

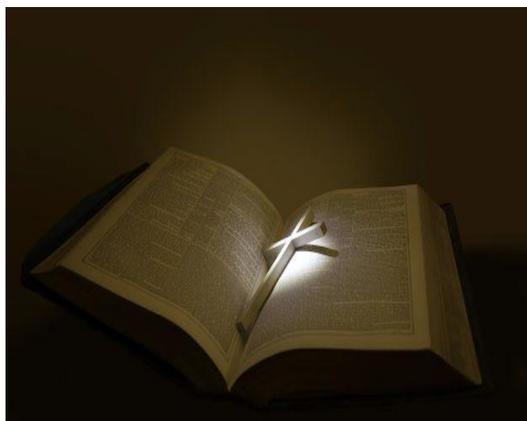
St. Nicholas News

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



12 November 2017

CHURCH RUN SCHOOLS



The churches run 96 per cent of our primary schools and approximately 50 per cent at secondary level, yet the fastest growing cohort in the Irish population today is people with no religion. They are also among our youngest. Their number, including atheists and agnostics, increased by more than 70 per cent between 2011 and 2016, and now number 481,388. They are now the second largest category in the State, at 10.1 per cent of the population, with an average age of 34, or 3.4 years younger than the average for our population overall.

All came through an education system dominated by the churches. It was Catholic Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin who last July noted that those in the “no religion” category were “highest in the age group 20-39, the group with children entering school life”. That age group, he said, “accounts for 28 percent of the general population, but 45 per cent of those with no religion fall into this age bracket”.

Yet there remained, he said, “a stubborn reluctance within the church” to allow the current situation to change. The “Irish religious education establishment is fixated on questions of ownership and management, and too little on the purpose of the Catholic school and the outcomes of Catholic education in terms of faith formation”. The same would apply to the other churches. All our major churches are ageing and in decline. The average age of Church of Ireland members was 40.3 years in 2016, while their number was down 2 per cent on 2011. Catholics averaged 38.2 years, while their number was down to 78.3 per cent of the population in 2016. Most dramatic of all are Presbyterian numbers on the island of Ireland, which have dropped by approximately 40 per cent since the 1970s. The trend is clear, vigorous and relentless, and it is unequivocally towards the secular among those who will be our future - our younger population - while more and more of those younger people who still identify with a church do so for cultural/identity reasons rather than faith. And all despite an education system dominated in Ireland by the churches for almost 200 years.

It is at the deeper level of faith and values that our church-run schools are failing most abjectly. Would the Celtic Tiger madness have overrun this country with such a devastating effect if our church-run schools were successful in instilling Christian values in our population? Would developers have been as reckless had church-run schools been effective? Would bankers have driven the economy over a cliff? Whatever happened that laudable “Protestant probity” once associated with Irish banks? Had our church-run schools been effective would we have had need for so many tribunals and lengthy bank-related trials? Would the September 2008 bank guarantee in Ireland have been necessary, or the arrival of the bailout troika in November 2010? Would there have been need for either had our church-run schools done what they still claim to do? Would our homelessness figures continue to climb even while 40 years ago, in a poorer Ireland, a government could build 100,000 homes over four years? You do have to wonder.

None of this is to deny the quality of education provided in our church-run schools without which Ireland could not have evolved into the first-world country it is today with one of the fastest growing economies. All of us have benefitted from such church-run education, including myself. That needs to be acknowledged. We should not throw out that baby. We should appreciate it, and at least some Irish people still do.

This came to mind when, on a visit to Rome, I found myself in the sacristy of the Pauline Chapel at the Vatican, where I saw some prominent Irish names on a plaque there. It acknowledges, in Latin, generous financial support by 26 patrons for the chapel’s restoration which cost an estimated €9 million before completion in 2009.

Among those included are Seán FitzPatrick formerly of Anglo Irish Bank, Michael Fingleton, formerly of Irish Nationwide, property developers Paddy McKillen, Seán Mulryan, and Johnny Ronan and financier Derek Quinlan. They are listed as patrons of the arts in the Vatican museums. They have not forgotten their debt to church-run schools.

Courtesy Patsy McGarry, Irish Times

NOTICES

Money Matters

Sunday 05 November 2017

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: €205
2nd Collection: €235
Mission Sunday: €50
Family Offering: €296



Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Charlie Carroll (Months Mind), Connie Lynch, John, Margaret, Michael & Annie Reynolds, Patty & Tommy Long, Peggy Long.

Sun 11.30am: Rose Cole, John & Pauline Monaghan, James & Rosanne Ryan, Carmel Mennella (Birthday Rem), John Fitzpatrick (Birthday Rem)



NCAD

The National College of Art and Design is Ireland’s leading provider of Art & Design Education. Located on Thomas Street in the heart of The Liberties Dublin, the College is home to a community of 1,500 students all engaged in a wide range of study across the disciplines of Art, Design, Visual Culture and Education. NCAD can trace its history back 250 years and counts many successful and significant artists and designers among its graduates, (Orla Kiely, Simone Rocha and Philip Tracey to name a few). Open day Wednesday 29 November 9.30am to 3.30pm



St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection for the VdP will take place after masses this weekend.



Reception for the Papal Nuncio

A Liturgical Reception will be held in St. Mary’s Pro Cathedral on

Sunday next (November 12th) at 11am to welcome His Excellency Archbishop, Jude Thaddeus Okolo Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland. All welcome to attend.



Green light to Bridgefoot St. Park

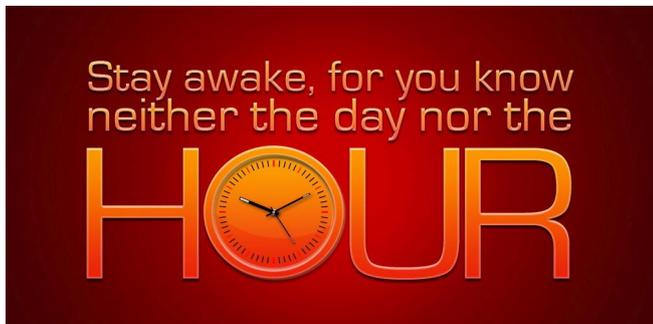
City councilors have approved plans for a new community park at Bridgefoot Street with the project now completing its design and consultation process. Work is hoped to start on the park in 2018 with completion and opening early in 2019.

<http://libertiesdublin.ie/go-ahead-bridgefoot-street-park/>



A Little Lifetime Foundation (ALLF)

Archbishop Diarmuid Main will celebrate the ALLF Annual Christmas Service of Remembrance in St. Nicholas of Myra Church, Francis Street, Dublin 8 on Sunday 3rd December at 7.00pm. The Garda Male Voice Choir will also attend. We will remember in a special way at a time of the year all who are facing their first Christmas without their baby. Please come along and feel the unique presence of companionship,



support, and love.

32nd SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

A reading from the book of Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

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

Psalm 62 For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. R/

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. R/

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. R/

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. R/

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-14

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 24:42

Alleluia, alleluia!
Stay awake and stand ready,
because you do not know the
hour when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 25:1-13

The Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out". But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves". They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you". So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.

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

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

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

It always pleased the Master to hear people recognise their ignorance. "Wisdom tends to grow in proportion to one's awareness of one's ignorance," he claimed. When asked for an explanation he said, "When you come to see you are not as wise today as you thought you were yesterday, you are wiser today."

From One Minute Wisdom by Anthony de Mello