The Traveller

Parish Newsletter

Winter-Spring 2014





EMBRACING INCLUSION
CONFERENCE



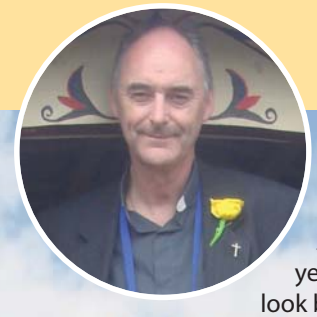
WEDDING
CONGRATULATIONS



FAREWELL AT
THE WELL



RECENT
CHRISTENINGS



WELCOME

Once again, a warm welcome to you and all our readers! Now well launched into 2014, the first few weeks of the new year have provided an opportunity to look back on events, challenges and achievements of 2013, and to look at hopes and plans for 2014.

Our *back cover* features Pope Francis who, when introduced as the new pope, stepped forward and with a warmth, simplicity, quiet strength and humility greeted everyone. Then, leading everyone into prayer, the new pope asked for our prayers and God's blessing. Those first few moments set a tone which has continued, and to which many have responded enthusiastically. Apparently, for instance, Pope Francis has more than 10 million followers on Twitter, and over the past year has been the most talked about person on Facebook! Details of our own new presence on Twitter and Facebook are in *Parish News (p.22)*.

However, as the Archbishop of Armagh, Eamon Martin pointed out in his recent homily for *Catholic Schools Week 2014, "Of course, Pope Francis is not on Twitter because he wants us to follow him – (but because) he wants us to follow Jesus!"* Following Jesus, better getting to know Jesus, helping others to know Jesus – all part of our Catholic faith so often daily lived-out in our family and community life, yet not to be taken for granted but rather to be nourished, supported and developed. This increased focus and resourcing of faith development is for us an important part of our Parish pastoral plan for 2014 and beyond.

As Archbishop Diarmuid Martin indicated at our recent *Embracing Inclusion* conference *(p.3 & p.13-16)*, Pope Francis has also brought much focus to the importance of the Church reaching out to ensure that those who find themselves on the margins or left out on the outside are made to feel welcome and included. Based on the developmental work of the Parish *Travelling Towards Inclusion* initiative, the *Embracing Inclusion* hospitality programme this year and beyond will be offered to local parishes, certainly inspired by Pope Francis' urging.



*Pope Francis has spoken and written many inspiring words so far, including the recent document *'The Joy of the Gospel'*, which is available online on the Parish website (www.ptrav.ie).

An inspiration of a different kind in 2013, I think many would agree, came through the super achievements of Kelly McDonagh Mongan in her time on RTÉ's *'The Voice of Ireland'*. Hopefully, Kelly's voice will continue to be for many years a blessing and joy for her, and for her future audiences. It was great that Kelly also, when recently asked, spoke so openly and well on two particular aspects of her life as a young Traveller woman – the importance of faith (such as in family prayer and Baptism), and then in sharing her experience of the lack of Traveller-specific accommodation. The recent highlighting of such increasingly common accommodation problems, and the critical need for proper provision, is reported inside *(p.12)*.

Finally, our *front cover* features the inspirational work of another Traveller woman, Margaret Anne O'Brien during her trip to Africa to take part in the *Great Ethiopian Run (p.10-11)*, to fundraise for a school she has been helping to support, among her many various other charity fundraising efforts.

On behalf of all the Parish team, hoping you enjoy this edition, and wishing you every blessing throughout 2014.

God bless,

Fr. Derek.

Fr. Derek Farrell, P.P.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."
John 3:16

The Traveller Parish Newsletter assumes that the full permission of anyone featured in a photograph has been secured prior to being submitted. As part of our Parish Child Protection Procedures names are not assigned to individual photos of children. Rare exceptions to this are only at the express request of the parents involved, and then at the discretion of the editorial team. Views expressed in *The Traveller Parish Newsletter* do not necessarily reflect views and policies of the Parish. Some photos submitted to the Newsletter may be used on our website. Thanks to all our contributors. Your views, comments and local news are always welcome at (01) 838 8874 or Email: info@ptrav.ie. Parish Website: www.ptrav.ie


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EMBRACING INCLUSION

A Way to Intercultural Dialogue in Parish Life

ALL HALLOWS COLLEGE, DUBLIN – 25 SEPTEMBER 2013

Launch of the New Local Parish Hospitality Programme Initiative



ARCHBISHOP DIARMUID MARTIN'S ADDRESS TO THE CONFERENCE

Pope Francis has an amazing ability to find simple words to pose fundamental questions about the life of the Christian and of the Church. He uses a number of words which appear repeatedly in his talks and addresses. One of them is *periferia* – the outskirts, the frontiers. His vision is of a Church which is not closed in on itself but one which reaches out especially to the frontiers: not just to the geographical outskirts, but to all those in the Church and in society who find themselves on the fringes of society and who so often find themselves left out on the outside.

Reaching out cannot however remain just a polite or politically correct public relations exercise. Reaching out must foster changes in attitude and lead to inclusion. We all speak of inclusion but it is not a simple and easy process because it requires that we change. The great thing about today's event is that it is the Traveller Community, which has witnessed and still witnesses exclusion, that takes the lead in challenging us to reflect on what inclusion means.

Pope Francis has noted that at times we feel that the failures in our efforts in the Church are due to the fact that many in today's world are closed to God; they do not hear the call of Jesus; that when Jesus knocks on our doors we do not let him in. The Pope however counters that by adding: "we also fail at times when Jesus knocks from within and we do not let him out". The Church must reach out and bring the tender embrace of Jesus to those on the frontiers of society. An inward looking, self-centred, narcissistic Church will never witness to the generosity and care of Jesus Christ.

Speaking to Bishops recently he said that "We cannot keep ourselves shut up in parishes, in our communities, in our parish or diocesan institutions, when so many people are waiting for the Gospel! We have to go out as ones sent. It is not enough simply to open the door in welcome because they come, but we must go out through that door to seek and meet the people!" Inclusion is not something that can be achieved with passivity. It requires that we recognise our own closedness and go out from our own closedness.

Continued on page 16



RECENT CHRISTENINGS

Welcome, precious little child,
So fresh from God above,
Baptised today in Jesus' name,
Held in His arms of love.
May angels guide your tiny feet
And bring you smiles to wear,
And may our Heavenly Father
Always keep you in His care.

Birth Certificates Notice

For the purpose of recording your child's Baptism, and in keeping with Church guidelines, please be aware that you may be asked to present your child's Birth Certificate before or at time of the Christening.



William & Annie Rose Stokes with baby Mary Faustina, Corduff.



Baby Julieann with parents Tommy & Bridget Stokes & family, Ballymun.



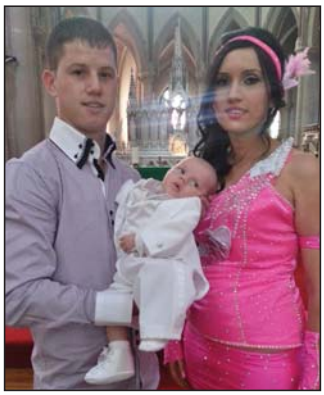
Baby Bernard McDonagh with parents Bernard & Bernadette, and family, Phibsborough.



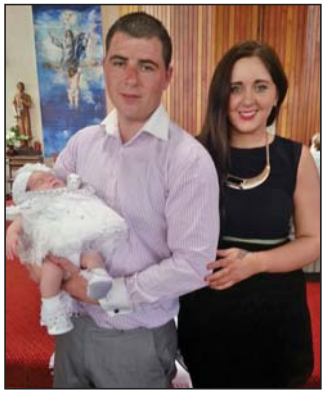
Donna & John with baby Martin Anthony McDonagh, Phibsborough.



Francie and Ellen McDonagh with baby Kathlin, Ballymun.



John & Geraldine McDonagh with baby Brian Christopher, Finglas.



Parents John & Jessica with baby Lacey McDonagh, Ballymun.



Nell Christine & Thomas with baby Rihanna Marie Stokes, Ballymun.



Phyllis & Peter McDonagh with baby Gemma, Ballymun.



Rose & Bernard McDonagh, with baby Alicia Angel Marie, Finglas.

If you would like to see your Christening in our Newsletter, please send a photograph and details to the Parish Office, 6 New Cabra Road, Phibsborough, Dublin 7, or preferably by email to info@ptrav.ie



John Paul & Siobhan Stokes with baby John Paul & Family, Brackenstown.



