

Togher Parish News

Church of the Way of the Cross, Togher

April Issue 2017

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The image shows the phrase "Christ is Risen!" written in a flowing, golden cursive script. The text is centered on a light, textured background within a rectangular frame.

An Easter Prayer

God, give us eyes to see
the beauty of the Spring,
And to behold Your majesty
in every living thing –

And may we see in lacy leaves
and every budding flower
The Hand that rules the universe
with gentleness and power –

And may this Easter grandeur
that Spring lavishly imparts
Awaken faded flowers of faith
lying dormant in our hearts,
And give us ears to hear, dear God,
the Springtime song of birds
With messages more meaningful
than man's often empty words
Telling harried human beings
who are lost in dark despair –

'Be like us and do not worry
for God has you in His care.

Suggestions Box

Anyone in the parish with news or who has
any ideas for the parish newsletter can email:
togher.assembly@gmail.com

For Parish news updates follow us on
Facebook, under Togher Parish

Parish website: www.togherparish.ie

Togher Holy Week Ceremonies 2017

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Last Supper 7.30 p.m.

Return of Trocaire Boxes

Reflection, Adoration & Quiet Time
at the Altar of repose until 10.00 p.m.

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross: 12 noon

Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 3.00 p.m.

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil Mass 6.30p.m.

Easter Sunday

Masses: 9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.

Easter Monday

Mass: 12 noon

Confessions

After all Masses on Palm Sunday Weekend

Good Friday- after ceremonies

Holy Saturday- 12.00 – 1.00 p.m.

My experiences in Taiwan by Father Sean O' Leary.

Continued from last month's Newsletter

Our work in the half-way homes was to give these young people a new beginning and a new opportunity to return to school and help them discover their own gifts and talents as well as developing their self confidence leading to them choosing a life free of the gangs and crime. This was not easy as once they left the security and accompaniment of the half way house many returned to their dysfunctional family situation and would ultimately reconnect with their friends who were part of the gang culture. Often in the prisons, I would meet former students from the half way homes and feel a bit deflated and frustrated - But our Christian faith and message is a call to perseverance and continue to sow the seeds of love, compassion and hope.

Our Catholic parishes tend to be small in number, but, perhaps because they are a tiny minority, they are very dedicated and active in the life and mission of the parish and the church. The Diocese where I now work has over 100 volunteers working in prison ministry while The Legion Of Mary has over 200 members.

There are two main challenges for the church in Taiwan -

1: To build up the local church community and attract new people into the church - The Churches are an ageing population with many parishes having few if any young people.

2: How to allow the Gospel values of respect for human life, love and support for the vulnerable and those on the margins, justice and peace, compassion and tolerance, to engage with and influence more deeply Taiwanese society.

These may also be the challenges facing the Church here in Ireland, - to be "the salt of the earth and light to the world" A good place to begin is with ourselves - we let our own little light shine - This light is the light of Christ, "a light which has come into the darkness and the darkness can never overcome".

News from Scoil an Athar Maitiú

- Congratulations to our 6th class on receiving the sacrament of Confirmation on 27th of March. They enjoyed glorious sunshine on this special day. Many thanks to all those who helped to prepare them.
- World Book Day took place on 2nd of March. We brought our favourite books to school and had a visit from Maria Burke, author of Ark of Dun Ruah. Maria read from her book, signed books and chatted to us about our favourite books.
- Sixth class pupils are working with drama teacher Naomi, to produce a play entitled "Think Positive". They will perform this play at the Lifelong Learning Festival in the Barrs Club on 5th of April. They will also be going on a trip to UCC, attending two lectures in April.
- The Learning Neighbourhood Expo took place in the Barrs Club on 28th of March. There was a great buzz of excitement in the hall as different groups performed. Our 3rd/4th class choir sang at the event. Congratulations to all involved in this event as it showcased all the different clubs and places of learning in our area.
- Our "Maths for Fun" and "Science for Fun" are coming to an end. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and we would like to thank all parents who volunteered to help run these over the last number of weeks.
- Lego Club continues for 1st/2nd Classes every week and the most amazing engineering creations have been produced.
- Graffiti Theatre visited our 1st Class students in March. They performed a play entitled "The Garden". Many of our parents, grandparents also attended. Pictures of the imaginative stage area can be seen on our website.
- Sciath na Scol matches will soon begin for our Camogie team. We wish them well in this competition.
- Seachtain na Gaeilge coincided with St. Patrick's Day. We had a beautiful mass on March 15th to celebrate. We followed this with dance displays, ceol, story telling, a greater emphasis on "caint as Gaeilge" and ended the week with Biongó with an t-Uasal O Mhainnín.
- Our first class will be reciting poems and performing a dance to "Planetarium" from the music of LaLa Land in the Cór Fhéile na Scol at the City Hall on 4th of April. We hope they enjoy this and we can't wait to see their dance.
- Photos of our recent news and events can be viewed on www.tgns.ie

By Tara Kelleher, Niamh Walsh, Hannah Byrd and Jennifer Nzang

News from Togher Boys' N.S.

