The Traveller

Parish Newsletter

Autumn 2012





PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL PILGRIMAGE TO ROME



CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT



MARIE CASH BOOK LAUNCH



TRAVELLING TOWARDS INCLUSION AT IEC2012



WELCOME

Over the past few months, a number of people have asked, 'When is the next copy of ***The Traveller Parish Newsletter*** coming out?'. Well, I'm glad to say finally, here it is! It has been almost a full year since our last edition. In terms of events and happenings it has indeed been a very full year, something which you may notice from the content inside this issue. So now, with apologies for the delay to our readers and contributors, here we go again..

One of the biggest events of the year for the Church, nationally and internationally was the **50th International Eucharistic Congress** (IEC2012) which took place in June. It involved parishes all around the country, and indeed many parishes around the world. The main events gathered up to 20,000 people each day in Dublin's RDS Centre, with Croke Park hosting around 80,000 people for the Closing Mass. In our own planning for the event, the importance of Traveller involvement was a priority, and as hopefully our centre page reports show, the significant Traveller contribution to various aspects of IEC2012 was widely recognised and valued.

Many happy memories of the week remain, including memories of the many settled people from all parts of the country who visited both our indoor and outdoor exhibits throughout the week. In chatting many shared memories of their own often deep, mutually respectful, and closely intertwined relationships with Travellers from their early years growing up in the country. Typical of these encounters throughout the week was Dan Moore, featured on the front cover in conversation with our Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson, Noreen Ward, at our indoor Parish exhibit.

Dan recalled from his younger years, memories of Traveller personal and prayerful support to him and to his family in their time of family bereavement. He spoke of a time when such mutual understanding, respect and such relationships were common and seemed to be part of the fabric of country life. What seemed then evolve as part of the natural rhythm of life, today often needs to be worked at.

This is where our ***Travelling Towards Inclusion*** initiative has focussed in various ways over its four year lifetime. Now in its final stages, our focus has moved to completion of the initiative's pilot phase, preparation for the bringing together and wider sharing of the learning, and planning ahead for whatever follow-up is needed when the initiative concludes in December. All of this has made for a particularly busy time in the Parish, as reflected in the articles and reports on our First Annual National Conference in *'Towards Enhanced Pastoral Practice'*, on the completion of the Deansrath Parish pilot phase in *'Looking back, Looking forward'*, and on some significant personnel changes acknowledged in *'Parish News'*.

Finally though, among the successes of IEC2012 was the Pilgrim Walk around seven Dublin City churches. Our own Parish group were among the more than 20,000 people completing the walk. Our front cover main photo features PPC member Nuala Reilly in Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Whitefriar Street, one of the seven churches – an image of Traveller faith not just for IEC2012, but also for the **Year of Faith** which the Church worldwide has just begun.

May God greatly bless, renew and strengthen us in our journey of faith – and with every blessing as Advent and Christmas draw near.

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

Fr. Derek.

Fr. Derek Farrell, P.P.


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Looking Back, Looking Forward







The Sunday morning Mass in St. Ronan's Parish, Deansrath on June 24th 2012 marked the completion of the Pilot Parish Project which began in Deansrath in December 2008. Originally the Project was planned for a two year period but the time was extended, and the work also expanded to include the neighbouring parish in Balgaddy.

When the Project was launched it was something new and something different for both the Parish of the Travelling People and St. Ronan's Parish. In fact the project would not have got started without the openness and the support of St. Ronan's Parish. Over the past four years this Magazine has carried several reports on the work of the Project.

As this phase of the project ends it is worth recalling some of the many activities that have taken place since it began. Overall the Project brought a new and a positive focus on the Traveller community in the Deansrath area, and it highlighted the importance of faith and religious practice in the daily lives of the Traveller families living there. From the start the role and approach of the Project Co-ordinator, Martin Rowan, was to reach out, make contact, get to know local Traveller families and build relationships with them. This worked well and since the Project started Travellers have had a higher profile in the parish with many, especially young people, taking on roles such as Mass readers and Altar servers. Many adult Travellers have joined the St. Ronan's Parish pilgrimages to places such as Knock, Mount Melleray and Croagh Patrick. The Project has also facilitated the introduction of special Masses, prayer services and blessings that have particular significance for Traveller families.



