stories came rolling in of her goodness & kindness to others, her empathy that was always shown, but always in the background of those stories was the level of compassion that she held for people. There are so many things that Sr. Ignatius did for our Parish and Community. The brilliant ladies clubs that she formed, her involvement with the Bethany Bereavement group and of course not forgetting the Baptism team to name but a few. We will come together next weekend at both Masses at our Mass centre in St. Fergal's Hall where we will remember Sr. Ignatius in a special way.

All are welcome to attend.

St Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection for the Society of St Vincent de Paul will be taken up after Masses in the St Canices Church this weekend. Thank you for your continued support to those in need.

Heart to Hand Easter food Collection

A note of thanks to all the parishioners who donated food stuffs towards the Heart to Hand food appeal at Easter. The charity could not keep going if they did not have the overwhelming support of all those who gave so generously. Many thanks once again to each and everyone for helping them to continue with their work.

Finglas Tidy Towns Team Dublin Clean-Up

Join us and Clean up April 27th-meeting at the Dick McKee Memorial Finglas Village at 10am

Greater Finglas Parish Day Pilgrimage to Knock

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock, led by Archbishop Farrell, will take place on Saturday, April 27th. Contact Maura Ward <087 655 0633> Bus leaves St Canices Church grounds at 8am Sharp . Spiritual Director Fr. Michael Shiels.

Mass Intentions for St Canices Church

Sat 6pm Annette Howlett: Annie, Tony & Anthony Milling: Abraham Pugh: John O Carroll: Angus McDonnell: Jack Cuffe & Family: Gerard & Frank Brady: Georgina King & Family: George McDonnell: Michael & Mary McGrath: Patrick & Bridget McGrath: Patricia Ellis: Christy Tunnicliffe: Jimmy Duffy: Craig Gifford: - **Months Mind:** Dick Shanley

Sun 11.30 am Joseph Kenny: Danny Kenny: Stanley Cummins: Nuala McQuaid: Anne (Patsy) Thornton: Ann Christie: Christopher Chum Boland: Bridie O Connor: Frank & Josephine Kelly: Thomas & Bridie Mulligan: Thomas & Annie Valentine: Billy Curtis: Recently Deceased: Noel Bradshaw **Months Mind:** James (Joe) Doonan: Daniel Dalton: Sylvia Keogh (also Birthday remembrance)

Mon Special Intention—Get Well

Tues Ann Dunne: Craig Gifford: Fr Gabriel O Dowd

Wed Dominic McDonagh—Anniversary + Birthday

Thur Available for intention: **Fri:** Available for Intention

Sat Available for Intention

St Margarets: Sunday 10am Mary T Doyle—anniversary

Mass Intentions —Annunciation Parish– Finglas West

St. Fergals: Saturday 6.30pm : Veronica Eynaud: Phil McGovern: Willie Boyle: Annie Shiels: Stella Lacey: Mark Sheehan: Eamonn & Phyliss Fannin: Fannin & Gleeson Families: Teresa Kinsella:

Birthday Remembrance: Bernard Dixon

Sunday 10am: Emily O Reilly: Paddy Kiely:

Birthday remembrance : Paddy Shannon



Mass Intentions —Rivermount Parish

St Finians Saturday 5pm : John Sweeney

St Oliver Plunketts: Sunday 11.30am

Months Mind: Carmel Milne: Raymond Lloyd :

Birthday remembrance:

Robert O Neill: Mary Hutchinson

Teresa Devine (a); David & Lisa Lawrence and baby Cindy (intentions



RECENTLY DECEASED

Paul Barnes: Bridget Maher: Rosanna Reilly: Gerard Boyle: Patrick Keenan



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Age Action—Volunteer Tutors needed in Finglas Library for free one-to-one digital literacy classes for older people with basic or no computer/smart device experience. Contact 0818911109 or email volunteering@ageaction.ie