

# Autumn Newsletter

2017

October

## Summary

- Meet the new personnel at St Francis Xavier's Gardiner St.
- Explore the Autumn opportunities for training and formation. Kieran O'Mahony is back with two fascinating workshops on Scripture. See the insert to this Newsletter.
- Find out what a LED is and how it's going to change life in this church?

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## Culture Night at St Francis Xavier's Gardiner Street

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, our church opened late for Culture Night. Hundreds of historic buildings all over Dublin were open that evening, because Culture Night has spread all over the city and across the country. This year, Our parish enrolled for the first time. Visitors were given a tour of the church itself (with a lecture about the high altar), followed by a visit to the Ignatian Chapel (where the five Evie Hone windows had just been backlit: they can be seen at night), to the new Prayer Room (with its Harry Clarke window) and the Oisín Kelly statue of Saint Joseph and the Child Jesus (on the Pope Francis Corridor). Denice Doyle, our musical director, played for nearly four hours. Dr. Eileen Kane, art historian, amazed us with her knowledge of our art treas-



ures. We counted 132 visitors, which is a very good total for a first-time venue. Some of the visitors were parishioners; others were people who grew up in the parish, but now live elsewhere; others happened to be passing and noticed the balloons on the railings to ad-

vertise Culture Night, so they came in. Those of us who know the church very well were still surprised at how much we learned about the building and the art. We plan to attract even more visitors next year. Above: Damian Burke, Eileen Kane & Henry Counihan.

## Ploughing Championships

For the third year running the Jesuits have been at the National Ploughing Championships in Scraggan, Co. Offaly. Bl. John Sullivan's Cross was there and many people dropped in to pray, chat and view the stands displaying the work of The Pioneers, the Peter McVerry Trust, Jesuit Schools, the Centre for Faith and Justice, Manresa Spirituality Centre, Mes-

senger Publications and the Mission Office. SFX Parish was represented by Fr. Richard and Fr. Gerry

Left: Fr. P. McVerry & Cecilia West with visitors.



## New to the Parish: Jude Forbi SJ

**Our falling short of perfection should be no excuse; on the contrary, mission is a constant stimulus not to remain mired in mediocrity but to continue growing. The witness of faith that each Christian is called to offer leads us to say with St Paul:**



**'Not that I have already obtained this, or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own' (Phil 3:12-13)**

**Pope Francis in Evangelii Gaudium #121**



My name is Jude Forbi

and I am all the way from the Cameroons in West Africa. I am a Jesuit in formation – a 'baby Jesuit' as a member of the Gospel choir remarked. I will be pursuing studies at DCU. I am deeply delighted to be in Ireland and in spite of the rain and cold weather; I am very much comforted by the warmth, kind-heartedness, and good humor of the people here. Unpredictably, the first

building which I ever stepped foot into, after I landed at Dublin airport on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, was the St. Francis Xavier Church Gardiner Street – *How lovely is this dwelling place of our Lord and his saint the Bl. John Sullivan.* How meaningful that is to me! I look forward to worshipping and serving with you.

## New to the Parish: Fr. Jake Martin SJ

Jake Martin was born on the northside of Chicago, which means he is a big Chicago Cubs baseball fan (World Series Champs 2016!). After finishing university with a degree in Theatre, he worked as a comedian for several years. He entered the Jesuits in 2004 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2015. Jake is a regular contributor to America magazine writing on film and television,

wrote the book *What's So Funny About Faith?* which was published by Loyola Press in 2012, and still performs comedy whenever he gets the chance. Jake has moved to Dublin to begin doctoral work in Film studies at Trinity College, Dublin. He loves everything about Ireland, but most especially the people.



## New to the Parish: Fr. John Bangwe SJ



I am Fr. John M. Bangwe,

SJ; a Jesuit Priest from Zambia/Malawi Province of the Society of Jesus. And, I am a Zambian by nationality. After my priestly ordination on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2017, I was assigned to work at Our Heavenly Father Parish in Chelston, Lusaka, Zambia as Assistant Parish Priest. I am here in Dublin for postgraduate studies in accountancy at Trinity College. I am fascinated by the rich history and culture of the Irish people. I am looking for-

ward to having a wonderful time in this great city. Additionally, I love being present to the needs of the people am ministering to and be able to help whenever I can help. I also find time sharing my faith and experiences in smaller groups such as youth groups or Christian Life Community (CLC) or any other group enriching.

## Autumn Training for Active Members

Following on his very popular series of talks on the Lenten Readings, Augustinian Friar & Scripture scholar **Kieran O'Mahony**, will explore the **writings of St Paul** and the **Gospel of St Mark** over two Saturday mornings, 14th & 28th October. The days will suit participants of all needs and abilities. No prior knowledge or experience needed.

Fr. Kieran will start with basic information and then invite us to get to work on a few texts and follow this practical exposure with a question and answer session.

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) are asked to participate in a **Visioning Morning** with Donal Harrington (author of **Tomorrow's Parish**) on 4th November. It's not limited to members of the PPC and if you think you

could contribute please mention it to the PP.