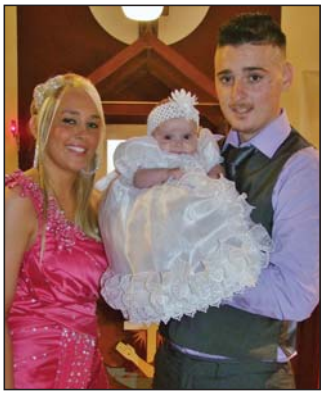
Thomas & Rosalena Maughan with baby Thomas Vincent, Phibsborough.



Tom & Leona Stokes with baby Tom Paul, Ballymun.



Julie & Joe McDonnell with baby Sophie, Navan.



Roseann & Ciaran Collins with baby Nora, Finglas.



Joe & Louise McDonnell with baby Mikayla, Finglas.



Dear Reader,
We always like to get your feedback on ***The Traveller Parish Newsletter***, so…

What do you think?

For example..

- Is it making a difference.. to you?.. to others?.. in general?
- Is there anything you'd like to see covered more?.. better?
- Is it interesting?.. informative?.. both or neither?
- Is there anything you think should change?.. or that you don't like?
- Is there anything in particular you like about it?

We thank *all those who have already given us their feedback, your opinions and ideas are very much appreciated and very welcome. You can contact us at:*

Tel: **01 838 8874**
Email: **info@ptrav.ie**
Post: **Parish of the Travelling People,**
St. Laurence House,
6 New Cabra Road,
Phibsborough,
Dublin 7.

If you would like to see your Christening in our Newsletter, please send a photograph and details to the Parish Office, 6 New Cabra Road, Phibsborough, Dublin 7, or preferably by email to info@ptrav.ie

Beginning a Community Conversation on ‘Debt and Dying’



An extract from The Tharie Times (Issue 16, Winter 2013)

On the 20th November, over 50 members of the Traveller community met with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin in Dublin to begin a community conversation on the findings of a recently published report by National Traveller MABS. The report *“Debt and Dying- Understanding and addressing the impact of funeral costs for Travellers in Ireland”* details the financial impact of death within the Traveller community. Formally handing over the report to the Traveller community, National Traveller MABS plans to work with the Traveller community over the coming year to identify the main recommendations the community would like to pursue.



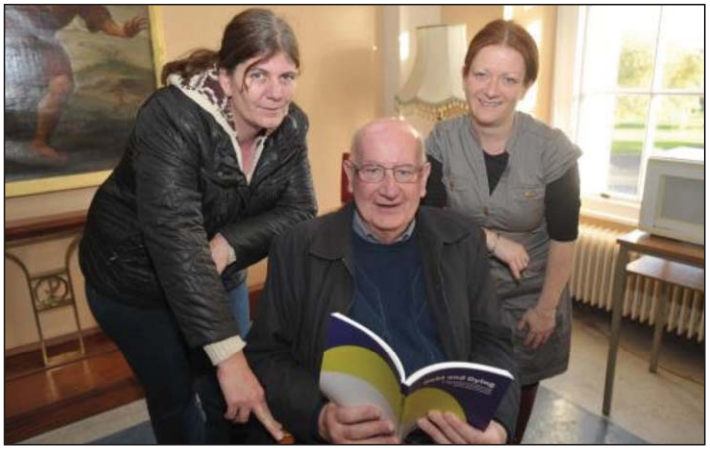
Staff of NTMABS and Sean Mistéill from the CIB with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin.

Archbishop Martin welcomed everyone and went on to talk personally about his grief surrounding his own parents’ deaths and noted how hard it was for him to plan for the funeral. He stressed that people are not in the mind frame of bargaining when in grief and most may feel that bargaining on the cost of a funeral was disrespectful to the deceased.

While the community is diverse, one thing that unites all within the Traveller community is the fact that the dead are very close to the living. Family members may feel differently about how a deceased loved one should be honoured and it can be difficult to talk about it. However, there was general agreement that it was a good time to begin this conversation that respects the culture and practice of the Traveller community and the wishes of families.



Mary McDonnell, Brigid Quilligan, Winnie McDonagh and Lena Lawrence.



Winnie Lawrence, Fr. Paddy Kelly and Suzie McCarthy.

People went on to speak of the lack of affordable credit to cover funeral costs. The issues of life assurance and the role of credit unions were discussed too. Dr. Stuart Stamp, author of the report, noted that while it was a very difficult piece of research to carry out, he wished to thank all the people who shared their stories with him. He said it was great to see that the fruit of his research in the conversation.



Julies McDonagh, Exchange House National Traveller Service.

So why not start the conversations at home where you can talk and share the burdens in a safe and sensitive manner.

For more information on this please contact National Traveller MABS and speak with Liz Daly at 07610 72230 or visit the website at www.ntmabs.org



Meath Primary Health Care with the Archbishop Diarmuid Martin.







Parish Pastoral Council Pilgrimage to St Winifred's Well

Near the end of last year the Parish Staff and Parish Pastoral Council went on a pilgrimage to St Winifred's Well. The pilgrimage was a welcome break for all especially after all the hard work done by everyone in planning and facilitating the Parish Annual Conference which was held in September.

It was a great opportunity for us to reflect on the work around the Conference and also to show appreciation for all the hard work and dedication put in by all. We stayed overnight in Wales where the well is located, travelling from Dublin early on a Wednesday morning with Irish Ferries. We had our own minibus driver who was familiar with the location as he had brought us over to the well a few years earlier, so we had no worries about getting lost or losing out on time on our short stay.

The first thing we did was to visit the well and the local priest gave us access to the relics of St Winifred. We also visited St Pio's Gardens which is only a short distance from the well, we had Mass at the gardens and also we did the Stations of the Cross which are situated in a wood near St Pio's Gardens.

The trip also gave us an opportunity to say farewell to two of our staff members, Georgina and Marcella. These two women had been part of the Parish Team for a good number of years and even though it was sad to be saying goodbye to them it was also good that we had some time away together. We presented them with some tokens of appreciation which included some handmade crafts from a Traveller tinsmith. Overall a very memorable trip was had by all.

Geraldine McDonnell



Congratulations to all those Recently Married

WEDDING PRAYER

True love speaks in tender tones. And hears with gentle ear,
True love gives with open heart. And true love conquers fear.
True love makes no harsh demands. It neither rules nor binds,
And true love holds with gentle hands. The hearts that it entwines.

Date	Names	Address
	Weddings 2013	
20 June	Cindy Ward & Michael Ward	Clondalkin
21 June	Bridget Collins & Martin Maughan	Inchicore
18 July	Marie Lawrence & Billy Stokes	Maynooth
24 July	Donna Marie Maughan & Anthony Lawrence	Brackenstown
22 August	Sally Joyce & Johnny Joyce	Donabate
23 August	Elaine Collins & Tommy Joyce	Moynalty
3 September	Cassie McDonagh & Christopher Lawrence	Finglas West
5 September	Margaret Joyce & Stephen McDonagh	Priorswood
6 September	Emma Canavan & Timmy Collins	Finglas
27 September	Kathrina Corcoran & David Mongan	Inchicore
1 October	Anne Connors & Thomas Connors	Inchicore
8 November	Marie McDonnell & Anthony McDonagh	Finglas
12 November	Sharon Gavin & John Gallagher	Priorswood
27 November	Julieann McDonnell & Davy Joyce	Dunshaughlin
28 November	Brigid Mongan & John Connors	Priorswood
28 November	Rachel Stokes & Michael Reilly	Clondalkin



Anthony McDonagh &
Marie McDonnell, Finglas.



Julieann McDonnell & Davy Joyce
Dunshaughlin.



Sharon Gavin & John Gallagher,
Priorswood.



Cindy & Michael Ward,
Clondalkin.



David Mongan &
Kathrina Corcoran, Inchicore.

For advice on and details of pre-Marriage preparation and requirements, please contact the Parish Office at 01-838 8874.

New Requirements for UK Birth Certificates: Apostille Stamp

If you are getting married in Ireland and were born in the UK and have a UK birth certificate, you now need to get an Apostille Stamp on your birth certificate. This is a legal requirement which you will need for the Registrar's Office so that you can register to get married in Ireland.

An Apostille Stamp can be obtained from a number of places in the UK, but there is no over the counter service, it has to be done by post or online. If you have an English birth certificate and it's in very bad condition you will need a new one. If you require a new birth cert you can order this online with an Apostille Stamp on it. To do this online you will need a credit card.

If you have a birth certificate that's in good condition, you can send it with a cover letter and the appropriate fee to:

Legalisation Office,
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,
PO Box 6255, Milton Keynes,
MK101XX, England.

The fee for this services changes regularly, so please check online for the appropriate fee.
(**www.ukofficialservices.co.uk**)

If you need any more information or assistance with this please contact the Parish Office on (01) 838 8874.



Bridget Collins & Martin Maughan, Inchicore.