Another very important part of the Project was the work done with St. Ronan's Parish to create an atmosphere of welcome where everyone is respected, where people are known by name and welcomed as valuable members of the parish community. This inclusion and welcome is appreciated by all parishioners but especially by Travellers who now have a sense of belonging and of being welcome in the parish where they live.

Looking to the future, there will be an ongoing relationship between the Parish of the Travelling People and St. Ronan's Parish to build on what has been achieved, and the learning from the Pilot Project will be used to develop other initiatives in parishes throughout the Diocese where Travellers live.

Kate O'Brien





Congratulations to all those Recently Married

A MARRIAGE PRAYER

God fill your Marriage with memories to treasure...
Of faith and trust along the way of love too deep to measure...
And bring to you as man and wife the happiness of knowing.
That God who fills your cup of life, will keep it overflowing.



Bill Moorehouse & Bridget Connors, Tallaght



Helen O'Reilly & James Carthy, Inchicore



Mary Wall & Michael Connors, Tallaght

Date	Names	Address
	Weddings 2011	
6 September	John Cawley & Margaret Cawley	Dublin
7 September	Christy Kerrigan & Margaret Collins	Dublin
12 October	Mary Wall & Michael Connors	Priory, Tallaght
20 October	Joseph Joyce & Marie Joyce	Navan
9 November	Patsy Joyce & Sheila Collins	Navan
22 November	Tina Stokes & Tom Corcoran	Inchicore
22 November	Winifred Stokes & John Corcoran	Inchicore
12 December	Darren Maughan & Winne Maughan	Navan
	Weddings 2012	
14 January	Bill Moorehouse & Bridget Connors	Jobstown, Tallaght
17 February	Brendan Donovan & Aisling McDonagh	Dublin
2 March	Rosie Collins & Peter Collins	Crumlin
22 March	David Collins & Lorraine Quinn	Dublin
30 March	Garry Doonan & Shirley Power	Dublin
21 April	David McDonagh & Mary Lawrence	Dublin
25 April	John O'Brien & Bridget Connors	Inchicore
28 April	Thomas Collins & Ellen Cash	Ballyfermot
1 May	Geraldine Lawrence & Paddy Mongan	St Joseph's, Ballymun
16 May	John Paul Maughan & Mary Lisa Collins	St Peter's, Phibsboro
26 May	May Helen O'Reilly & James Carthy	Inchicore
29 May	David Collins & Louise McDonagh	Dublin
19June	Bernie Corcoran & Louise Stokes	Dublin
19 June	Edward Corcoran & Sarah McDonagh	Dublin
21 June	Ciaran Collins & Roseann McDonagh	Dublin
25 June	Patrick Joyce & Karen Savage	Dublin



Paddy Mongan & Geraldine Lawrence, Ballymun



Rosie Collins & Peter Collins, Crumlin



Thomas Collins & Ellen Cash, Ballyfermot

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.

What you need to do when getting marrried

If you are planning to enter into Marriage we will be very happy 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 01-8388874.

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: 01-8638220 or 01-8638200
- 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).

  €150, 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

Parish Pastoral Council Pilgrimage to Rome

Nancy Collins meets and greets Pope Benedict XVI

I am a member of the Parish Pastoral Council in the Parish of the Travelling People,

When the Parish was invited to Rome to be part of an audience with the Pope, I was absolutely delighted to be invited along. Little did I know that I would personally meet and speak with the Pope!

The Parish was to be part of a wider group who were invited to Rome; this consisted of Gypsies and Travellers from all around Europe. The audience with the Pope was to celebrate a Spanish Gypsy who was made Blessed by Pope John Paul in 1997. In our group there was six of us who travelled to Rome, there was Fr. Derek Farrell and Sr. May, Mary Maughan, Maggie Reilly and Geraldine McDonnell and myself. We stayed in a hostel in a beautiful part of Rome which was owned by The Community of Sant'Egidio and who kindly let us stay there.

