

Ascension Sunday
Love one another
 as I have loved you
John 15:12
17th May 2015

MASS INTENTIONS

- 6:30pm** D'csd members of McKittrick & Hartnett families (A)
9.00am Altar List of the Dead and Intention of all Parishioners
11.00am Jackie & Peggy Kelly (A)
12.30pm Michael Hagan (A)
5.30pm Phyllis Monaghan (3rd A)

PRAY FOR

- Ernie Pawley (A)
 Brendan O'Reilly (MM)
 Mary Howlett (A)
 Marie Smyth (RD)
 Mary Dolan (RD)

MASSES NEXT WEEK 10.00 AM

- Mon:** Thanksgiving Mass
Tues: Patrick, Brigid & Colin Green (A)
Wed: Robert McCourt (A)
Thurs: Martina Harley (A)
Fri: John Markham (A)
Sat: Bernie Maher (nee Fitzpatrick) (A)

CHURCH GATE COLLECTIONS

The upcoming Church Gate Collections are:
 16/17 May – No Collection
 23/24 May – Crosscare

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

- Mon:** 10.30 am – 11.30 am
Wed: 6.00 pm – 11.00 pm
Fri: 10.30 am – 5.45pm
Sat: 10.30am – 11.30am
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on the last Sunday of the month from 4 - 5 pm.

PARISH PASTORAL CENTRE FUND

The total raised for the Parish Pastoral Centre Fund Raising Appeal is to date €19,670.63. Many thanks to all who have kindly contributed.

FAMILY OFFERING

We thank all those parishioners who support the running of the parish through the Parish Family Offering fund. The March standing order figure is €3,794.00. The Weekly Outdoor collection for last week amounted to €702.25 and there were no annuals/half yearly contributions this week. The Family Offering Envelope/Standing Order Collection is the ONLY one which supports the daily running costs of the Parish and the upkeep of the Church. Thank you for your commitment to this collection.

BAPTISMS

The next dates for Baptisms are in JUNE. Please check our website for details.

If you would like to be a part of the Baptism Ministry here in St. Cronan's, please contact any of the Priests in the Parish, a member of the Baptism Team or the Parish Office.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First Holy Communion medals, beads, prayer books, keepsakes, cards etc. available main porch after Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses.

VIATOIRES CHRISTI

Do you want to learn more about the possibility of overseas volunteering and/or training in Overseas Development & Mission? Viatoires Christi (VC) will hold an Information & Recruitment Session on Saturday 23rd May 2015 at 12.00 at VC HQ, 8 New Cabra Road, Phibsboro, Dublin 7 Tel. 01-868 9986 info@viatoireschristi.com www.viatoireschristi.com

IRISH CONVERSATION

SATURDAYS, 11.30 am, CAIFE
 KYLEMORE, PAVILIONS, SWORDS.
 Diarmuid Ó Súilleabháin
 diarmuid.osuilleabhain@gmail.com

EASTER DUES

The Easter Dues Offering envelopes have been delivered with the Easter Card. Together with the First Collection at Mass these contributions are to support Fr. Paul and Fr. Joseph, other priests in the Diocese and those who are sick and retired. We thank those who have returned their offerings and we are very grateful for your commitment and support. Envelopes can be put in the pouches at Mass, the white letter boxes at the doors of the Church or handed into the office.

THE ROSARY

The Rosary Statue was blessed for use in homes of the parish at the October Candlelight Procession. If you would like to pray the rosary and have the statue in your home for a week, or to get more information, please contact a member of Legion of Mary in main porch after Sunday morning Masses.

CHY TAX REFUNDS FOR OUR CHURCH

We would like to thank all those who have returned their CHY tax refund forms for 2014. There are still six forms outstanding. It is not too late to return your form if you have yet to do so. Since January 2013 self-assessed tax payers can no longer claim the tax refund themselves. The refund is now claimed by the Parish for qualifying contributions made by self-assessed parishioners. The CHY tax refunds received play a vital part in the upkeep of our Church. Sincere thanks to all who support the Parish financially. It is very much appreciated.

SWORDS PARISH GROUPING

Swords Parish Grouping Holiday 2015
Monday 29 June – Saturday 4 July
Splendours of Poland
based in Krakow

Cost: €725.00 per person sharing
 Booking and further details at
 Parish Office Tel: (01) 8407277

This holiday is organised by: MAP Travel

FÓROIGE YOUTH CLUB

Fóroige Youth Club in Applewood would like to thank everyone who supported our recent cake sale in BASE. The amount raised was €460.00 and is gratefully appreciated.

FINGAL COUNSELLING SERVICE

Fingal Counselling Service Training Course in Humanistic Counselling 3 ½ years part-time course Wednesday Mornings Commencing September 2015. This course is IACP recognized. For Application Form and Course details contact: Fingal Counselling Service, BASE Resource Centre Brackenstown, Swords, Co. Dublin Phone: 8902596 Or Email fcsdenise@yahoo.ie.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

“Mary, Role Model for Mothers” is the title of the Patrician Meeting on **Thursday next, 21st May, at 8:00pm in the Parish Meeting Room.** How do you think today's young mothers relate to Our Lady? Why not come to the meeting and hear some points of view? *Everybody most welcome.* Spiritual Director will speak on the the subject.