Bridget Mongan & John Connors, Priorswood.



Thomas & Anne Connors, Inchicore.

What you need to do when getting married

If you are planning to enter into Marriage we will be very happy to help you in any way we can here in the Parish. The Church welcomes those planning to marry, but also has a duty of care in the preparation of couples, not just for their special day, but also in the support of the life-long commitment they give to each other in Marriage. It is for this reason of care that the following requirements apply for anyone planning to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage:

- You must be at least 18 years old to be married in the Church.
- You must give at least **three months notice** to the Church.
- If you are first cousins, you need to give the Church at least **six months notice**, and you will need to apply for special Dispensation from the Bishop.
- Before making any wedding arrangements, check with the priest you want to marry you to see if he is free on the date you have chosen.
- Then you can book the church you want to be married in – preferably and if possible your own local parish church.
- For information on our own pre-Marriage Courses, or for any other information or advice, you can contact the Parish Office on 01-838 8874.

The State requirements are separate to the Church, and must also be followed:

- You must give a least three months notice to the Registrar's Office.
- Phone the Registrar's Office in Joyce House to make an appointment to get registered. Contact numbers for Joyce House: 01-863 8220 or 01-863 8200
- When you get your appointment date to register in the Registrar's Office, you will need to attend together, and you will need to bring the following:

  Information on the date, the place, and the priest for your wedding.

  Photographic identification (for example Drivers Licence, or passport).

  €200, your PPS numbers, and names and dates of birth of your two witnesses who will be signing the register.

If you would like to see your wedding featured in our Newsletter please forward photo and details to Geraldine/Pauline at Parish of the Travelling People, 6 New Cabra Road, Phibsborough, Dublin 7, or preferably by email to info@ptrav.ie



Margaret and Frehiwot (a student from Ambo Lazarist Deaf School) soak in the atmosphere.

GREAT ETHIOPIAN RUN

A veteran of 10 Flora Women's Mini Marathons Margaret Anne O'Brien was not content to rest on her laurels and so she set her sights on competing in the biggest road race in all of Africa: the Great Ethiopian Run in Addis Ababa. Located at 2,500 meters above sea level, visitors to Addis Ababa often complain about being breathless and tired due to the lack of oxygen in the air. That combined with temperatures of 82 °F means this race is considered one of the most challenging in the world. However that was no deterrent for Margaret, her enthusiasm to participate encouraged another 6 people to follow her lead and join her in this wonderful adventure.

Margaret Anne has been raising funds for various projects over the years including a school for Deaf children in Ambo Ethiopia. The Ambo Lazarist Deaf School was officially opened by the Irish Ambassador to Ethiopia in December 2012. Participating in the Great Run was an opportunity to celebrate this achievement as the establishment of the school was really only made possible through the generosity and assistance of a great many people in Ireland, including all those in the group participating in the Great Run.

The trip to Ethiopia was very short and very intense. On the first day the group travelled to Ambo to meet the Deaf students and see the school. The group were warmly welcomed with a traditional coffee ceremony. The Deaf students put on a drama showing the difference the opening of the school has made to their lives. How they now feel they can really learn through sign language and the ability of the teachers employed to understand their particular needs. They also put on a display of traditional Ethiopian Dancing. There was a great sense of celebration about the visit and there was no doubt that the school has given the Deaf students a whole new sense of esteem and hope. Margaret Anne had met the Deaf group back in 2009 when she first visited Ambo. One of the students said he could not believe that their dream of having a school had come true. The day concluded with a basketball match between Ireland and Ethiopia. It was very competitive and ended in a draw. However people were more than a little surprised at the basketball skills of Margaret Anne. She was so good the Ethiopians were looking for a transfer.



Margaret Anne hits the target in Ambo.

On the morning of the run everyone was up bright and early as they had to be at the start line for 8.00am. There was a great deal of excitement and nervousness among the group. Not sure how the altitude would effect them, not sure if the Sun would be too hot, not sure if there would be any water stops on the route etc.

As we made our way to the start line, the excitement grew with every step.



A medal of pride.

There were 37,000 people expected to take part and soon the small group of Irish were swallowed up in a massive swarm of people all dressed in the same bright yellow t-shirts. Along the road to the start of the run there were huge loudspeakers playing music and large groups of people all warming up by dancing and singing. It was infectious, Margaret Anne said 'you had no choice but to stop and participate'.

All along the route people were singing and clapping, encouraging and joking. Half way along the route there was a huge hose pumping water up into the air to cool down the runners. It was impossible to resist the temptation to run under it. Arriving at the finish line was certainly a relief. However it was made a little more special by the fact that each participant was presented with a medal. This was a lovely token of participation in the event and was prized by everyone who took part. As the group got back together again at the finish line we shared our experiences. Everyone agreed it was a wonderful experience and were already planning to return again next year.

Later that day the three Deaf students returned to Ambo for school on the Monday while the rest of the group attended a reception hosted by the Irish Ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr. Aidan O'Hara for any Irish people who had participated in the Run.

Once the reception was finished the group made their way to the airport for the very long flight home. It was as I said earlier a short and intense journey, but no one regretted it.

Fundraising continues to support the development and upkeep of the Deaf School in Ambo. Margaret Anne is not for retiring and will be participating in the Women's Mini Marathon again on June 2nd 2014. So don't be surprised if over the next few months you bump into her and she is armed with a sponsorship card. You have been warned…

Fr. Stephen Monaghan, C.M.



Presenting a picture to the Irish Ambassador.

This trip is featured in the RTÉ television programme *Hands On,* available on the RTÉ Player

Church-gate fundraising – this time in Clondalkin



The Facebook page associated with the project is www.facebook.com/ethiopiadeafprojectambo

It is possible to donate directly to the project at: www.idonate.ie - ALDS (Ambo Lazarist Deaf School).



Flying the flag of friendship.

Showing Solidarity for Traveller Accommodation



Dublin City Council, 2009-13 programme promised to build 118 new units of Traveller-specific accommodation. It built one.

Fingal County Council in its 2009-13 programme promised between 79 and 91 new units. It provided 30.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's draft programme earmarks a site on Mount Anville Road for Traveller housing. The reports states, "Fearful residents may be reassured to know that the site was also earmarked in the last programme for a group-housing scheme, and in the one before that."

*Extracted from **The Irish Times** 23rd November 2013.*

On a chilly Monday afternoon on 25th November, Travellers from all over Ireland converged outside Fingal County Council's offices in Blanchardstown, in northwest Dublin. The atmosphere was peaceful and almost like a festival but the purpose of Travelling those distances was a very serious one. It was to protest at what they describe as the "total failure of the Traveller accommodation strategy" and to show their support for the McDonnell family who have been waiting for 15 years for Traveller-specific accommodation.

National and local Traveller organisations describe the current situation as a "crisis". Colette Spears of the Irish Traveller Movement calculated the figure of families in need of accommodation as 1282 rather than only those 330 who live in unauthorised sites. Her figure includes those in overcrowded and inappropriately housed Traveller families. "There is a crisis like never before, and it is getting worse, because Travellers are giving up hope that local authorities are ever going to provide Traveller accommodation. And they are losing hope that anyone in central Government cares."

A report in the *Irish Times* highlighted the lack of progress of the Traveller Accommodation Programmes. The report recognises that every local authority is obliged to draw up new 5-year plan and these drafts must be formally adopted by the councils by April 30th. The McDonnell family have seen these plans come and go without any progress. According to Traveller organisations the lack of progress is typical.

When they gathered outside the Fingal Council Offices in Blanchardstown for a peaceful protest, Travellers acted directly and collectively in the hope for change. Alongside the many local and National organisations and individuals present there was also some political party representatives. Joe Higgins T.D. made a powerful speech on the day as did Catherine Joyce, Martin Collins, Bridget Quilligan and Geraldine McDonnell. The McDonnell family sent out a message after the protest to thank all those who had turned up on the day. In her address to those gathered, Geraldine McDonnell said that there were times in the past 15 years that she felt like it was hopeless but seeing others standing up with her family has given her a new hope. The Council met that evening and progress has been promised.





Embracing Inclusion

The Second Annual Conference of the Parish of the Travelling People

Kate O'Brien, *of Phagos Consultancy, was involved with the inclusion initiative all the way through in her independent formative evaluation, which in turn contributed to the initiative's development.*

In this article, Kate reports on the Embracing Inclusion Conference.

Introduction

On September 25th 2013 the Parish of the Travelling People held its second annual conference which focused on the experience and the learning gained over the lifetime of the four-year long *Travelling Towards Inclusion* initiative. That initiative began in 2009 and, since then, each edition of this Newsletter has included details and comments on the activities undertaken in the two pilot parishes of St. Ronan's, Deansrath and Divine Mercy, Balgaddy.