On Saturday 21st October Colette McCarthy who served on the Fr. John Sullivan Beatification Committee) will guide a tour of **The Places that Blessed John Called Home**, both his home in Dublin city and holiday house in Killiney. The tour will be informative and prayerful.



*If we allow doubts and fears to dampen our courage, instead of being creative we will remain comfortable and make no progress whatsoever. We will not take an active part in historical processes, but become mere onlookers as the Church gradually stagnates.*

Pope Francis EG #129

## Safeguarding



Safeguarding has moved to the top of the agenda of the Parish Pastoral Council as the Parish staff

work to assure our compliance with all relevant legislation.

There will be an extra effort made this Autumn/Winter to ensure that all volunteers and staff are Garda vetted and fulfill all the other requirements necessary. Seamus Buckley has been assigned special responsibility for Garda vetting and will be in touch if you are a volunteer of

any sort in the Church.

We'll complete the process over the next few months.

All clergy, sacristans, volunteers working directly with children and all staff must attend a one-day course in safeguarding. Two options are being offered by Garry Kehoe at Gardiner St: **Saturday 25th November** and **Saturday 9th December 2017**.

## Church Improvements and October Appeal

With a building as beautiful and as old as ours there is always maintenance work to be done.

Panic ensued when it was noticed that paint is peeling from the walls near where they meet the ceiling and we were advised to rope off the shrines to St Brigid and St Francis Xavier. The ropes are still there. Our consultants advise that the sealing of the high windows and inadequate gutter sizing has led to a build up of moisture and a saturation

of the external walls at high level and for this reason we are unsealing these windows and allowing air to circulate in the Church. Combined with the heating this should evaporate off the remaining moisture. But it's going to be a little bit cooler as the air moves through the church.

Meanwhile, as a way of caring more for our common home and reducing electricity bills we are gradually replacing the light bulbs in all the suspended

light fittings in the Church with LED (Light Emitting Diode) Bulbs. It will take some time and will cost about €6,000. This will save a considerable amount of money on power and improve maintenance costs because LED consumes up to 90% less power and has a life of approximately 10 years.

During the month of October we are appealing to our Congregation to contribute to this power-saving, cost reducing and eco-friendly adjustment.



**ST FRANCIS  
XAVIER'S  
GARDINER STREET**

St Francis Xavier's Church  
Gardiner Street Upper  
Dublin  
D01 RK07

Telephone : 01-836 3411  
www.gardinerstparish.ie  
Email : sfx@jesuit.ie

Find us on the web at  
[www.gardinerstparish.ie](http://www.gardinerstparish.ie)

**Parish Team:**

Fr. Gerry Clarke SJ  
(Parish Priest)  
Fr. Richard O'Dwyer SJ  
(Curate)  
Fr. Fergus O'Donoghue SJ  
(Parish Chaplain)  
Fr. Marcin Włodarek SJ  
(Polish Ministry)  
Fr. Dermot Mansfield SJ

**Assistants:**

Fr. Fergus O'Keefe SJ  
Fr. Paul Farquharson SJ  
Fr. Brendan Carmody SJ  
Fr. Peter McVerry SJ

**Liturgy & Volunteering:**  
Mr. Seamus Buckley

**Front Desk:**  
Melanie Fagan, Brandon Ashe &  
Sonia Obregon

**Sacristan:**  
Erika Juskova

**Cleaning:**  
Bernadette Lindsay

## The Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council is composed of Jesuits of the Community of St Francis Xavier who minister in the church, Staff of the parish and invited members of the worshipping community of Gardiner Street each of whom assist in a special ministry of the church.

Our Chair is Michael Moriarty, Secretary Fr. Richard O'Dwyer SJ, Maura Dee looks after our web-presence, Maria Kelly is one of three safeguarding representatives, Seamus Buckley assists with liturgy and volunteers, Mary-Clare Murphy leads us in care for our common home, Jack Sullivan is researching our visioning and planning, Fr. Fergus O'Donoghue links us with the Jesuits of the Jesuit Community and Fr Marcin Włodarek connects us with the lively Polish Community that meets in the church.

We meet about 8 times a year and welcome all suggestions.

## News from the Frontline

After a year away from the Gospel Choir, Louise Foxe returns as Director and brings her immense skill and charisma to this demanding role.

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A Junior Gospel Choir is in formation, based at Larkin Community College and in time hopefully members will join the Senior Choir.

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The summer BBQ was a great success thanks to the Jesuit cooks, Brazilian chefs and the amaz-

ing Jazz Ensemble from the Gospel Choir Band. A second BBQ saw us welcome Magis pilgrims from Glendalough. Led by Niall Leahy SJ, Brendan McManus SJ and Portuguese sisters, a group of weary pilgrims enjoyed an afternoon in the garden and later animated the 6pm Vigil Mass with our resident singer Cathy Keane.

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Meanwhile, the parish welcomes new volunteers for a variety of types of ministry. We welcome new Readers,

Eucharistic Ministers, Welcome Ministers, Choir Members (I lam Choir, Family Mass Choir, Gospel Choir), Church Decorators, people with new ideas or new needs to be met. Contact parish personnel if you feel you could help.

