

St. Nicholas News

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



16 December 2018

DUBLIN CITY INTERFAITH FORUM



Dublin City Interfaith Forum has launched a new three-year strategy which will promote awareness and develop understanding of the cultural and religious differences in today's Ireland. The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Nial Ring, launched the 2018-2021 Strategy in the Mansion House on Human Rights Day (November 10).

The strategy is divided into five distinct areas with a number of actions outlined in each area. The five 'pillars' of the plan are: engagement, communications, resources, public stakeholders and funding. A work plan for each area will be developed and will form the basis of DCIF's activities for the next three years. Commending the strategy, the Lord Mayor said he wanted to see all religions respected and said the goals contained in the DCIF plan were very important. "The Dublin that I grew up in has changed. Now, one in six of the city's residents is from a different ethnic background and this has added to the life and diversity of our city. Religious background has not always been to the fore but the Dublin City Interfaith Forum is helping to rectify that," he stated. DCIF has called for increased funding to support its vital work in a world where there are deep divisions and greater polarisation in society and the Lord Mayor pledged his support in securing extra funds. DCIF chairperson Hilary Abrahamson said that faith communities had a huge role to play in the challenges presented by a changing world. "We value respect, justice, mercy and peace making. We encourage everyone to engage in interfaith dialogue ... We must be prepared to challenge those who act out of prejudice," she said. "This strategy outlines key actions to progress to increased inclusion in civic society. By working together we can help reduce racism and intolerance. We can create cultures of welcome, hospitality and inclusion. We invite you to work with us to achieve these aims." Focusing on interfaith unity in times of crisis, the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Diarmuid Martin, said there was growing interest around the world in the contribution of faith and faith leaders in bringing peace. Looking back to 12th Century Dublin, the Archbishop said that the city's patron Saint, Laurence O'Toole, made every possible effort to bring peace to the city. He said he was an example to the church and society of today's Dublin which is wealthy but does not care for all its people and in which many people, including children, were deprived of their fundamental needs which prevented them achieving their aspirations. Archbishop Martin highlighted the increasing culture of violence that existed in the city, in particular knife crime. "This is an area we can build up a culture of living in harmony, helping young people to find a better way," he stated. "There are growing signs of unresolved anger that effects young people and we need to find a new and refined way to deal with this." Assistant Commissioner Pat Leahy pledged the full support of the Gardaí for the strategy. He pointed to similarities between DCIF's strategy and the Community Policing Strategy. "We want to create a network across the country and if we have a similar network with the interfaith forum then we will have a lot to work with ... We can do this together. It has to be about building relationships, not intelligence gathering," he said. Commending the strategy, he stated: "The world is so busy and people are focused on trying to achieve their goals and we forget about community. And that is what is important about this strategy. It is hugely important that we can live together and belong and that our culture and religious diversity does not stop us from belonging ... We can't afford to fail on this. It's about creating a single community of different attitudes and different faiths." Giving the DCIF youth perspective, Hajar Al Kaddo said the forum was working to enable young people to contribute to society with their religiosity intact and to increase the tolerance of young people of faith. "We need to connect with one another and we need to connect with young people of faith. We need to connect with other faith forums," she stated. The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson, brought proceedings to a close by recalling the launch of the Dublin City Interfaith Charter two years ago which recognised the need for community cohesion and that faith was a central part of identity. "People who have come to live in Ireland bring faith and culture as part of their identity and we can learn from them. We have to ask this: 'Do we look at people who have come to live in Ireland as benign outsiders or as Irish people?'" he said. Archbishop Jackson

NOTICES

Money Matters

Sunday 09 December 2018

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p305
St. Vincent de Paul: p1,635
Family Offering: p373



Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Bernie Kelly, Annie & Stephen O'Connor, Sarah Keegan, Marie Rouse, John O'Rourke (80th Birthday Remembrance), Tommy Reck 18th Ann, & Bridget Reck, Bill McCormack 24th Ann, William & Bridget Hudson, James & Mary Mills, Paddy & Mary Kenny, Jim Greally 12th Ann & Dec Family

Sun 11.30am: Paddy Moran (Months Mind), Richard & Mary Finn, Pauline Gray, Lily & Hughie Holmes & Family & Friends, Emily Adams

added: "It is important to grasp the contribution that faith leaders make but it is equally part of our DNA. The challenge is to take that to interfaith dialogue and understanding. It is not intellectual. It is the dialogue of life, it is important to grasp the contribution of faith followers. The engagement of everyone in this context is very important. The challenge that may lie before us is to produce a glossary of interfaith understanding to help to create a new public discourse that will help us engage in every perspective. It is essential in any interfaith context not to compare the best of yourself with the caricature of the other... As Christians we have spent a long time and gone a long way to recognising that ecumenical understanding is neighbourliness." DCIF works with schools, State agencies, the Garda, the HSE and the Departments of Education and Justice to help create a better understanding of different faith traditions, and to promote greater awareness of sensitivities required when dealing with a diverse range of religions in the provision of State services in contemporary Ireland.

Thank You

As you can see your donations to the Annual St. Vincent de Paul Collection came to £1,635. That is probably the highest amount collected in the last few years. On behalf of our local St. Vincent de Paul, sincere thanks. This is extremely generous, considering the size of our Parish and the fact that this collection took place at just two masses. Your generosity will ensure the great work the SVP is doing will continue. Thank you again.

Reminder



The main Reconciliation Service for Christmas takes place on Tuesday 18th at 7.30pm here in St. Nicholas of Myra. For those who do not wish to come out at night, there will be a Reconciliation Service on Monday 17th December at 3pm. New Housing Developments for the Liberties



Two locations in The Liberties have been announced for new public housing under the volumetric (or off site construction and fast build) process that is becoming increasingly common for building development. The sites at Bonham Street and Cork Street and Chamber Street will see 112 new homes of one, two and three bedrooms. Bonham Street will see a new 57 apartment scheme on a currently disused portion of land that will front onto the new park at Bridgefoot Street. The scheme, in three blocks set around an inner courtyard will range from 6 to 8 storeys. A further 55 apartments are being developed at Cork Street (alongside Weaver Park) and Chamber Street. The scheme is across two buildings ranging from 4 storeys to 7 storeys. The plan is also to include a community resource room. This development is located on the area currently in use as allotments. The Weaver Square allotments are being discontinued and efforts are underway to find an alternative location in the area. Its expected that these developments, together with a development of 68 units in Chapelizod, will be procured in the new year and proceed to development by early summer. The housing is being built under emergency powers assigned to the City Council so a traditional planning application process will not apply.



3rd SUNDAY SEASON OF ADVENT

A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

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

Psalm 12

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my Saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. R/

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. R/

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. R/

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia
The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor
Alleluia

A reading from the Gospel of Luke

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do, then?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

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