EMMANUEL HOUSE

There will be a bus leaving from the Star in Swords on Pentecost Sunday 24th May at 8a.m. to Eddie Stones, Clonfert for a day of prayer. Contact Nora Griffin at Tel. No. 8404247.

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WORLD YOUTH DAY

World Youth Day will be held in Krakow, Poland July 25 – 31, 2016. It is a gathering of young people from all around the world to celebrate their faith together with Pope Francis. It is a great experience for young people and gives a real experience of the joy and relevance of our faith. There will be a group travelling from Dublin and as a Parish we are inviting any young person who is interested in going to please talk to Fr. Paul or look at the information on the Parish Website. The age group is from 16 to 26. There will be preparation and information over the months ahead. It is a great event. Please think about being a part of it.

FINGAL COUNSELLING SERVICE – CONGRATULATIONS!

This year the Fingal Counselling Service in BASE celebrates its twentieth anniversary. Over the years it has been involved in training many counselors and also in providing a life line to people at very difficult moments in their lives. In their awareness of the changing needs of people they have adapted and grown their services.

In their celebration booklet Therese Dormer recalls the beginnings “in 1994 BASE was awarded a grant of £20,000.00 by the Dept. of Social Welfare. After much discussion, and being aware of a number of young men who had tragically lost their lives in the community, the BASE committee decided to use the funds to establish a counseling course in order to help those troubled and bereaved.” From the same booklet Sr. Ellen recalls “Fingal Counselling Service is good news. It was born out of an idea, a dream and a begging bowl! Fingal counselors believe that it is never too late in life to change. The counselors are midwives to life.” And their current Chairperson Dionne Madden speaks of the future of the service: “As a result in the changes in our community we are seeking additional training for ourselves as counselors on multicultural values and traditions. Fingal is a growing diverse community and we are committed to offering the best possible service to our clients.” Our heartfelt congratulations to the BASE Committee and to the counselors of the Fingal Service. May the next 20 years be as good as the last!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

This weekend we celebrated First Holy Communion with the boys and girls from Mr. Farrell's Class, Mr. Kenney's Class, Ms. Power's Class, Mrs. Boylan's Class, Ms. Mc Loughlin's Class and Mary and Fiona's Class and Gillian and Natasha's Class, all from St. Cronan's Junior School, all under the watchful eye of our principal Ms. Maloney and deputy Ms. Mathers.

It was a wonderful celebration and showed the hard work that parents/guardians, teachers and the Do This In Memory team put into the preparation for the first Holy Communion. The choir made up of the children from first class with their Teachers led the music with great joy and life.

There were many from the Parish who helped prepare the Church for the two days of Holy Communion and we wish to thank them for all the work they did. To Josie, Phil and Teresa in the Sacristy; Maura who created the beautiful flower arrangements, members of the Parish Pastoral Council who looked after stewarding in the carpark. Christie who had the grounds looking so well. Colm, Margaret and co. for cleaning the Church. Louise and Tony for looking after administration of the First Holy Communion. And to you the Parishioners for praying for the children and being so welcoming to them and their families at the 6:30pm and 12:30pm Do This In Memory Masses. To the Altar Servers for their usual professionalism on the Altar and the members of the Youth Choir, who provided the music last weekend.

It is a great credit to our teachers in all our schools that the children come to learn so much about their faith and the role Jesus plays in their lives. We are fortunate to have such excellent schools in our Parish who provide such a well rounded education for our children. Our thanks and

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MARRIAGE IS IMPORTANT – THINK BEFORE YOU CHANGE IT

Statement from the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference

This week the people of Ireland will be asked to vote in a referendum that will change the meaning of marriage in the *Constitution of Ireland*.

Marriage is of fundamental importance for children, mothers and fathers, and society - all of us need to reflect deeply before changing it. We ask the people of Ireland to consider very carefully the profound implications which this constitutional amendment would have on the family environment and on our understanding of parenthood.

We respect the views of people who think differently to us, trusting that our sincerely held views, grounded in faith, will also be heard and respected.

We come to this debate believing that the union of a man and a woman in marriage, open to the procreation of children, is a gift from God who created us 'male and female'. Reason also points to the truth about human sexuality that makes the relationship between a man and a woman unique. Mothers and fathers bring different, yet complementary gifts and strengths into a child's life.

We cannot support an amendment to the Constitution which redefines marriage and effectively places the union of two men, or two women, on a par with the marriage relationship between a husband and wife which is open to the procreation of children.

We are concerned that, should the amendment be passed, it will become increasingly difficult to speak any longer in public about marriage as being between a man and a woman. What will we be expected to teach children in school about marriage? Will those who sincerely continue to believe that marriage is between a man and a woman be forced to act against their conscience? Can a way be found to protect the civil rights of gay people without undermining the fundamental meaning of marriage as commonly understood across cultures, faiths and down the ages?

Already, in *The Children and Family Relationships Bill*, it is proposed to remove mention of mothers and fathers from a whole raft of previous legislation.

We encourage everyone to think about these issues and to vote on May 22nd. The effects of this proposed amendment will be far-reaching for this and for future generations. We say to all voters: Marriage is important - Reflect before you change it. We invite people of faith to bring this decision to prayer. In the coming weeks, and particularly in May, the month of Mary, we call for prayer for Marriage and the Family.