A highlight of the conference was the launch, by the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Diarmuid Martin of a new local parish hospitality programme initiative and accompanying document entitled *Embracing Inclusion: A Way to Intercultural Dialogue in Parish Life.* The document sets out the background to the Parish's *Travelling Towards Inclusion* initiative, the learning from that initiative and the recommendations and hopes for future work.



The Second Annual Conference

The conference which took place in All Hallows College, Dublin was attended by Traveller and settled participants representing parishes throughout the Dublin Archdiocese; by representatives of Traveller organisations and by representatives of the Education & Training Board (ETB) and ACCORD. The smooth running of the conference was greatly facilitated by members of the Traveller men's football team, Pavee Gaelic Football Club, who provided support to participants, enabling them to move easily and quickly to and from the different venues in use during the day.

Justice and Pastoral care

In his introduction to the conference the Parish Priest of the Parish of the Travelling People, Fr. Derek Farrell spoke about the *Travelling Towards Inclusion* initiative and the new *Embracing Inclusion* initiative as responses based on justice and pastoral care. He said that this was *"a faith based initiative calling for a faith based response – a way, one way, to intercultural dialogue in parish life".* Fr. Derek stressed that the initiative was being offered *"not as the last word, but perhaps as a first step".*

Launching the Embracing Inclusion Initiative

Officially launching the *Embracing Inclusion* document Archbishop Diarmuid Martin welcomed that fact that it was Travellers and the Parish of the Travelling People who were

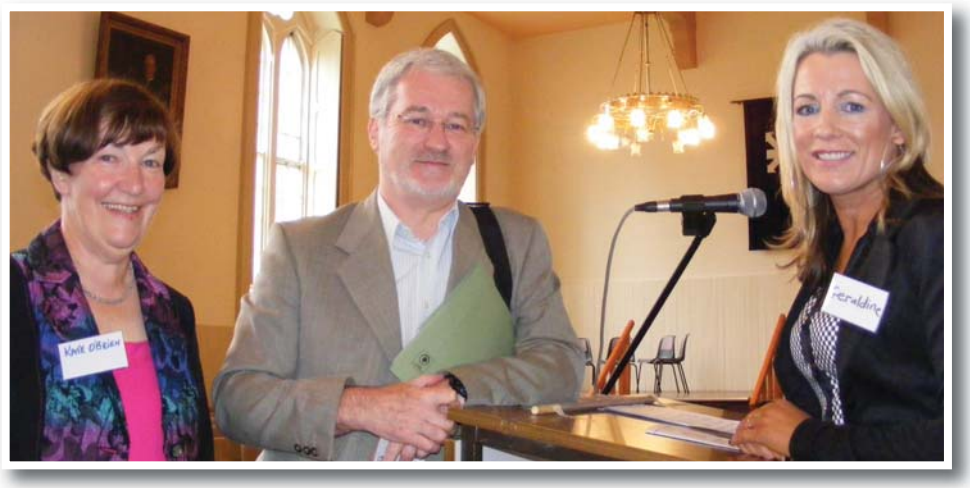
taking the lead in this initiative – "*the great thing about today's event is that it is the Traveller Community, which has witnessed and still witnesses exclusion, that takes the lead in challenging us to reflect on what exclusion means*".



Archbishop Martin also spoke about recent statements made by Pope Francis about inclusion and he made links between the Pope's statements, the work of the Parish of the Travelling People and the theme of the conference. Pope Francis has emphasised the importance of being open and reaching out to people who, for whatever reason, find themselves on the margins of community or parish life.



Archbishop Martin expressed his appreciation to the Parish of the Travelling People for the work being done with and for Travellers and he suggested that in the way it works, the Parish acts "*in the spirit of Pope Francis in the way they reach out and challenge all of us to reach out to embrace and understand and sustain Travellers and to foster their ability to become an integral part of the day to day life of the Church*".



In his concluding comments Archbishop Martin again welcomed the *Embracing Inclusion* initiative and encouraged parishes to become involved.

Why Inclusion?

The Parish of the Travelling People's *Embracing Inclusion* initiative is a continuation of the work that began in 2009 but the Parish's focus on inclusion is not new. Since it was established the Parish has worked in partnership and solidarity with Travellers and in its promotion of inclusion, the Parish is following the Church's Guidelines on pastoral care of Travellers. The work that began with local parishes in 2009 was about working within those Guidelines and about finding ways of breaking down barriers and misunderstanding and promoting and supporting greater understanding of the common faith shared by Traveller and settled parishioners. It was also about promoting different ways of expressing that faith so that Travellers were included as equal and valued members of the parishes where they live.

The Learning and the Impact

The four years of the pilot initiative in St. Ronan's and Divine Mercy parishes provided many opportunities for learning from what was a new way of working. The experience has shown very clearly the value of creating the conditions for Traveller and settled parishioners to come together in a safe and welcoming environment and having the time to meet, talk and get to know each other. What the experience also shows is that this process cannot be rushed, it takes time, it takes patience, but when the right conditions are created, change can happen.



The value of creating a safe and welcoming environment at local parish level was clearly explained by Mary Maughan who was one of the conference speakers. Mary lives in Divine Mercy Parish, she took part in the hospitality programme and she shared her experience of the programme and the impact it had on her and other Traveller and settled parishioners.

In her presentation Mary emphasised the importance, for her, of being able to have the kind of conversations where both Traveller and settled parishioners had time to "*talk about our lives, our families, the ups and downs we face and the importance of faith in our lives*". For Mary, these conversations were an important first step in building relationships and beginning to challenge misunderstandings and prejudices.

Mary also spoke of the difference the programme has made to her as a











parishioner. Prior to the programme she went to Mass and came home with little or no contact with settled parishioners. However, after the programme "*things have changed, we know each other by name and we chat. Both sides, Traveller and settled are making an effort and the difference is huge*". In addition to this Mary also mentioned the fact that herself and another Traveller woman were invited to join the Divine Mercy Parish Pastoral Council. They have agreed to join and Mary suggested that while this was a hoped for outcome at the start of the overall project it is unlikely it would have happened without the work done during the hospitality programme.



The Welcoming Parish – Rejoicing in the Rainbow

"*Tomorrow's parish, the parish of the future, is a place of diversity, not uniformity. It's a place where difference is valued, where diversity is cherished – much like the way we rejoice in the rainbow*". (Donal Harrington)

In his conference presentation Donal Harrington reflected on the work done in St. Ronan's and Divine Mercy Parishes and said that, for him, this work was about" *creating the conditions where people, settled and Traveller, could interact with each other*". He spoke about the importance of getting rid of the fear, prejudice and misunderstanding that keeps people apart. He spoke of this as reducing or collapsing the distance between people so that "*real people meet real people, for each to see the other as a real person*".

Donal also spoke of the importance of the *Embracing Inclusion* initiative and the work being done by the Parish of the Travelling People which he likened to holding a kind of mirror to other parishes: "*when people in parishes listen, it's like looking in a mirror. Parishes can see themselves and discover themselves. They can see reflected what they are meant to be; what they themselves can become*".



Attitudes and Inclusion – Clearing the Obstacles

In his conference presentation Dr Seán Ruth spoke about how our personal attitudes can get in the way and become obstacles on the journey towards inclusion. He repeated what was a recurring theme of the conference, namely, the importance of creating conditions where people feel safe to talk, openly and honestly, about themselves and about "*the blocks, fears, ignorance, prejudice that get in the way of getting close*". He stressed that a key part of inclusion is about being honest about "*my own baggage*".

Seán also spoke about the emotional aspects of inclusion and about the importance of creating conditions to "*unload baggage and do so without blaming or seeing people as bad*". Part of inclusion is not having to hide emotions and one way to loosen the hold of baggage is through talking to and being real with each other and doing so without pretence.

Seán concluded his presentation by restating the challenge of working for real inclusion; he stressed that while it is very important and worthwhile *"it is not a smooth process, it can be messy"*. Referring to the *Embracing Inclusion* initiative he said it is now at the leading edge of inclusion work and *"if this process works for Travellers it will lead to work with other groups"*.



Conference Workshops

As well as hearing from the speakers participants at the conference also had the opportunity to take part in workshops where a number of aspects of inclusion were discussed. The themes for the workshops were:

Inclusion and Involvement by Local Parish Personnel; Inclusion and Communion: Gospel Call; Inclusion and Attitudes; Inclusion and Intercultural Education; Inclusion and the Pilot Experience in St. Ronan's Parish, Deansrath; Inclusion and the Pilot Experience in Divine Mercy Parish, Balgaddy.