We were in Rome for a few days, we visited the famous Trevi Fountain and other places of interest in Rome. When the day came for the Audience with the Pope, we went to St Peter's Square where we met thousands of Gypsy and Travellers who were gathered there waiting to meet the Pope. As we looked around the square we were amazed at all the different people who were gathered there. When we all went into the area of the Vatican to be greeted by the Pope there was great excitement. Various people in the audience were to personally greet him, when Sr. Alexandreo who is part of the Pontifical Council for Migrants, asked



Nancy greets Pope Benedict XVI

Fr. Derek would a member of his group from Ireland personally greet him, we couldn't believe it. The group decided that I would be the one to represent the group and personally great him. I could not believe it; I got to talk to Pope Benedict, and as you can see from the photo it was a very special experience for me. I enjoyed my trip to Rome, this was a once in a lifetime experience, and one I will never forget.

Nancy Collins



With Sr. Alexandreo



Companions on the journey



At the outdoor televised Mass

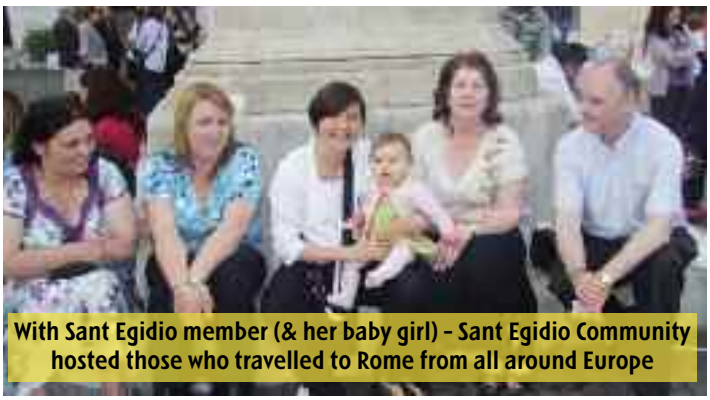
Maggie Reilly: My visit to Rome

In June 2011, me and my sister Mary (members of the Parish Pastoral Council) were invited by the Parish of the Travelling People in Dublin to go to Rome as part of an audience with Pope Benedict XVI which marked the 75th anniversary of the martyrdom and the 150 years since the birth, of Blessed Zeffirino Gimenez Malla (1861-1936). One of the highlights apart from being in the same room as the Pope was when a nun from the Roma community told us her life story, the challenges and obstacles she faced as a Traveller becoming a nun.



It was an honour to be in the presence of the Pope. It was a wonderful and unforgettable experience.

Maggie Reilly



With Sant Egidio member (& her baby girl) - Sant Egidio Community hosted those who travelled to Rome from all around Europe

Mary Maughan's reflection on Rome

We went to Rome for two days with Parish of the Travellers from Dublin. I was honoured to be part of THE audience with the Pope himself. While we were there we met up with Nomadic Groups from all over the world including:

- Roma
- Sinti
- Manouche
- Kale
- Yenish
- Travellers of Europe





At the Vatican

There was an intercultural evening held where all the Nomadic Groups shared their Culture through Music, Dance, and Food. The next day we took a tour of the Vatican and the City of Rome.

It was a beautiful once in a lifetime experience. I really enjoyed myself while I was there.

Mary Maughan
Clondalkin Travellers Development Group



Patron Saint of the Rom and Sinti

Zefferino Giménez Malla (1861-1936), known as "El Pelé", was born of a Catholic gypsy family. He lived like a nomad for forty years and then settled in Barbastro (Spain). He married but had no children. Although he was illiterate, he taught the gypsy and non-gypsy children the first elements of Christianity, using the Bible above all, and he trained them to pray daily.

He made peace among the Kalòs (Spanish nomads) and resolved their disputes with others. He was honest in his work as an animal trader. In 1926 he became a member of the Franciscan Third Order. He belonged to Conference of St. Vincent De Paul. In 1931 he began participating in "Night Adoration".

