

Spring Newsletter

2018

February

Summary

- Lent and Easter approach with the call to turn and believe the Good News
- Planning for the future is in the air both at Gardiner Street and for the Jesuits
- Let's not forget those in need and take a Trócaire box

In this edition:

Operation Hole in the Roof 2

Safeguarding 3

New to the Parish 3

Trócaire Appeal 3

Lectio Divina 3

What are the Jesuits up to now? 3

Lent & Easter at Gardiner Street



Inspired by an Autumn course on the **Gospel of Mark** a group listened to a dramatic reading of the entire Gospel of Mark. As Fr. Xavier said in his introduction: "Mark's Gospel is the most action-packed of the 4 Gospels; reporting more of what Jesus did than what he said".

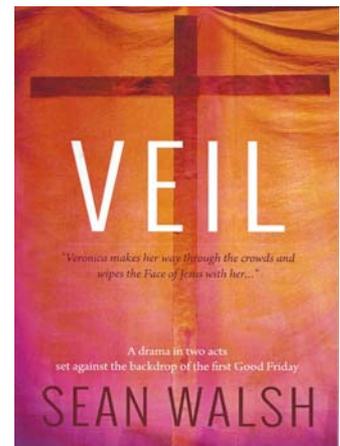


Pope Francis has asked us to be "constantly trained in hearing the word". **Lectio Divina** or "Divine Reading" is a response to this

call. Two groups meet weekly in the parish: Thursday night at 7pm and Sunday night at 6pm. No prior knowledge of the Bible is needed. The group reads the Sunday Gospel

slowly and explores its meaning. Often there are moments of intense quiet as the message sinks slowly in. Consider joining a group this Lent.

Following a very successful production in Holy Week last year, Sean Walsh and his troupe will enact a shortened version of his play "**Veil**" in Holy Week this year. This is a really thought-provoking and reflective way to enter the solemnity of Holy Week.



*This year we would like to promote the **Trócaire Lenten Appeal** with renewed vigour. Kumba's family lost everything to a mudslide in Sierra Leone. Let's not forget people this Lent who have no choice about going without.*

Novena of Grace 4th - 12th March

Fr. Dermot Mansfield SJ who will be giving the Novena of Grace this year writes: "The Novena has been a Dublin experience for over 300 years – the first Novena was given in the little chapel at St Mary's Lane now in Halston Street parish. That was in the year 1712. The first Novena in our own church was in 1831, the year it was opened.

This year the theme will be from the Gospel on Sunday 11th March: "**For God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son.**" St Francis brought the light of that love to the East in his time. And we ourselves today – living with our humanity and faith are letting that divine love shine out into *our* needy world. May the Novena be a strength

and encouragement to all of us in our lives.





"I attach the utmost importance to ensuring the safety and welfare of children in our Diocese and I commit all of our priests and those who work for the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin to the implementation of this policy."

Diarmuid Martin
Archbishop of
Dublin March 2011



Operation Hole in the Roof (continued on back page)

People are watching what we're doing, people of all ages and types, especially children. They are wondering "is this place relevant for me? Are these people going to meet my crying needs right now or will I have to turn somewhere else?" In the Gospel a paralysed man cannot get through to Jesus because of the crowds around the door. He just can't do it. Then his friends break a

hole through the roof and lower him down. Jesus says: "Stand up, take your mat and go to your home."

In churches people find obstacles to reaching Jesus. For example only a small number of children come to Sunday Mass. When we were growing up, we'd meet neighbours in the church. Not now: younger people look around and don't find friends. And people don't understand the

language of the Mass e.g. "consubstantial" in the Creed. At a time when we need fresh language in the liturgy this new orthodox language is alien to our own way of speaking and understanding each other. And then there are at least 5 other churches in the locality: why come to Gardiner Street?



Safeguarding

Thanks to all who have completed the vetting process: filling out forms and going online. Thanks too to Sonia who has been of immense help in getting this done.

To date 44 people have done the full-day training and 78 have completed the 2-hour induction. Many were surprised how worthwhile it was and in every sense the principles and practice of safeguarding are good news for the

parish and for the church. We will continue to offer



training and insist on Garda vetting.

The Safeguarding Policy of the Parish is available on our website and hard copies are accessible in the sacristy, at the front desk and with parish staff.

All new volunteers (readers, ministers of the Eucharist, Collectors, new choir members etc) are required to go through the vetting and training. But please don't let this undermine your generosity. The parish needs your help.

New to the Parish: Matthew Tumulty NSJ

Dia dhaoibh!

My name is Matthew Tumulty, I'm a Jesuit novice studying to become a Catholic priest (something which I wanted to be since I was 8 years old, but God sometimes takes us the scenic route!).

I'm from Galway, though most can't tell by my accent (a souvenir of my childhood – feel free to ask me for the full story), which always has peo-

ple guessing where I'm from and leading to many surprised faces! I worked as an Operations Manager for Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) and prior to that as a Parliamentary Assistant to an Irish Senator before changing track and joining the Jesuits in August 2017.

I am currently on "Experiment" (a term Jesuits use to talk about the various activi-

ties (designed by St. Ignatius) that test a man's vocation throughout the two-year novitiate period) here in the Gardiner St. Parish and with the Peter McVerry Trust, two very different, but inspiring placements.

