

Dear parishioners and friends of St. Teresa's

A happy new year full of God's blessings to you and your family, community, and friends!

You will have your own reflections on the year 2019. As parish team, we wish to share some of our thoughts and some information on the past year. Let us begin with a word of gratitude for your support of this parish! We pray that living with the Church nourishes your faith and encourages your life. With many greetings and be assured of our prayers

The Parish Team

Liturgy

Each year the diocese asks us for the statistics like the following

Baptism: 45	First Holy Communion: 36	Confirmation: 28
Church weddings: 1	Funeral: 36	

The annual masses for the baptised, for the sick and for the deceased of the previous years are major celebrations in our church. Other major celebrations are St. Patrick's Day with the 35th Donore Scouts, the ecumenical remembrance service of the Miscarriage Association of Ireland, the many funerals, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and of course Easter and Christmas as focal points of the liturgical year. The Liturgy Committee meets each month to plan the various celebrations that take place during the church year from the 1st week of Advent to the Month of remembrance of the deceased in November. Parish life is sustained and nourished through all of these events along with the weekly commitment of the altar society/ church cleaners, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, florists, sacristans, collectors, counters and numerous other volunteers. It is truly a community alive and active.

Parish Pastoral Council

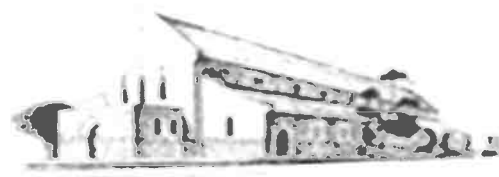
The Parish Pastoral Council meets monthly during the year and continues its work of reflection, discussion, planning and action in relation to the pastoral ministry within the parish. Each year two members of the Council step down and two new parishioners and friends of St Teresa's are invited to join. This year Sr. Carmel Daly and Alice Blake stepped down and Stuart Dunne and John Lawlor joined.

Pastoral Plan

This parish published a Pastoral Plan 2016-2019, which was produced after intensive consultation. We are working on a new plan for 2020 to 2025. Based on responses from people through the area meetings and other ways, the Parish Pastoral Council hopes to present this soon.

Church Guide

For parishioners and visitors we offer a short and a long version of a provisional church guide. We have recently presented a brief church guide together with a map which contains the basic information about the church. A longer work about the parish and the church is in the making.



Mass attendance

Each October, the archdiocese asks us to send in a mass count for our four masses over the weekend and over three Sundays. For our parish:

6 October: 351;

13 October: 374;

20 October: 290;

Total attendance for October: 1015.

Parish staff members

As a Parish Team we are grateful for two new members on the parish staff: Jean Fitzpatrick kindly took on the role of parish secretary after we bid a fond fare-well to Teresa McGinley. Denise McDermott kindly does the accounts for us and keeps us all square with the diocesan accounts system. Maria Jinks began her second year as housekeeper. As was previously announced Sam Byrne our Pastoral Assistant has been made permanent.

Finance and Church Building

At the end of each financial year we hand in our figures to the diocese to be audited. Below is a summary of the main figures for 2019. We are glad to have a small surplus for 2019.

Income 2019	Expense 2019
Envelopes and standing orders €50,500	Salaries & Training €20,800
Tax Refund on donations €3,800	Office €6,000
Rent €14,000	Insurance, taxes, charges €12,500
Donations and Bequests €9,200	Repair Renewal €13,744
Shrines €15,781	Heat & Light €3,832
Catholic Papers €1,237	Pastoral Expenses / Liturgy €24,289
Other income (Flowers, Sacramental Programmes, stole fees, vat, etc.) €5,770	Altar supplies €1,646
	Printing, Stationary, Publications €5,711
	Various other expenses €2,076
Total Income: €100,288	Total Expense: €90,598
Surplus/Deficit	Surplus €9,690

The Charities Tax Refund was an additional source of income this year and we thank those who agreed to support the parish through availing of this scheme. We have been successful in claiming tax refunds for the years 2018 and 2015 and will be submitting claims for 2016, 2017 and 2019. With this money we were able to substantially fund the motorisation of the church bell and the automation of the church doors. We would like to thank the **Parish Finance Committee** for their tireless work on all matters pertaining to finance and budgeting. New also are the two tables at the back of the church for church material – these are master pieces produced by two parishioners using old church pews. These, like other volunteers, continue to make silent and hidden contributions to the upkeep and maintenance of the church building.

Surrounded by building sites

As part of the regeneration project for St. Teresa's Gardens, one building site in our area is already progressing. Other sites have seen the development of student residences and hotels. The former Player Wills and Bailey Gibson sites will soon see the machinery move in. There are other vacant sites in the locality that could soon see development. 2020 will be another year of construction! This is a challenge for us as parish on a practical level but will soon enough also be a challenge on a pastoral level with new people coming into the area.

Ministries

As mentioned previously, there are a variety of ministries which are at work in our parish. Some of them are visible like the Baptism Team, the Funeral Team, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, Music Groups, Liturgy Committee, Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee. There are also a lot of ministries working behind the scenes, such as cleaners, counters, maintenance, florists, etc. If you would like to be part of any of these ministries, no matter how small you think your contribution might be, we would be delighted to speak with you and find a ministry which suits your abilities and time.



2020

At the beginning of June, a group from our Parish will participate in a Marist pilgrimage including Paris (Monday Novena to the Miraculous Medal!), Chartres, and Lisieux – home of our church patron. We will also organise other parish pilgrimages within Ireland. We will continue to ensure, with your very generous assistance, that the parish remains on a solid financial basis. We plan an event for Culture Night in September 2020. The doors of the church are open as much as possible, so please join us for liturgy and other events or to find a quiet moment in a busy life.

For updated information

Parish Newsletter: published each week; copies available in the church or on the website

Parish website: www.donoreavenueparish.ie

Follow us on *facebook*. Search for: Teresa Parish Donore Avenue

Follow us on Twitter: @donoreaveparish

Telephone: 01 454 2425

Email: info@donoreavenueparish.ie