During the religious persecution, he defended a priest who was being brought to jail. He too was arrested and then killed in Barbastro together with many priests, brothers and lay persons. He died shouting, "Long live Christ the King!", holding a rosary in his hands. His body was thrown into a common grave and never found again. In 1997 John Paul II proclaimed him Blessed.

"It was great to see everyone in the community working together and promote a good image of Travellers for a change"

Owen McDonagh



St. Margaret's Community Garden

St Margarets Travellers Community Association are proud to have worked with the residents of St Margarets Park and Carton Estate in developing their Community Garden which was officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Dublin Andrew Montague on the 8th of December 2011. The Lord Mayor indicated that the Community Garden is more than a beautiful place for residents of St Margarets and Carton Estate to enjoy and express their devotion to prayer but that it is also a symbol of the communities self help and volunteering spirit and it is a good example of the Traveller Communities creativity.

The Community Garden is located at the bottom of Carton Road leading into St Margarets Park. The residents transformed this area into a garden sanctuary where residents can reflect and say a prayer. The garden features a grotto to Our Lady surrounded by benches and planters. Three of the walls are dedicated to a Communion of Saints where twelve different popular Saints are honored with each Saint's image and short biography framed and hung on the wall. Another wall has a colorful mural depicting the Last Supper.

All of the work was carried out by the residents where they demonstrated great creativity when developing the garden by using recycled materials where possible such as the wood from wooden pallets for the fencing and recycled paint. The garden was designed on a casual basis by the residents with individual members putting forward ideas on a daily basis and then carrying out their ideas for the benefit of the project. The mural of the Last Supper was painted by the residents under the guidance of Stuart the artist from the local youth service.





"I think it was a great idea and I have to credit all the men who worked together to create it; it is very important for the kids as I have seen my own daughter going out to it and lightning a candle and saying a prayer, and it is also very important for the older people to see the younger generation keeping their faith".

Hughie Maughan

On any day there were from seven to eleven men from St Margarets Park and Carton Estate working on the Garden site and as the Garden developed more men motivated by the growing sense of pride in their project volunteered their service. The women from the Fas funded Local Training Initiative, a service provided by St Margaret's Traveller Community Association carried out all the research into the Saints as part of their Computer Literacy module. They produced the twelve beautiful full colour spreads of the Saints featuring the Saint's image and brief details of the Saint's lives which are framed and hung on the walls surrounding the Garden. The women from the Traveller Health funded Primary Health Care project another service provided by St Margaret's Traveller Association also played their part in the Community Garden project by assembling a photographic exhibition which records the development of the Garden project and will be a permanent fixture within the Community Hall.

The Community Garden was funded by St Margarets Traveller Community Association and by the residents themselves however the Community is grateful to DCC Community Division and BRL and The Partnership and DCC Traveller Accommodation Unit for their financial and technical assistance and not least goodwill in making this project a major success.

CELEBRATING TRAVELLER PRIDE



Winners of Pride Awards with the President of Ireland & Mrs Higgins

Photography: Some photos are courtesy of Derek Speirs.





Diana Bunici & Spring Lane



Thomas Joyce & Frances Black







Chrissie Sullivan & Mary Connors



Andy O'Brien & Marty Morrisey

Conversation Café



As part of Traveller Pride Week the Parish of the Travelling People hosted a Conversation Café and a Mass. We highlighted our event on the Traveller Pride Week website.
We held a raffle on the day with the proceeds going towards CASA (Caring and Sharing Association).
We would like to thank all the local Businesses in the area who contributed spot prizes for the raffle. We would like to thank all those who turned up to the event. And special thanks to Viatores Christi for letting us use their premises.



Towards Enhanced Pastoral Practice



The First Annual Conference of the Parish of the Travelling People



The First Annual Conference of the Parish of the Travelling People on April 19th 2012 and it was attended by members of the Traveller community, representatives of Traveller organisations, pastoral workers, representatives of parishes, dioceses, Parish Pastoral Councils with connections to Travellers, and representatives from the Irish Chaplaincy in Britain.



