



The Annunciation Times

Church of the Annunciation, Rathfarnham

Autumn 2024 Newsletter

Contact details:

Rathfarnham is one of six parishes grouped together; our sister parishes are Ballyroan, Churchtown, Ballyboden, Knocklyon and Marley Grange.

Parish team:

Moderator: V. Rev. Martin Canon Cosgrove
St. Mary's Presbytery, Willbrook Rd.
Phone: 01- 495 4554. **Email:** mfc7534@gmail.com

Co P.P. V. Rev. Michael Coady,
St. Mary's Presbytery, Willbrook Rd.
Phone: 01- 4932390 **Email:** clovis78@eircom.net

Deacon: Rev. Frank Browne c/o Parish Office

Sacramental Coordinator: Carol McCabe c/o Parish Office

Sacristan: Paul Moreland

Sacristy: Phone 01- 493 8385

Parish Secretary: Jason Monahan

Parish Office:

Parish Pastoral Centre,
Willbrook Road, Rathfarnham (The Old Court House)

Monday – Friday 10 a.m. to 2pm

Phone: 01- 495 8695

Parish Website: www.rathfarnhamparish.ie

Email: parishoffice@rathfarnhamparish.com

Twitter: @RathfarnhamP

Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council:

Mr. Barry Murray, c/o Parish Office

Registered Charity Number: 20016166

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil 6:45pm

Sunday Morning: 8.30am (Irish Mass), 9.30am, 11.30am

Working Holy Days: Morning: 10:00am

Evening: 7:30pm **Vigil:** 7:30pm.

Weekdays: Monday to Friday 10:00am

Saturdays & Bank Holidays: 11:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: On Saturdays after 11am Mass & before the 6.45pm Mass

Baptisms: 1st and 3rd Saturday of the Month.

NOW TAKING BAPTISM BOOKINGS FOR JANUARY 2025 ONWARDS

"November Musings"

As we write we are nearly mid-way through October. The leaves are dropping and scurrying along, in fact at this stage most of them have already scurried. The evenings are getting darker earlier and by the time you read this we will no doubt be already in wintertime or very close to it. Just to add a thought to that scenario, the temperatures are dropping quickly, and nature is about to fall asleep for another winter.

It is against that background that we remember our dead in a special and personal way during the month of November, in fact for very many individuals and families, whose bereavements have been recent you need no reminding—your sense of loss is all too real and painful. We share your great sense of loss and pray for your strength and recovery. Our special Parish Celebration of Remembrance will be held here in the Church of the Annunciation on Friday November 8th at 7.30pm and all families who have celebrated a funeral with us since last November will be invited to take part.

Our Christian Faith leads us to believe that death is not the end, but rather a gateway to eternal happiness.

The following short poem captures this notion very well.

*No winter without a spring
And beyond the dark horizon
Our hearts will once more sing
For those who leave us for a while
Have only gone away
Out of a restless, care worn world
Into a brighter day*

May they rest in peace, Amen.

Fr. Martin Cosgrove

Moderator

Of the Rathfarnham Grouping of Parishes

Fr. Michael Coady

Co P.P.

Papal Honour for Rathfarnham Parishioner

A Rathfarnham man has been invested as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (KHS) of which Pope Francis is Sovereign.

The Honour was bestowed on Chevalier Jim McGuirk, KHS, by His Beatitude Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Patriarch of Jerusalem at a recent ceremony in Maynooth. The special mission given by the Pope to this order is to help sustain the Catholic Church and the Christian presence in the Holy Land which is defined as Jordan, Israel, Palestine and Cyprus.

It is one of only two Catholic Chivalric Orders which are mandated by the Pope to have a defined purpose.

Jim along with his wife Isabelle are members of the Funeral Team here in our Church and also spend part of the year in Malaga, Spain as part of the Tourist Apostolate organising Sunday Mass in English for Tourists, ex-pats and the International English-speaking community.

Pictured across are: Chevalier Jim McGuirk KHS, His Beatitude, Pier Battista Cardinal Pizzaballa, Patriarch of Jerusalem and Universal Grand Prior of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

V. Rev. Martin Canon Cosgrove, Jims wife Isabelle and V. Rev. Michael Coady. Photo taken at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.



Calling Loreto Beaufort Past Pupils

The Loreto Past Pupils Choir sing on Christmas Day at 11.30am. We would love some new voices this year. If you are available to join in please contact Fiona, the Parish Music Director, via email at singrathfarnham@gmail.com. She would love to hear from you.



Loreto High School Beaufort
Rathfarnham, Dublin | Est. 1925

Join Our Adult Parish Choir - Sing Out As One

We would LOVE to see new members, especially now as we get going again after the summer break. If you would like to join our mixed voice adult choir for 11.30am Mass each Sunday and for special feast days, just come and chat to Fiona, the choir director or drop her an email singrathfarnham@gmail.com. No formal vocal training is necessary, just the ability to hold a tune. We rehearse every Thursday evening 8-9.15pm in the Parish Centre and would love to see you there! Music adds so much to the liturgy and choirs are an integral part of our parish tradition, so why not join us this year!



Annual Carol Service

The Annual Carol Service will take place on Sunday December 15th at 7pm. Just as that first Christmas was marked by singing, so Christians through the centuries have celebrated the coming of the Christ Child in song. All are welcome, so we hope you can join us for this very special event.



November Mass of Remembrance

November Mass of Remembrance for Deceased Loved Ones

Our Mass of Remembrance will take place this year on Friday 8th November at 7.30pm in the Church of the Annunciation, Rathfarnham. Mass will be celebrated for all those who have died in our Parish since 1st November 2023 and for close relatives of those bereaved in our Parish over the past 12 months. The name of each person who has died during the year will be called by name and prayed for during the Mass. A member from each family will carry a lighted candle to the altar and will receive the cross from the Memorial Board.