Continuing the Embracing Inclusion Journey

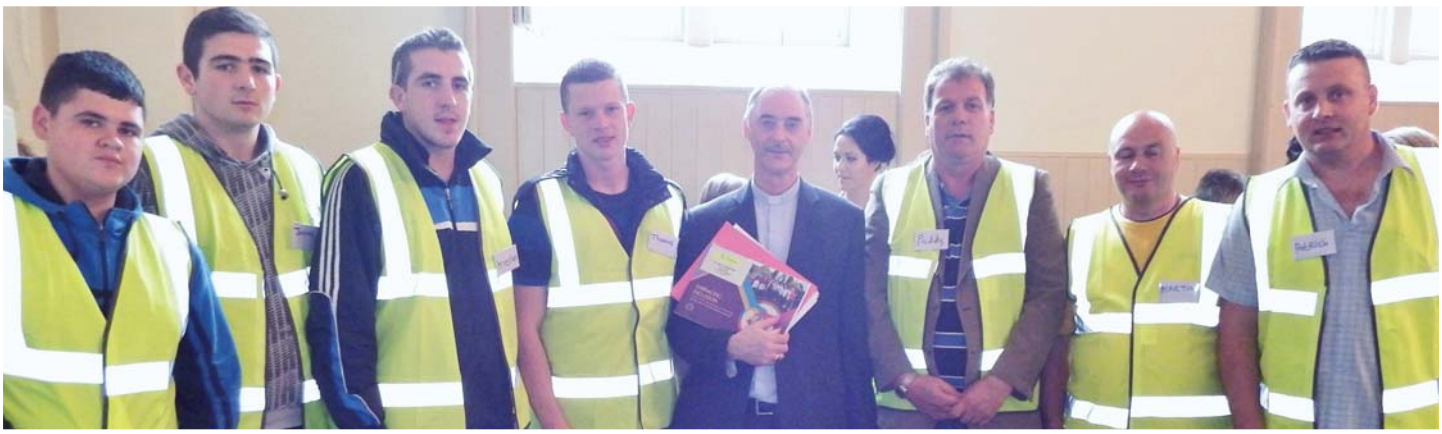
At the end of the conference participants expressed their satisfaction with the day and they were positive, supportive and encouraging of what the *Embracing Inclusion* initiative hopes to achieve.



For further information on the *Embracing Inclusion* programme, or for copies of the *Embracing Inclusion* document please contact the Parish Office at (01) 838 8874.

Some conference photos courtesy of *The Irish Catholic* Newspaper.





Archbishop Diarmuid Martin's Address to the Conference *(Continued from page 3)*

These thoughts of Pope Francis are not just abstract reflections on the nature of the Church. They are concrete challenges to each of our parish communities. The Church is not a comfort zone for the like-minded. It is the family of Jesus Christ which gathers in the Eucharist and which is then sent out to ensure that the loving embrace of Jesus reaches all. Our new *Local Parish Hospitality Programme* is an important response that we can make to Pope Francis' challenge. Our parishes must become inclusive. They must be open and welcoming. A parish which becomes exclusivist betrays its mission and betrays the very Eucharist which is at its heart.

Ireland is a changing society. We are in many ways less homogenous. We have welcomed people of various nationalities and backgrounds to our shores and thank God the majority of them feel welcomed. But we would be foolish to think that such welcome comes automatically. Welcome is not a veneer. Welcome is not simply acceptance. Welcoming is not simply saying you are welcome, but we determine all the terms. Welcoming is about embracing. It is a two way process in which we welcome the other as the other and embrace them as individuals with their differences and with the culture that is theirs.

The Parish of the Travelling People is a unique initiative of my predecessors as Archbishop of Dublin which has grown and has flourished since its foundation. I wish to express my appreciation to Father Derek Farrell, the current Parish Priest, and his great team for the work they do with and for Travellers. They act in the spirit of Pope Francis in the way in which they reach out and challenge all of us to reach out to embrace and understand and sustain Travellers and to foster their ability to become an integral part of the day to day life of the Church.

The Parish of the Travelling People has an important role, but that role must never be to separate. Travellers belong in the parish in which they live and this new initiative sets out to show us what inclusion means in a parish in the new Ireland. Inclusion is not just about the Travelling people; it is about being a welcoming community for all. With this initiative the Traveller community takes the lead in showing us a way forward.

One of the great things about this initiative is that it is very practical. It is not an initiative just with broad general outlines and vague ideas. It sets out concrete steps. It begins with the simple – things like ensuring that Travellers can be active participants in the ordinary activities of the parish they live in: from reading the lessons to being members of parish pastoral councils and organizations.



In a recent interview Pope Francis spoke of change in the Church and the pace of change. He said that change can be slow and that what is most important is not change in structures, but change in attitudes. Changes in structures without changes in attitude will end up in a dead-end and eventually lead to frustration.

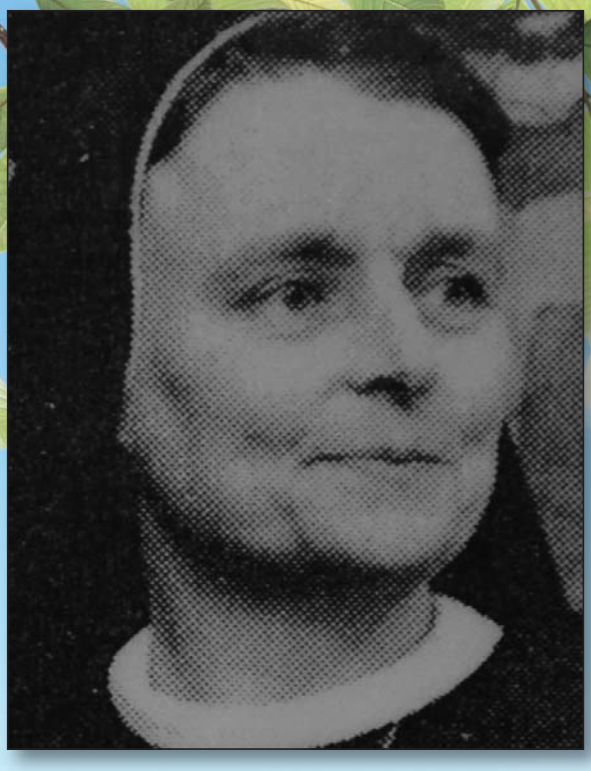
Pope Francis challenges us to become "the tender embrace of the Jesus" for all who are marginalised and on the fringes and on the frontiers of the society in which we live. He does not simply say, as a theological statement, that the Church is the tender embrace of Christ's love. He challenges us to become that tender embrace.

There is something important in that word embrace. It is a word which cannot simply add-in to a strategic plan on paper or on a computer screen. Embracing is not just an idea: it is a process. It means going out and meeting, encountering, moving from the polite handshake to the warm grip in which people become truly friends.

This initiative now wishes to reach out more widely to every parish in the Archdiocese of Dublin. It sets out a road map and a verification process to see how it progresses. I am delighted to see how many parishes have taken up this invitation of the Traveller Community and I encourage all other parishes to follow suit. I am happy to endorse the recommendations of the evaluation report contained in the *Embracing Inclusion* document and commend them to parishes.

I wish God's blessing on all of you and on your work here today as this Archdiocese of Dublin travels onwards building on the theme of last year's Eucharistic Congress, ensuring that our Communion with Christ blossoms into a new and deeper communion with one another.







Commemoration of the work of the late Sr. Colette Dwyer SHCI

A tree-planting ceremony took place in the grounds of St. Kieran's National School for Travellers to commemorate the work of the late Sr. Colette Dwyer SHCI (1917-2011). Friends and colleagues gathered to celebrate the life and work of this remarkable religious woman. Born into a wealthy merchant family in Co. Cork, from her early life as a member of the Holy Child community she was devoted to education. Around the early 1980s on her retirement, she became aware of the appalling living conditions endured by some Traveller families living near her school and when she visited them to see how she might be of help; their answer at the time was "Would you teach us to read Sister!", (*which later became the title of her biography, published by Blackwater Press in 1995*).

So she set about doing this by orchestrating a whole system of Traveller appropriate education centres throughout the country assisted by many of the influential people and politicians of the time.

She was a woman of steely determination, and many stories have been told of her tough dealings with government ministers. At her Requiem Mass in 2011, Bishop Christy Jones of Elphin emphasised Sr Colette's magnificent contribution in the area of education and training

She is remembered with great affection by many among generations of Travellers, and truly we will never see her likes again. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam uasal.

– *Caroline Kennedy*, St Kieran's School, Bray







Illegal Moneylending

National Traveller MABS hosted a seminar on Illegal Moneylending at which Vincent Browne launched "Overcoming Illegal Debt", a National Traveller MABS community education resource.