Archbishop Diarmuid Martin
in conversation at the Conference,
with Conn MacGabhann, Traveller Project Manger,
Irish Chaplaincy in Britain

The title of the Conference was *"Towards Enhanced Pastoral Practice"*. The purpose of the day was to share some of the learning from the work of the Parish of the Travelling People, in particular that of the Pilot Parish Initiative and the learning from the work of others working pastorally with Travellers with a view to, as the conference title suggests, enhance the standard of pastoral care offered to the Traveller community.

Presentations were made by a number of guest speakers including Bishop Eamonn Walsh, Dr. Seamus Lillis and Dr. Sean Ruth. These speakers together with representatives of the Parish of the Travelling People discussed a number of topics related to inclusion, experiences of prejudice, community development, building relationships and alliances and the challenge to individuals of confronting their own attitudes and prejudice.

Overall the response to what was presented was very positive. At the end of the conference there was a sense that the speakers had given everyone plenty of food for thought and a number of signposts and suggestions for the continuing journey towards equality and inclusion. These include:

- Recognising that settled people in general and pastoral workers in particular, need to honestly explore, recognise, name and take responsibility for their own attitudes and prejudices towards Travellers.
- Recognising that Travellers also need to build bridges, make connections and make changes.
- Pastoral work needs to reflect the Gospel message. That message is clear; working pastorally in a manner that excludes is working against Church teaching on equality and the dignity of the human person.
- Recognising the importance of starting meaningful conversations, even with very small groups of interested people, to look at attitudes and concerns. Also the importance building relationships that are equal, respectful and solid – effective leadership is built on such relationships.

Kate O'Brien





A wise man advised me once, to walk away from any conference for a few weeks, and then to revisit it in my mind and see what was still stuck there. He suggested that the worthwhile bits stick on by their own power.

It is several months now since the Parish of the Travelling People conference. Wordsworth revisited Tintern Abbey in 1798 after an absence of five years and stood there

"not only with the sense
Of present pleasure, but with pleasing thoughts
That in this moment there is life and food
For future years."

One dares to think that this forum might have been such food. I have long admired the way the national Traveller organizations and Community Development Groups hold their AGMs and face their members to present their trials and triumphs. There is not a tradition of Catholic parishes being as humble and transparent as that. So at least for this one day a parish faced its public, presented a version of its pastoral performance, and let the audience decide if it was great or grim.

Through the plate glass window behind the speakers table we had a view of three Traveller families living by the road side. The Chairman of the local Traveller Development Group had lived in a caravan in the actual site of the conference hotel and when I came to this area first, in 1980, the hotel site was the beginning of a Traveller roadside city that extended for the next three miles . On this day in 2012, 25 Travelling People and 55 Settled People were in conference together inside the hotel and only four families were still living on the roadside. As the day wore on, and the Travelling People at the conference finally got into full voice, then that brave new world began to look less and less like progress.



A Nigerian friend who attended the conference out of solidarity with me rather than any particular interest in the programme found herself amazed to hear people describe the same discrimination and racism which she, as a black non-national woman, suffered," but these were Irish people" she said.

And there were many absent friends, either through infirmity, ill health, or other commitments. In preparing this conference I phoned a lot of people throughout the country whose faces I have never seen. What I wished I could have conveyed from those conversations was the affection that many Settled People have for Travelling People and their respect, almost reverence, for that way of life. In prayer at the funeral of the great Michael O'Donnell I invited Travellers and us Settled, who were there, to "honour the Traveller way". There is still a need for Country People of conscience to congregate in some presbytery or pub and launch a "Friends of the Travelling People" alliance.

This conference was not that occasion but it was a start. It did manage to assemble, under one roof, many of the giants of this pastoral sector and it was national and international in its attendance list. Those who made it there ranged from, the Irish Chaplaincy in Britain, the local parishes, Clondalkin Labour Party, and local and national Traveller organizations.

As I write this in early August I am conscious that next Sunday the people will complain that Moses "brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death". Starting a movement involves taking a responsibility and dropping the idea and walking away is not an authentic option for anybody who took part. Let us, with our scarce resources, try give legs to this network so that it can say of itself, like Pecker Dunne:

"with horse and car, out on the road,
I commenced my Traveller ways"

Martin Rowan

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.