Fr Martin, Fr. Michael, Deacon Frank, the Members of the Bethany Bereavement Support Group and the various other Parish Ministries invite you, family and friends to this special Mass of Remembrance and Consolation.



A Warm Welcome to Ms. Mairéad Byrne, New Principal at Loreto, Grange Road.

The parish community is delighted to extend a warm welcome to Ms. Mairéad Byrne, the newly appointed principal of Loreto Primary School, Grange Road.



With a commitment to collaboration, faith, and education, Ms. Byrne's leadership is sure to guide the school through an exciting new chapter.

We wish Ms. Byrne every success in her new role and look forward to seeing the positive impact she will have on the students, staff, and wider community. Welcome, Ms. Byrne! May your time with us be fulfilling and blessed.

Mark Your Calendars: Loreto Annual Christmas Fair

The much-anticipated Loreto primary school, Christmas Fair will be held on Sunday, November 24th, starting at 1:00 PM, on the school grounds at Loreto primary school, Grange Road. This cherished community tradition promises a festive atmosphere, and we warmly invite everyone to join in the celebration.

For those interested in sponsoring the event, please reach out to the Loreto Parents' Association at Loretoprimarypa@gmail.com to explore advertisement options.

We look forward to seeing you at this wonderful event!



School Communities Unite for "Go Smartphone Free" Initiative

Following extensive research and focus groups conducted last year, primary schools in the Rathfarnham and Knocklyon districts have come together to launch the "Go Smartphone Free" initiative.

Spearheaded by the Parents' Association in collaboration with school management and teachers, the initiative invites parents and guardians to commit to a voluntary code aimed at reducing smartphone usage among students.

This community-driven effort reflects growing concerns about the impact of smartphones on children's social interactions, learning, and well-being. Through collective action, the schools hope to foster healthier digital habits and encourage more face-to-face engagement among students.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION DATES FOR 2024 / 2025



First Confession: April 1st 7.30pm

First Communion: May 24th 11am



Information Evening: January 14th at 8pm (Both Schools in the Church)

Commitment for Confirmation Mass: February 8th 6.45pm (Both Schools in the Church)

You Shall be my Witness Meetings (in School): February 26th, March 5th, 12th & 19th at 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Service of Light: March 11th 7.30pm (Both Schools in the Church)

Confession for Confirmation: TBC but will be during school hours, parents do not need to attend.

Confirmation: March 28th at 11am (in the Church)



First Confession: April 8th 7.30pm

First Communion: May 17th 11am



Information Evening: January 14th at 8pm (Both Schools in the Church)

Commitment for Confirmation Mass: February 8th 6.45pm (Both Schools in the Church)

You Shall be my Witness Meetings (in School): February 26th, March 5th, 12th & 19th at 8pm – 9pm

Service of Light: March 11th 7.30pm (Both Schools in the Church)

Confession for Confirmation: TBC but will be during school hours, parents do not need to attend.

Confirmation: April 4th 11am (in the Church)

Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024: Loreto High School Beaufort

For six days in September 2024, five 6th Year Loreto Beaufort students, and the school Chaplain, travelled as part of the Diocesan Youth Group supporting the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Each day started with breakfast at 7am, followed by morning prayer in the Sanctuary at 8.15am. Duties began at 8.30am and included Ward Support, Stewarding, & Liturgy support. When duties finished at the end of the day, there was night prayer for students (known as "Prairie"), and student events such as a Table Quiz and a Wellbeing Workshop. Morning prayer and "Prairie" were led by the Chaplain for Schools, Fr. Paul Thornton. The Pilgrimage Director, former PP of this Parish, Fr. Martin Noone, was joined by his family in Lourdes, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination.

As student volunteers, known as "blue-shirts", we were privileged to work for the care and comfort of Pilgrims, to accompany them to various liturgical events and to share the Mary Ward value of "Joy" in the sing-songs and dancing!

We were fortunate too to meet Sr. Maria, and also with Loreto Beaufort past pupils who returned to volunteer again as "white-shirts" (more senior volunteers).

While we were there, Lourdes experienced the worst flooding in fifteen years. Despite engaging all the flood defences, the river burst its banks, resulting in many bridges, the Grotto and Baths being closed for a day. Civic and religious agencies worked hard to restore the facilities to ensure Pilgrims could avail of as many of the traditional Lourdes experiences as possible. We all had to be adaptable and resilient, and we also learned the value of waterproof capes! Late on our final night, we brought the petitions from the Parish, our school, Loreto Grange Road and Loreto Abbey House to the stillness of the candle-lit Grotto, where we remembered everyone's intentions in our prayers. A blessed candle has been gifted to the Parish as a token of our appreciation for its support. We look forward to returning to Lourdes with other Loreto Beaufort past-pupils in the future.



Past and present Loreto High School Beaufort students, volunteering in Lourdes 2024.



We met former Principal of Loreto Grange Road, Sr. Maria in Lourdes!



Students lit candles for the Loreto Schools, Community and the Parishioners of Rathfarnham.

Interfaith Harvest Celebration

On October 13th we celebrated our Interfaith Harvest Celebration. It was a joyous day as we were joined by members of The Church of Ireland, Rathfarnham, Church of Ireland, Whitechurch and the Society of Friends, Rathfarnham, along with parishioners from our local Partnership Parishes. Guest preacher for the day was Canon Adrienne Galligan of the Church of Ireland, Rathfarnham. Music on the day was provided by our Music Coordinator Fiona Corless and she led the mixed congregation in the hymns.

The Church was beautifully decorated on the day by our Parish Flower Team and refreshments were prepared and served by our Parish Hospitality Team in the Parish hall afterward. We look forward to the celebration again next year.