On October 8th, over 100 guests attended a seminar on illegal moneylending at the Lighthouse Cinema in Dublin hosted by National Traveller MABS.

At the seminar, Journalist and Broadcaster, **Vincent Browne** launched a community education resource by National Traveller MABS entitled '**Overcoming Illegal Debt'.** Vincent stated how shameful it was how Ireland as a nation treats Travellers. '**Overcoming Illegal Debt**' includes a short film "**A Deal's a Deal**" which depicts one Traveller family and their struggle with an illegal moneylender. The resource aims to prevent participants from entering into illegal debt, whilst also providing a pathway out of illegal debt, if it exists.

'Overcoming Illegal Debt' enables discussions within the Traveller Community on the issue of illegal moneylending. It will allow participants to discuss a sensitive topic in a non-personal way. The resource allows participants to discuss the issues while referring to characters in the accompanying film "***A Deal's a Deal",*** featuring a cast which includes well-known actor Michael Collins. The story depicted in the film is specific to Travellers' experience but the story itself is universal and can be used as a tool in community financial education generally; '***Overcoming Illegal Debt***' will support Travellers in debt to illegal moneylenders and will provide alternatives to the illegal moneylender for those who could fall victim to them in the future.

The seminar saw a number of speakers discuss the topic of illegal moneylending. Thomas McCann, Director of the Traveller Counselling Service, detailed the extent of Traveller exclusion in Ireland citing figures from the Census and the All Ireland Traveller Health Study. He emphasized that any proposed solution to the issue of illegal moneylending must take into account such exclusion.

Speaking at the seminar, Labour Party T.D. Aodhán O Ríordáin pledged to work with National Traveller MABS on developing a proposal for government to address the issues surrounding illegal moneylending.

Chair of the Citizens Information Board, Ms. Sylda Langford, spoke strongly on the need for sustainable solutions. She congratulated National Traveller MABS for hosting the seminar stating that "It highlights the difficulties and concerns for low income households in accessing mainstream credit due to over-indebtedness … and ..It provides another important building block in cross-agency efforts to tackle illegal moneylending and reverse the damage it continues to cause in the most vulnerable communities."

The seminar aimed to:

- Highlight the issue of illegal moneylending among service providers working with low income groups
- Promote services and supports that support individuals who are at risk borrowing or have borrowed from an illegal moneylender
- Identify sustainable solutions

Other contributors to the seminar included Detective Sergeant Ronan Joyce from an Garda Síochána who urged the public to speak with the Garda Siochána in relation to this issue of illegal moneylending. Joe Nevin from Sligo MABS highlighted how local communities can address the issue, outlining the work of Communities against Illegal Moneylending (CAILM) in Sligo. Elizabeth Foster from Inchicore Credit Union detailed how the credit union operated and advised all in attendance to consider joining their local credit union.

Some of the main recommendations put forward included the establishment of a government interdepartmental working group which would sit with MABS, social finance agencies, the Saint Vincent de Paul and related bodies to begin to address the issue of illegal moneylending. In addition to the importance of such a group examining existing legislation in this area, focus was also placed on the necessity for ensuring access to affordable and legal credit was available to people on low income. National Traveller MABS hopes to work in the future with all those who are prepared to build a sustainable social policy around this issue and financial exclusion generally.

We will leave the last word to one of the people who attended on the day who kindly wrote "***Thank you for the conference and for the hard work that went into preparing it. It was well worth attending and I know it addresses an issue which is affecting a great number of Travellers".***





PAVEE GAELIC FOOTBALL CLUB

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year from the Pavee team and management. Last year was a good year for the Pavees we had just got up and running and the interest we received from the Traveller and wider community was great. So here we are in our second year ready to do it all again.

We are currently in the Junior League and Cup and hopefully it will be a good year for us. If there is any Travellers interested in joining our team feel free to make contact with us.

I would like on behalf of the entire Team and management to thank all of those who have shown us huge support last year, and we look forward to your continuing support this season.

We will keep you updated on our progress in The Parish Newsletter

Paddy McDonnell, *Manager*


Blue Beat with Noel Scally

Pavee planning for bright future

PAVEE GAELIC FOOTBALL CLUB

The cost of running a team is very expensive, such as jerseys, insurance and league fees, so if you would like to sponsor the Pavee Gaelic Team please contact Paddy McDonnell, Manager

CONTACT: Email: paddymcdonnellwalkinstown@hotmail.com

All-Ireland Amateur Boxing Finals, National Stadium, Dublin



Above: Michael McInerney winning his under 15 Final representing Nenagh Boxing Club.

Below: Teresa McInerney, Nikita Casey and referee Larry Durand.



NTSAP
National Traveller Suicide Awareness Project

The National Traveller Suicide Awareness project is a resource to Traveller organisations and suicide related services raising awareness on the issue of suicide within the Traveller community.

The aim of the NTSAP is to make a positive impact in effectively reducing the rate of Traveller suicides within Ireland. The Project offers tailored and group specific training on suicide awareness and mental well-being, bereavement through suicide, self-harm and also looks at developing innovative ways to highlight the issue of mental health and suicide within the Traveller community. Our training is offered to Travellers, Traveller groups, statutory or voluntary organisations and services throughout the country.

Following on from the work since NTSAPs inception in 2008, the service has become part of Exchange House National Traveller Service Family support team and has two new members of staff working on the project.

Patricia joined the NSAP in October 2013 and fulfils the role of Suicide Prevention Facilitator. She has a vast amount of experience of working in the community and voluntary sector with marginalised clients.
She has over 3 years' experience of working within the field of self-harm, suicide prevention and intervention. Prior to joining the NTSAP she was employed in a Dublin based housing charity where she worked as a senior project worker providing one to one support in tenancy sustainment and life skills to people coming from homeless services. She holds a BSc. in Psychology and MSc. in Rehabilitation and Disability.

Ronan joined the NTSAP in November 2013 taking up the role of men's development worker within the project. He has taken up the post having gained a wealth of experience working in the community and voluntary sector in Northern Ireland were he took up his first full time position at the age of 23.Throughout his career to date he has held positions with the Department of Social Development and worked as a community development worker with Belfast City Council. Prior to joining the NTSAP, Ronan worked as a drug and alcohol caseworker within the Northern Ireland prison system. In addition to this experience he has acquired third level qualifications in Adult Nursing Studies and Youth and Community work.

For further information on how the service can help you or your group please contact:





Trisha McKeever on 087 792 5387 or
Ronan Gilchrist on 087 377 0050
National Traveller Suicide Awareness Project,
Exchange House,
61 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1.
Tel: 00 353 1 8721094,
Email: ntsap@exchangehouse.ie
Website: www.travellersuicide.ie



Blanchardstown Travellers Specialist Health and Social Initiative Group

We the Blanchardstown Travellers Specialist Health and Social initiative group would like to welcome ourselves back to the Blanchardstown area! We are looking forward to working with the Travellers and agencies in our area. We started back up in late September 2013 and have been very busy. Our group consists of a Co-ordinator Kathleen Joyce and four specialist workers Missy Collins, Bernadette Joyce, Christine McDonagh and Helen McDonagh.

We have chosen four areas of health to specialise in:

- **Heart Health**
- **Older People's Health**
- **Obesity**
- **Mental Health in Youths/Misuse of Drugs.**

We plan to train up these areas. We have already done courses and are networking with agencies and support groups in our area.

Our new address is:
Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group,
Unit 4, Block D, Bymac Centre,
Northwest Business Park,
Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

Email: specialisthealthgroup@yahoo.com
Tel: 01 820 7812

SAMARITANS – *You Talk, We Listen*

Samaritans provides confidential non-judgemental emotional support, 24 hours a day for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those which could lead to suicide.

To contact Samaritans:

Tel: 1850 60 90 90

***Text*: 087 260 90 90**

Whatever you're going through, whether it's big or small, don't bottle it up. Samaritans are here for you if you're worried about something, feel upset or confused, or just want to talk to someone.

TRAVELLER COUNSELLING SERVICE

If you feel that you need to talk to someone in confidence about issues or difficulties you might be having.

Contact Traveller Counselling Service on

086-308 1476

www.console.ie

Console
LIVING WITH SUICIDE

www.1Life.ie
Suicide Prevention Helpline

NATIONAL FREE PHONE HELPLINE

1800 201 890

Console provides a National Free Phone Helpline, 7 Days a Week, 24 Hours a Day.

Cyber and Text Bullying – *support information*

Social networks are a part of life for many, and can be used for good or bad. Cyberbullying, one such bad use, can involve unwanted text messages, phone video recordings or web posts being used to threaten, abuse or harm someone. It's like physical or verbal bullying, but it uses technology instead. If you ever experience this form of bullying, it's vital you don't suffer in silence, and that you take action and address the problem.