Baby Jason Stephen Collins with parents Jason & Caroline, Rowlagh



Baby Annmarie Philomena Stokes & family, Ballymun



Baby Charlie McDonagh and family



Baby Frankie Collins and family, Bluebell



Baby Kathleen Hanifin & parents John & Kathleen, Bluebell



Baby Mary Louise Collins parents Martinjoe & Margaret St. Agnes, Crumlin



Baby Mary Tiffany Maughan & family



Baby Patrick Reece Maughan & parents Patrick & Ellen, Mt. Argus



Baby Paddy Joyce & family, Finglas



Baby Thomas Jack & parents Ryan and Martina Fardeen

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

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.



Baby Victoria, Michael & Sarah McDonagh, Blanchardstown



Christina Ward with her son Ryan, & her mother Ann, Phibsborough



Baby Tommy Stokes, & family, Ballymun



Baby Charlene McDonagh with parents Tina & Gerry



Baby Mariah Lucia Stokes, & family, Clondalkin



Baby Patrick Darren McDonagh with parents Paul & Tina, Ballymun



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:*

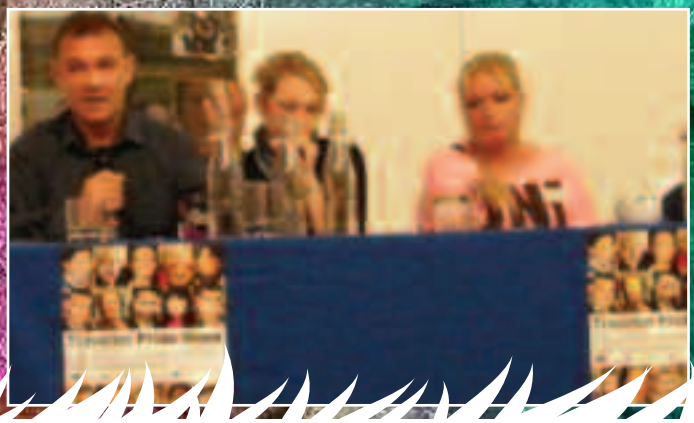
Tel: **01 838 8874**
Email: **info@ptrav.ie**
Post: **Parish of the Travelling People,**
St. Laurence House,
6 New Cabra Road,
Phibsborough,
Dublin 7.

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

Internalised racism/ oppression and its impact on mental health

Thomas McCann

Address to the ITM AGM 2012



What is Racism?

Racism takes many shapes and forms.

Racism is a process, a condition, a relationship that violates its victims physically, socially, spiritually, materially, and psychologically.

Racism like oppressions negatively impacts on both self-development and self-determination and is very damaging to individuals and communities.

Racism

There is Individual racism and Institutional racism.

It can be conscious and unconscious.
It can be intentional and unintentional.

Travellers' experience of racism

Travellers have experienced racism, discrimination and exclusion on every level.

This racism and oppression has been going on for generations.

It has been reinforced at different times by the media, by Government policy and by the actions of state bodies whether this is the local authority, HSE, the Policing or other public service services.

Travellers' struggle with the effects of Racism

No Traveller has escaped this and if they have, more than likely they would have had to hide their identity in order to avoid it.

So all Travellers are struggling with the effects of this racism, discrimination and oppression, every Traveller I believe struggles with the impact of internalised racism and oppression.

Internalisation of racism/oppression

We turn upon ourselves, upon our families, and upon our own people, the distress patterns that result from racism and oppression of the majority society.

Internalised racism supports the notion that the majority community is right, that it is superior and, that it is the standard. All of this can lead a self destructiveness.

Internalised racism has been defined as self-hatred.

Internalised racism

Once racism and oppression has been internalised it takes very little to keep it in place.

We carry inside ourselves, the pain, the memories, the fears and confusion, the negative self-images and low expectations both of ourselves and of our community.

We struggle with this internalised oppression every day of our lives until we liberate ourselves from it.