I look forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks and will keep you in my prayers.

Trócaire Appeal

This year, we're challenging you to give up something for Lent that may prove easy for some... and incredibly difficult for others – social media.

Take part in our Sign Up Sign Out Challenge on 7th March, 2018 and encourage everyone in your school to give up social media for 24 hours. During the time offline, we challenge you to seek sponsorship and organise fundraising events for Trócaire.

Your fundraising will support Trócaire's Lenten campaign, helping people like Kumba (7) and her family, who lost everything following the mudslide in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

We've lots of stuff like stickers, posters, sponsorship cards, t-shirts and wristbands to help with your fundraiser. Some can be downloaded below. Need more info or materials?

Email lauren.lennon@trocaire.org



Don't forget to take your ...

Trocaire Box.

Available at all Masses from the First Sunday of Lent, and available at the front desk or with the parish staff.

Let's not forget Kumba and her family this year.

World Meeting of Families 2018

Parish Conversations is a six-part programme that will be offered at Gardiner Street based on Pope Francis' "The Joy of Love".

Using engaging short videos, animations and activities to encourage discussion, it will offer families, parishes and wider society an opportunity to think about our vision and hopes for family and marriage, and a chance to rediscover the gift that family is to the world.

The programme will also challenge us to reflect on how we can provide greater support for marriage and family in our local communities. In particular, Pope Francis has asked us to think about support for newly married couples and outreach to families in need.

Schedule of Parish Conversations:

13th March: The Reality of Family Life today
20th March: The Christian

Vision for the Family

HOLY WEEK (No session this week)

3rd April: God's Dream for Love

10th April: Married Love growing to Maturity

17th April: God's Mercy – No one excluded

24th April: A Gospel of Hope for our Families



What are the Jesuits up to now?

Every ten years or so Jesuit delegates gather in Rome, in gatherings called General Congregations. In 2016 some 250 gathered for the 36th General Congregation and asked, "What best to do now?" This is the perennial Jesuit question, set first by Ignatius. In the *Spiritual Exercises* he invites us to consider, "What ought I do for Christ?" and we have been asking that question ever since.

What best to do now? This is what is wrapped up in the

term 'discernment'. 'Discernment in Common' or 'Communal Discernment' occurs when, as a group, we try to work out how God wants us to use our resources into the future. What principles should guide us for the next ten years as we try to serve God and the world? How can we play our part in the great ministry of reconciliation which God has entrusted to his people? Arturo Sosa is asking these questions not only of Jesuits but also of

our numerous colleagues, so far as they wish to engage with them.

Our way of proceeding will be to gather as disciples around the Lord and to look together at the current situation of the world and its new challenges. We will listen to one another and to the signs of the times and then in prayerful reflection propose the priorities which we believe are most in tune with God's all-encompassing care for the world of our time.



Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ Superior General of the Jesuits

**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

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: & church cleaning
Erika Juskova

Cleaning:
Bernadette Lindsay

Operation Hole in the Roof (continued)

In 2021 Gardiner Street will be 200 years old so the Parish Pastoral Council has started a year-long process of discernment. We are seeking clues and leads in order to plan for a sustainable future so that, in 2031, there will be a lively catholic Christian community at Gardiner Street continuing to be inspired through the missionary spirit of St Francis Xavier our patron, the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, and the holiness of the Venerable John Sullivan, the saintly healer whose remains are venerated here.

We have seen some of the obstacles but what's equally important are the things that help us (like the friends in the Gospel story). People are crying out for a place that's relevant to their lives. There's a revolution in mindfulness these days: people are seeking stillness. And they want good spiritual formation. Our activities need to be pre-evangelical: meeting people's needs as preparation for the lifegiving message of the Gospel. For this we need to develop new liturgies and opportunities. Research will be important and if we are planning radical change, then careful communication of the plan will be essential.

Let's not forget that people are watching what we're doing, people of all ages and types, especially children.



News from the Frontline

Mass of Thanksgiving for the Beatification of Fr. John Sullivan SJ. At 11am on Saturday 24th February all are invited to join Archbishop Diarmuid Martin in the celebration of a Mass of thanksgiving for the beatification on 13th May 2017 of Fr. John Sullivan. The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin, Rev. Michael Jackson will join the celebration and address the assembly.

Healing Service at Hardwicke Street Community Centre in Lent

As part of ongoing spiritual activities locally Sr Eilis Coe and Christine

Halloran are organising a healing service at Hardwicke Street Community Centre. There will be prayer and a blessing with the Cross of Blessed John Sullivan.

Pope Francis Corridor

The Pope Francis Corridor at Gardiner Street is out of use during the renovation work being carried out. Two neighbouring Jesuit agencies are moving into the basement of the Gardiner Street Church buildings and the parish offices will all be re-located on the Pope Francis Corridor. The costs of renovation are being met by the Jesuit Provincialate.

Repeal of the 8th?

As May approaches parishioners are asking that some opportunities be provided for information and reflection on the proposed change to the Constitution. The parish team is preparing some informative talks as well as some reflective evenings on this issue.

Readers & Ministers of the Eucharist

The parish is in need of new readers and ministers of the Eucharist to reinforce our current teams. Please consider it.