

St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-4530387 ---- 01-5611390



02 December 2018

WALK OF LIGHT 2018



Over 250 people took part in Dublin Council of Churches' Walk of Light in the city centre Sunday November 25. The 14th annual inter-church journey travelled from St Ann's, Dawson Street, to St Teresa's, Clarendon Street, and finished at Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church. The ecumenical pilgrimage takes place each year on the Feast of Christ the King and as the dark evenings symbolise the

dark times of homelessness, the displacement of millions of people across the globe and the threat of climate change, participants aim to bring the light of Christ onto the streets of Dublin. This year's theme was 'Encounter, Engage, Empower'. The first of these, 'encounter', was the focus in St Ann's Church where participants considered the impact of the Samaritan woman's encounter with Christ at the well. In St Teresa's the congregation was urged to engage with those in need in Dublin's city centre. In Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church the journey concluded with a reflection on God's call, asking for his guidance and empowerment to face the challenges ahead and to bring the light of Christ into the lives of all we encounter.

This year's charity was the Peter McVerry Trust and Fr McVerry addressed the congregation in St Teresa's Church. He said society labels the groups it wishes to destroy and suggested that the Samaritan woman in today's Ireland, the people who had forfeited the right to respect were homeless people, Travellers, drug users, and ex-prisoners. "What is the hardest part of being homeless?" he asked. "Is it having nowhere to sleep? No. Is it being board all day with nowhere to go? No. It's knowing that no one cares. Your very homelessness keeps telling you that you have been rejected. If you disappeared off the face of the earth no one would notice and if they did, they wouldn't care. You have lost everything." Fr McVerry said that when we judge someone, exclude someone, look down on someone, we imply that we are a better person than they are. Yet, he pointed out, there is nothing we have that is not a gift. "It is only by listening to homeless people that I know how blessed I have been. Each homeless person has their own story and each story recounts the gifts they have been given. Because their gifts are different than mine doesn't give me the right to exclude them," he said.

DUBLIN PRIEST RAISES FUNDS FOR 'MOTOR NEURON' RESEARCH



The Money raised for motor neuron disease by Fr Tony Coote, the Dublin priest who was diagnosed with the incurable neurological condition earlier this year, through his 550km fundraiser, has increased hopes for a breakthrough in the medical treatment of the condition. Consultant neurologist, Professor Orla Hardiman of Trinity College believes research into the disease, which progressively robs sufferers of their physical faculties, is on the cusp of a breakthrough in the next two to five years. Fr Coote raised over €550,000 through his 'Walk While You Can' pilgrimage from Letterkenny to Ballydehob. Half of this money has been earmarked to fund healthcare services for the 400 sufferers of motor neuron disease (MND) in Ireland. There are currently only

three dedicated nurses looking after them, and they are funded entirely by charitable donations. The other half of the money will go towards a research project headed up by Professor Hardiman which will focus on testing brain wave and imaging patterns to better understand how the disease progresses and identify which drugs it responds best to. "Motor Neuron disease is not an untreatable disease - it is an underfunded disease," Professor Hardiman said and explained that there have been no significant advances in its treatment for 24 years due to a lack of research funding. *Courtesy Irish Independent*

NOTICES

Money Matters

Sunday 25 November 2018

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: €235
2nd Collection: €260
Roomkeepers: €95
Family Offering: €405



Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Pat Poole (4th Ann), The Wherity Family, Thomas Denby (6th Ann) Gus & Lena Duffy, Darren Gibney, Jack Fitzpatrick, Paddy Duffy, Deceased members McCarthy Family

Sun 11.30am: Michael & Margaret Kinsella, Joe & Josie Long, Kathleen McCormack (8th Ann), John Warnock 8th (Ann), Lily Atkins 3rd (Ann), Bernard D'Arcy (9th Ann), Bernie D'Arcy



Annual Collection for the St. Vincent de Paul

The Annual Collection for the St. Vincent de Paul will take place next weekend the 09-10th December. This collection will be taken up in the church. This is a really important collection for our St. Vincent de Paul as it provides a great deal of their annual income. Please keep it in mind, as preparations for Christmas get under way.



Annual Crosscare Food Appeal

will takes place this weekend. The following items are particularly welcome: Toiletries and cleaning products, Non-perishable food, Festive foods. This weekend is the only opportunity to contribute goods. This is to make sure that all these items will be distributed by Crosscare to families in need around the Dublin Diocese in plenty of time for the Christmas Season.

A Little Lifetime Foundation

This Sunday 02 December, A Little Lifetime Foundation, will hold it's annual Remembrance Service with parents and families from all over the country, here in St. Nicholas of Myra. The Service begins at 7pm. You are more than welcome to attend. Please come early to get a seat as the church is normally full for this occasion.



Darkness into Light Advent Carol Service

Takes place in the Pro-Cathedral with Blánaid Murphy and St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral Girls' Choir for a procession of music and readings by candlelight on Sunday 2nd December at 7.30pm



'Gate Crashing' in Style



A 'Mute' boy makes his way up onto the platform where Pope Francis is speaking! When people tried to remove him Francis said, "let him play, he has found his own way to communicate."

1st SUNDAY SEASON OF ADVENT

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: 'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practice honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: the Lord-our-integrity.'

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Psalm 24

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. R/

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. R/

His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant. R/

A reading from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints. Finally, brothers and sisters, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help. Alleluia

A reading from the Gospel of Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.' 'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord:
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Hope: a feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen. What is your Hope this Advent?