Impact of internalisation of racism/oppression

Numerous reports have identified the negative impact of discrimination on mental health, particularly depression.

There is clear and compelling evidence that the long history of cultural oppression, racism and marginalisation has contributed to the high levels of mental health problems found in many communities..

Combating Internalised Oppression

It is possible to unlearn and heal from the internalised oppression and racism.

Internalised oppression and racism operates on two levels, how we feel about ourselves and how we feel about our community.

Reducing the impact of internalised racism and oppression results in feeling much better about ourselves, our family and also about our community.

The need to take action

But we need to take action in order to heal from the effects of internalised racism it does not go away on its own and we will continue to struggle with it until we decide to actively change this.

The consequences of not doing anything about it, will be poor self image, low self esteem, a lack of pride in one's cultural identity, feelings of not being good enough, a crisis of identity, stress, shame, depression and in some case alcohol and drug abuse.

and although we still have to do research I firmly believe that it is a contributing factor in the high rates of suicide among Travellers.

So as you can see the internalisation of racism and oppression impacts on Travellers mental health in a very negative and in some cases detrimental way and we need to address this issue urgently.

What can we do?

We need to find ways of celebrating Traveller culture and identity.

We need to take action against oppression and racism, we need to organize and campaign to ensure that we put an end to racism in all its forms.

We need to recognize it when it is happening in ourselves or when we see it happening in a group we need to highlight it.

We need to help and protect young Travellers in dealing with internalized oppression and racism.

We need to come together in groups and talk about our internalized oppression and how it has impacted on us and we need to support each other in doing this.

And we need to put supports in place for individuals who are struggling with the impact of internalized racism and oppression.

Conclusion

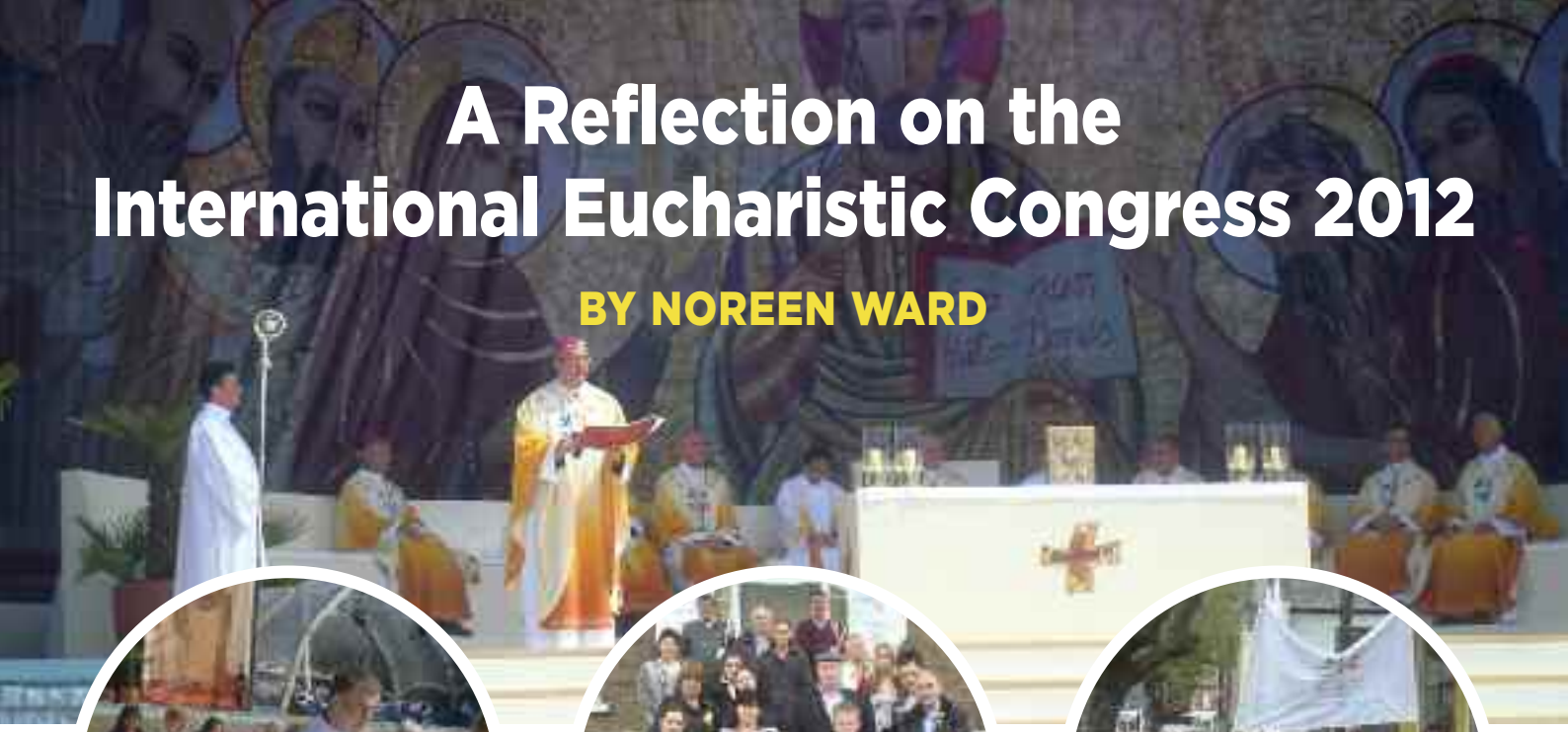
There is a clear need for culturally inclusive mental health services which need to take into account and address the effects of racism and oppression on Travellers mental health.

