

Ballybrack-Killiney and Loughlinstown Parish Grouping

Newsletter 3rd / 4th March 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*, 37-38

We have long thought that simply by stressing doctrinal, bioethical and moral issues, without encouraging openness to grace, we were providing sufficient support to families, strengthening the marriage bond and giving meaning to marital life. We find it difficult to present marriage more as a dynamic path to personal development and fulfilment than as a lifelong burden. We also find it hard to make room for the consciences of the faithful, who very often respond as best they can to the Gospel amid their limitations, and are capable of carrying out their own discernment in complex situations. We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them.

We must be grateful that most people do value family relationships that are permanent and marked by mutual respect. They appreciate the Church's efforts to offer guidance and counselling in areas related to growth in love, overcoming conflict and raising children. Many are touched by the power of grace experienced in sacramental Reconciliation and in the Eucharist, grace that helps them face the challenges of marriage and the family. In some countries, especially in various parts of Africa, secularism has not weakened certain traditional values, and marriages forge a strong bond between two wider families, with clearly defined structures for dealing with problems and conflicts. Nowadays we are grateful too for the witness of marriages that have not only proved lasting, but also fruitful and loving. All these factors can inspire a positive and welcoming pastoral approach capable of helping couples to grow in appreciation of the demands of the Gospel. Yet we have often been on the defensive, wasting pastoral energy on denouncing a decadent world without being proactive in proposing ways of finding true happiness. Many people feel that the

Church's message on marriage and the family does not clearly reflect the preaching and attitudes of Jesus, who set forth a demanding ideal yet never failed to show compassion and closeness to the frailty of individuals like the Samaritan woman or the woman caught in adultery.

Many thanks for your generosity to the collection last weekend for the **World Meeting of Families**. We continue our small-group discussions of the *Let's Talk Family, Let's Be Family* film clips on Tuesday evening in Loughlinstown at 7.30pm.

“The Christian message is a message of life. It is about how every human life is a reflection of the very life of God. Each of us is created in the image of God. Catholic teaching clearly affirms that every human life has unique and irreplaceable dignity. Every human life has the right, from its very beginnings, to flourish and develop as God wants it to. Compassion and support for women in difficult situations also belongs to the essence of Catholic teaching. Any society which attempts to define certain lives as being of lesser worth and of lesser protection betrays the common good. All should be equal in the face of the law. That is a fundamental principle of our Constitution – and indeed of democracy – to be maintained and protected” (Archbishop Diarmuid Martin in issue 2 of the “**Choose Life newsletter** of the Catholic Communications Office) at www.chooselife2018.ie

The annual **Quiz Night** in aid of **Carmona Services** (St. John of God, Dun Laoghaire) takes place this Sunday, 4th March, at 8pm in Killiney Castle Hotel. Entrance 10 Euro.

Congratulations to all the children making their **First Confession** in our churches this week: **Scoil Cholmcille** on Wednesday evening and **St. John's** on Thursday evening, both at 7pm.

The Ballybrack-Killiney **Parish Pastoral Council** meets on Friday evening at 7.30pm.

New Rotas for our **Eucharistic Ministers** are available in the sacristies. Ministers will be re-commissioned at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

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

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