What to do if you're being bullied by text or online:

- Don't reply to the messages.
- Save the evidence (photo/email/video/web post, etc) as proof.
- Tell a trusted adult, such as a close relative, a family friend, a teacher, health professional or a youth worker.
- Contact a free confidential support service such as Samaritans – telephone 1850 609090.
- Report the bullying to the Gardaí.
- Report the bullying to the technology providers such as the mobile phone company, web host or website owner.

Parish News...

The Parish of the Travelling People on Facebook and Twitter



The **Parish of the Travelling People** has set up a Facebook page. We are to be found on Twitter too: **@TravellerParish**.

Some people are worried about these new fangled apps and gizmos. But look in your pocket and you probably already have a phone that does more than make calls. Sure, some people think social media is not safe. It is what we make of it though, and certainly social media can be used for the good. We want to make a network of friends and we will be in good company with Pope Francis, the Archdiocese of Dublin, Traveller organisations, Parish Pastoral Workers and other friends.



So the next step is to invite you to Follow us, to Like our page and make Friends. Just recently launched, it is a work in progress, but we have so far reached 62 (Likes). Let's triple that. And feel free to comment on the Parish page.

PARISH OFFICE RENOVATIONS



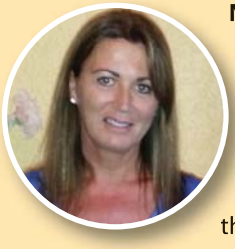
We are glad to report the completion of much-needed renovation work on the Parish Office building, with thanks to the builders, electricians, painters and our landlords the Vincentian Community.

The Parish base offers a wide range of pastoral, administrative and support services to individuals, families and parishes in the diocese.

Office Hours are Mon-Fri 9:30am to 2:00pm, at St. Laurence House, 6 New Cabra Road, Phibsborough, Dublin 7, Tel: 01 838 8874.

Thanks & Farewell

It is good to have the opportunity to express our appreciation and best wishes to three important contributors to the life and work of the Parish over recent years, and who have recently moved on.



NOREEN WARD, dedicated member of the Parish Pastoral Council over many years, became the Council's first elected Chairperson in 2011. As Chairperson, Noreen played a very important role in the Parish preparation for and participation in the *International Eucharistic Congress 2012*, including her representing the Parish community at the Opening Mass and at other events of the *IEC2012* week.



MARCELLA WYNNE joined our staff in 2009, under the Community Employment Scheme. Many who phoned or visited the Parish Office over recent years were greeted by Marcella in her Receptionist/Secretarial role. Marcella's professional approach and friendly manner were much appreciated by our callers and by all our staff.



GEORGINA JAMESON initially came to the Parish in February 2010 on placement as part of her training to become one of the Diocese's Parish Pastoral Workers. Happily, Georgina then received a three-year appointment to the Parish, bringing to the team, the work and the community her distinctive gifts, enthusiasm and warm open-natured approach. Georgina brought these gifts and qualities to the *Travelling Towards Inclusion* initiative, most particularly through her central role in helping to develop and pilot the *Embracing Inclusion* hospitality programme.

Though now moved on, Georgina's, Marcella's, and Noreen's presence and contribution remain well-remembered and much appreciated by colleagues, Pastoral Council members, and parishioners alike. We warmly thank and wish them well.

The Child Protection Policy Statement of the Parish of the Travelling People

The Archdiocese of Dublin and The Parish of the Travelling People value and encourage the participation of children and young people in Parish liturgies and Diocesan activities in order to enhance their spiritual, physical, intellectual and social development.

We recognise the dignity and rights of all children, and are committed to ensuring their protection from all forms of abuse.

This is a commitment binding on all priests and on those who work in the Dublin Diocesan offices, agencies, and parishes. It extends to all the many and varied ways that children share in the life of the Church in the Diocese.

Each child/young person is a gift of God and has a right to dignity of life and bodily integrity, which must be respected, nurtured and protected.

The Parish
Child Protection Representative is
Mr. Colin Thomson:
087 913 7888.

The Diocesan
Designated Person is
Mr. Andrew Fagan:
01-836 0314.

The Diocesan
Deputy Designated Person is
Ms. Sinead McDonnell:
01-836 0314.

If you wish to talk to a HSE duty social worker about the safety and/or protection of children or young people:
Local Duty Social Worker HSE: **(01) 882 5000** (Office hours).

Outside of HSE hours, or in the case of an emergency, please contact **(01) 666 8600**, or your local Garda Station.

For access to counselling and support, please contact:
TOWARDS HEALING: **1800 33 1234** (Monday & Wednesday 11am to 8pm and Friday 11am to 4pm)
The SAMARITANS: **1850 60 90 90** (anytime).

THE WELFARE OF THE CHILD IS ALWAYS PARAMOUNT

May these few words of sympathy help ease the grief you bear,
and may it comfort you to know, that others really care.

Recently Deceased

May 2013		
29th	Baby Francis McDonagh	Ballymun
June		
18th	Ann McDonagh	Churchtown
July		
9th	Mary Ward	Clondalkin Village
August		
7th	Martin (Moustache) McDonagh	Coolock
14th	Willie Maughan	St. James Street
25th	Keith Ward	Coolock
October		
2nd	John Joyce	Coolock
7th	Baby Marie Cash	Tallaght
17th	John Griffin	Tallaght
29th	Kieran Reilly	Lusk & Finglas
30th	Bernadette Cash	Blanchardstown
November		
16th	Margaret Wall	Walkinstown
30th	Barney (Bockan) Joyce	Rathfeigh, Ashbourne
December		
22nd	Mary (Loney) Ward	Dunsink Lane
28th	Molly Joyce (Aged 5 ½ years)	Lissenhall, Swords

First Year Anniversary 2013

June		
15th	Martin Anthony Lawrence (3 Months)	Swords
July		
19th	Martin Maughan	Baskin Lane
22nd	Logan Joyce (4 Years)	Ratoath Road
August		
9th	Mike Joyce	Dunsink
15th	Paddy Flynn	Labre Park
29th	Jacqueline McDonagh	Navan
October		
5th	Nan Hand	Mulhuddart
5th	Denis Ward	Clondalkin
16th	James (Jim) Connors	Tallaght
November		
4th	John O'Donnell	Ballycoolin
5th	Nellie Joyce	Dunsink
12th	Ned Delaney	Phibsborough
29th	Teresa Joyce	Dunsink
December		
12th	Paddy Joyce (2 years)	Navan
23rd	Nan Maughan	Ballymun

If we have missed out on any Recently Deceased, or First Year Anniversaries
please forward them to us and we will add them in our next issue. Also if you would like to send us a photo of your loved one and a poem, we will try to include it in our First Year Anniversary section.

We pray for all those recently deceased.
May they rest in peace.
Amen



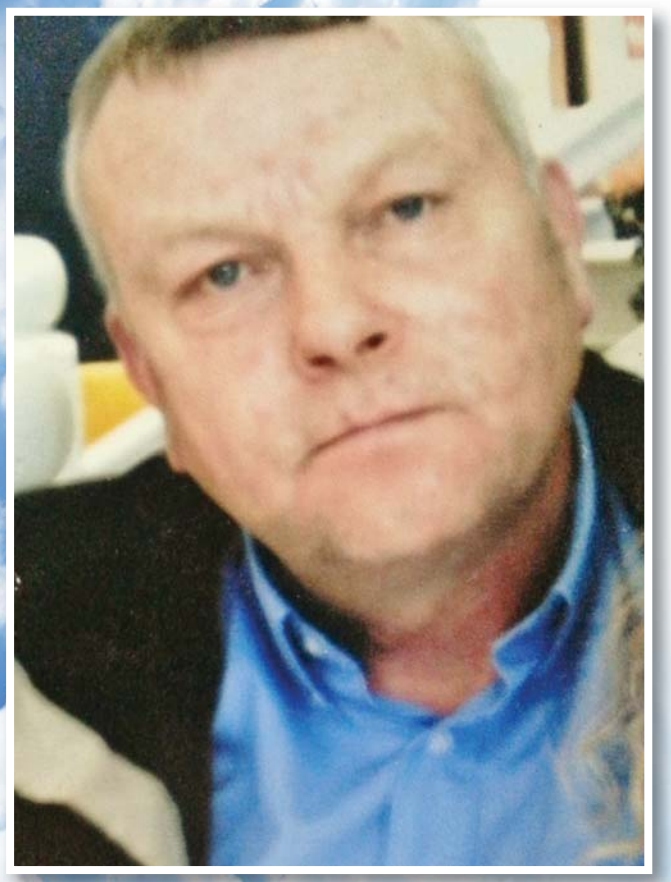
God our refuge and strength, close at hand in our distress; meet us in our sorrow and lift our eyes to the peace and light of your constant care.