"I glanced out the window at the signs of spring. The sky was almost blue, the trees were almost budding, the sun was almost bright."

- We want to thank Fr. Brophy and Elizabeth Murphy for all the work and time they are spending preparing the boys and girls for their Confirmation and Communion. We really appreciate it.
- The sixth class boys went to Mitchelstown Caves a wonderful interesting day was had by all. Ms. Moynihan's class also went to C.I.T. for Engineering Week. The boys always love this trip as it is very informative and may lead them to different paths in life.
- We had a very exciting visit from a famous past pupil. **Denis Irwin** footballer who played with Manchester United called in and spoke to the classes about his life and all his experiences through the years. Thank you Denis for giving us your time, it means a lot to us all in the school.
- The Book Fair took place during book week the interest and demand for books was very high. As we all know reading is one of the best pastimes we have in our lives.
- Our fifth class boys took part in Seachtain na Gaeilge as part of this week they travelled to Deerpark and took part in a Ceili. We were very impressed with our boys on the dance floor.
- Second class had a special visit to Togher Garda Station. They had a guided tour of the station and even met the Sniffer Dogs and the Emergency Response Unit. Thank you to Togher Garda and especially Garda Owen O'Mahony who organised the trip and provided the boys with a reward of sweets. Much Appreciated. On the walk back to school there was a stop off at Stalks and Stems our local florist Carolyn gave them a talk on nature and ladybirds. All the boys were very impressed and the information they brought back was heard around the school.
- First class took part in Graffiti Theatre in our school hall. They went back to classrooms full of laughter and fun.
- Thank you to the Parents Association who as usual provide a marvellous job in sorting the blazers and making sure that each boy looks smart on his special day. A cake and waffle sale took place and the smell of Waffles around our corridors made us all hungry. Thank you to all who donated cakes and helped on the day.
- The sixth class boys made their Confirmation on March 27th. Thank you to **Bishop Patrick Harrington**. It was a lovely ceremony and the boys did the school and their parents proud. As usual the sun shone on their special day.
- 5-a-Side Soccer. The boys took part in this competition in Carrigaline on Wednesday. They did really well and are through to the semi-finals on Thursday next, 6th
- On Tuesday the 28th March, Lifelong Learning took place in St Finbarr's Hurling & Football Club. Our school took part along with many other local groups. Thank you to all involved it was a very enjoyable and successful day.

April Garden Tips

- **Feed trees, shrubs and hedges** with a balanced, slow-release fertiliser by lightly forking it into the soil surface. Roses are greedy plants and will greatly benefit from feeding as they come into growth.
- Divide **Hostas** before they come into leaf.
- Divide **Primroses** after they have finished flowering.
- You can start to move **evergreen shrubs and trees** now provided the soil isn't frozen or waterlogged.
- Plant summer-flowering bulbs such as **Lilies, Gladiolus** and **Ranunculus** into beds, borders and containers.
- **Forced flower bulbs** such as hyacinths and daffodils, which have now finished flowering, can be planted outdoors in garden borders.
- **Hardwood cuttings** taken last year may need planting or potting on now.
- If any of your garden plants will need supporting this year, put the **supports** in now so the plants grow up through them. Adding supports afterwards is difficult and may damage the plant.
- If you haven't done so already, finish cutting back any **dead foliage** left on your perennials and ornamental grasses to make way for new growth.
- Trim **winter-flowering heathers** as the flowers disappear, to prevent the plants becoming leggy.
- Continue to remove any faded flowers from your **winter pansies** to stop them setting seed. This will encourage flushes of new flowers throughout the spring.
- Deadhead **daffodils** and **tulips** as the flowers finish but leave the foliage intact allowing it to die back naturally.
- Check that your **container plants** are not drying out - warm weather will quickly affect soil moisture levels.

By Carolyn Miller, Stalks & Stems