

Ballybrack-Killiney and Loughlinstown Parish Grouping

Newsletter 28th / 29th April 2018

Mass Times

Saturday:

Killiney and Loughlinstown: 6pm

Sunday:

Ballybrack village 10am

Loughlinstown 11am

Ballybrack Church of Apostles 12 noon

Weekdays:

Ballybrack village: **Mon:** 9am; **Wed & Fri:** 10am

Church of Apostles: **Tues & Thurs:** 10am

Loughlinstown: **Tues, Wed, & Fri:** 9am

Pope Francis, *The Joy of Love*, 49-50

Here I would also like to mention the situation of families living in dire poverty and great limitations. The problems faced by poor households are often all the more trying. For example, if a single mother has to raise a child by herself and needs to leave the child alone at home while she goes to work, the child can grow up exposed to all kind of risks and obstacles to personal growth. In such difficult situations of need, the Church must be particularly concerned to offer understanding, comfort and acceptance, rather than imposing straightaway a set of rules that only lead people to feel judged and abandoned by the very Mother called to show them God's mercy. Rather than offering the healing power of grace and the light of the Gospel message, some would "indoctrinate" that message, turning it into "dead stones to be hurled at others".

The responses given to the two pre-synodal consultations spoke of a great variety of situations and the new challenges that they pose. In addition to those already mentioned, many of the respondents pointed to the problems families face in raising children. In many cases, parents come home exhausted, not wanting to talk, and many families no longer even share a common meal. Distractions abound, including an addiction to television. This makes it all the more difficult for parents to hand on the faith to their children. Other responses pointed to the effect of severe stress on families, who often seem more caught up with securing their future than with enjoying the present. This is a broader cultural problem, aggravated by fears about steady employment, finances and the future of children.

Have you registered yet for the **World Meeting of Families** events? You can do so online at www.worldmeeting2018.ie/tickets

Hearty Congratulations to all our children who made their **Confirmations** this week, Scoil Cholmcille on Thursday, and St. John's, St. Columbanus, and Wyvern on Friday. Both ceremonies went very well and the music was fantastic. Special thanks to Mr Boyle, Ms Cody, and Mr McCabe, the school principals, all the teachers and SNAs, and the parents and sponsors. Next week, we have **First Holy Communion** for Scoil Cholmcille on Saturday and St. John's on Sunday.

Well done to Annette McAllister and all the volunteers for doing such a great job on the **Church Lane** last Saturday. Rumour has it that even greater things are planned!

"What's so great about the 8th?". There will be an evening on the upcoming **Referendum** at St. Anne's Church, Shankill, on Wednesday 2nd May at 8pm. Guest Speakers are Niamh Ui Bhriain from the Life Institute; Katie Ascough from the Pro-Life Campaign; and John Waters, writer and journalist. All are welcome.

Our Common Humanity: "The child in the womb has life and potential. However, like all babies, before birth or in the early years, she or he has no choice. Powerless to defend themselves, they rely on the rest of us to protect their lives and vindicate their rights. By using the word 'choice' we need to remember that, for the baby waiting to be born, the choice we make can be a matter of life or death" (from the Statement of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference on the Right to Life of the Unborn Child).

The next **World Youth Day** with Pope Francis will be held in Panama (22nd-27th January 2019). The **WYD pilgrimage** is open to young people aged between 16 and 29. Would anyone be willing to sponsor a young person from Ballybrack-Killiney-Loughlinstown?

The cost of posting hundreds of **acknowledgement letters** for Christmas & Easter Dues, family offering and parish development fund donations is unfortunately proving prohibitive. Our book-keeper, Louisa, has logged all of your donations for which we are very grateful. She has printed most of the acknowledgement letters and they can be collected any time in the sacristy of the church you attend. We are very grateful to you for your kindness and for supporting your parish.

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Moderator: Fr Tom Dalzell. **Co-Parish Priest:** Fr Paul Coyle

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