Help us so to hear your word of grace that our fear will be dispelled by your love, our loneliness eased by your presence and our hope renewed by your promises in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In Loving Memory

First Year Anniversary



There's a secret path to heaven,
There lies a golden door,
The man that's waiting there in it,
He'll be alone no more,
Till we meet again in heaven,
someday, somehow I'll know
Rest in peace my dear love
Thinking of you always.

Forever in our thoughts and hearts, rest in peace Mick. Sadly missed by your loving family, Mary, all your dear beloved children, Theresa, Minnie, Michael, James, Helen, Larry, and all extended family and friends.

In loving memory of

Mick Connors, RIP

Died 25th December 2012.



We think about you often
We talk about you still
You haven't been forgotten
And you know you never will

No matter how life changes
No matter what we do
A special place within our hearts
Is always kept for you

Prayer to Saint Brigid

Feast Day, 1st February




St. Brigid's Well, Kildare

Brigid

You were a woman of peace.

You brought harmony where there was conflict.

You brought light to darkness.

You brought hope to the downcast.

May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious, and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.

Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.

Brigid, you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.

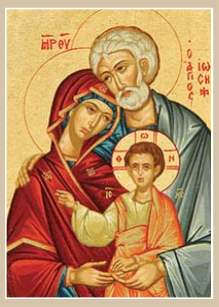
Strengthen what is weak within us.

Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.

May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit.

Amen

A FAMILY PRAYER



God our Father,

in Jesus you call all Christian families and homes to be signs of living faith.

By the light of the Holy Spirit,
lead us to be thankful for the gift of faith.
Through that gift,
may we grow in our relationship with Jesus, your Son.
And may we be confident witnesses in christian hope and joy to all we meet.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

YOUTH ZONE

A CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS



The National Educational Achievement Awards 2013

The 2013 Exchange House National Educational Achievement Award took place on October 18th, 2013 in the Wood Quay Venue, at Dublin City Council. This Award is presented to Travellers from the 32 counties of Ireland, who had recently completed the Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate, GCSE, A Level examinations or Third Level Courses. Accompanying the recipients to the event were the families, friends, Teachers and others who has supported them in their education. The event was a great success due to the presence of so many people. Frances Fitzgerald TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs has supported the Awards by presenting the recipient's with their certs. She greatly encouraged the recipient's and congratulated them on their educational achievements.

It was a cold, stormy evening outside but inside the atmosphere was one of happiness, achievement and fun. Exchange House National Traveller Services hosts this annual event to congratulate the recipients of the award, what they have achieved is valued and applauded. The Award also highlights the increasing uptake in Traveller people accessing formal education. They are role models for other Travellers, who are engaged in, or are considering returning to, formal education while portraying positive images of the Traveller community.

We consider it important to celebrate education which is essential to the future of the recipients of the award and to the Traveller community. Traveller people are now more and more aware of the vast possibilities within education, and taking advantage of opportunities. Accessing education is providing the opportunity to build for their future, that of their community and society in general.

There are lots of positive things happening in the Traveller community but they tend to go unnoticed outside the community. The Exchange House National Educational Achievement Awards provides Traveller people, who have worked hard to achieve success, the opportunity to step into the spotlight and be applauded for their academic achievements. Formal education attainment is becoming the norm in the Traveller community and Exchange House is happy to host this celebration of academic achievement. Catherine Collins one of the young people who attended the event said "A child without education is like a bird without wings". Tom McDonagh who also attended the event said "Education is very important, it's like a key, the more you know, the more doors that open".

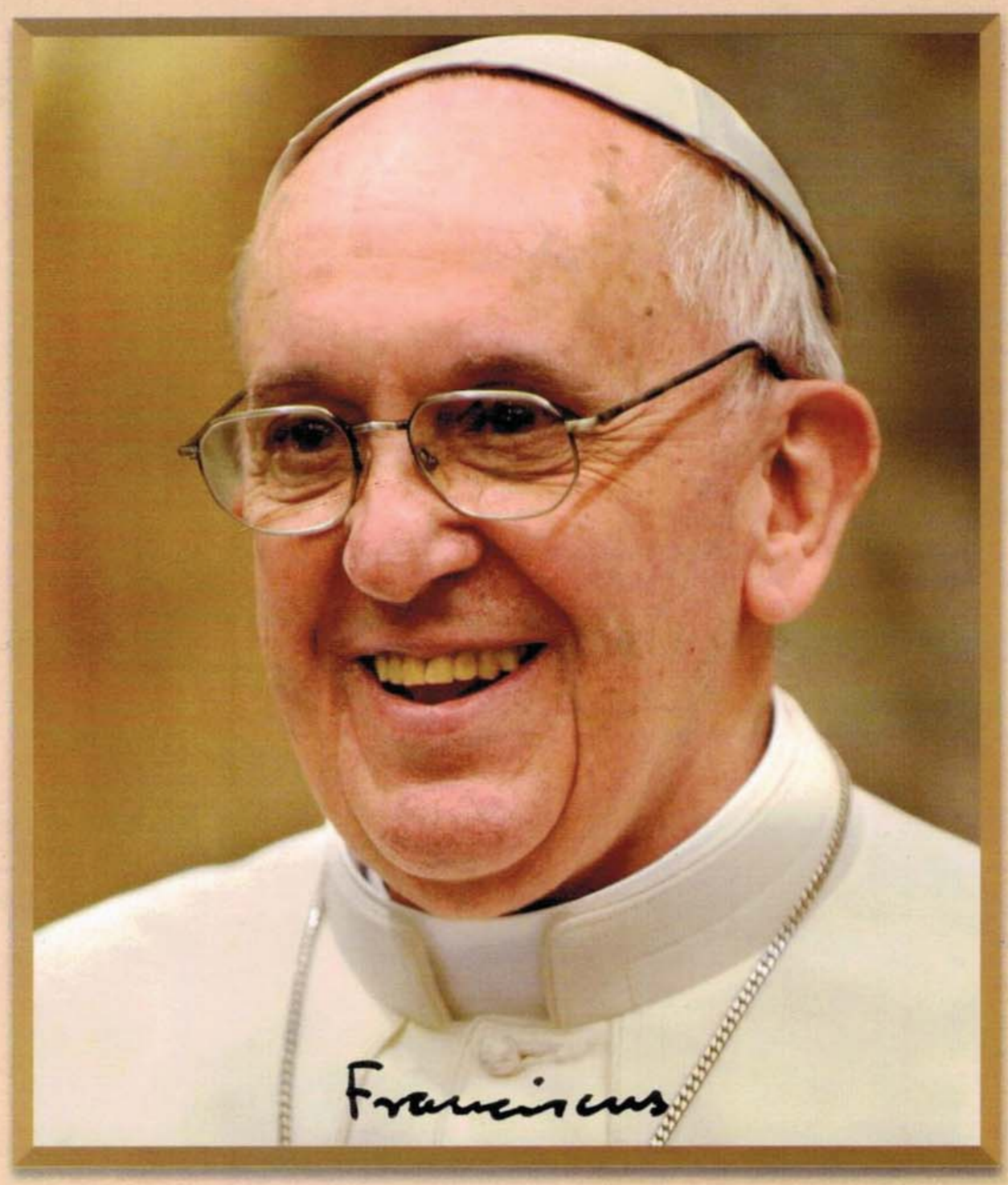
There are still challenges facing Travellers today, these young people face many challenges in life. They experience a lot of criticism in life that stems from the ignorance of others. But this Awards event is one of celebration and success, where people's achievements are acknowledged and applauded. They are understood for who they are and what they have to offer, people with potential.

The Exchange House National Educational Achievement Award is a celebration of the success of the recipients providing a chance to congratulate people. The event is a chance for proud parents and teachers to celebrate with students in recognition of their hard work. It was a fun-filled, fast paced event and all nominees who attend on the night were included in a raffle, with many fantastic prizes including an iPad, a laptop, Tablets and MP3 players. This is a fun way to end the event for the recipients and some lucky people go home with great prizes.

Exchange House is privileged to host the National Education Achievement Awards. We are supported in this by the City of Dublin Council who provides the venue and refreshments and by the Katherine Howard Foundation. The awards continuing success is also thanks to the recipients, their families, teachers and all who support them in their education, who continue to come and help us to celebrate with them their educational achievement.

Cathleen McDonagh Clark

If you would like to nominate someone this year for an award, please visit, or call the Education Service on 01 872 1094.



Do not bury your talents,
Do not bury the gifts that
God has given you,
Do not be afraid to dream
of Great Things!

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