Traveller organisations while they have developed good campaigns to address external racism they need to lobby for mental health services which address the impact of internalisation or racism and oppression.

Travellers need to support one and other to overcome and heal from this internalised racism which they are trying to cope with individually.

A Reflection on the International Eucharistic Congress 2012

BY NOREEN WARD









When I first heard that the Eucharistic Congress would be held in Dublin, I never thought that Travellers would be involved in it never mind that myself and my daughter Nikita would be part of the opening Mass. The preparation and planning that went into our role as Travellers representing all Travellers was both exciting and tiring. But with the help and co-operation of Travellers all around, we set out to play our part in showing that the faith of Travellers is still very strong.

For the whole week, we set up a stand in the RDS which had a lot of information on the Parish of the Travelling People. Each day a group of Traveller women worked a rota, starting very early, we gave out newsletters and books produced by the Parish and by other Travellers and we answered questions from passers by until late in the night. Sr May and Fr Derek and other members of the Parish staff joined us throughout the week. Together, we spoke to hundreds of people from all over the world about





Travellers. Many people left with a paper flower from the Parish. The flowers were made by older Traveller women from different parts of Dublin. They were able to participate in the work of the Parish and to contribute by sharing a traditional Traveller craft. The tinsmiths and the Navan Traveller wagon and Living History Exhibit drew people too. Geraldine McDonnell gave a presentation with her father, Tom. She reminded people of the work of Travellers today was not about nostalgia but promoting the traditions and the work for justice.





Back in my local parish, people told me that it was brilliant that the faith of the Irish people was being celebrated. We were sharing stories, settled and Traveller alike. We enjoyed the Congress – it was a festival and there was excitement. There was a big smile on people's faces. There was no grumpiness. We have something to be proud of together.

There were challenges too. People asked us hard questions. It was hard to give a quick response on the spot. The Traveller women on the stand agreed we would need media training. These same women beforehand would have avoided eye contact and passed it off to someone else, but after the event, they wanted to be prepared. For instance, a nurse from a nursing home approached me and asked if some of us might meet with her staff to explain why so many Travellers make phone calls to enquire about their relatives – more so than among the settled community. The other women had that type of experience too. We agreed that we need to be prepared to answer these questions well and not leave people, like these nurses, in the dark. They are looking after our people and we need to help them understand our way of life. If someone can give us an hour, then we need to tackle it within the hour and to understand the concerns of the staff. We got fired up.

Thanks to Fr Derek and the Parish Team, and to everyone who helped, for being there and making it possible.



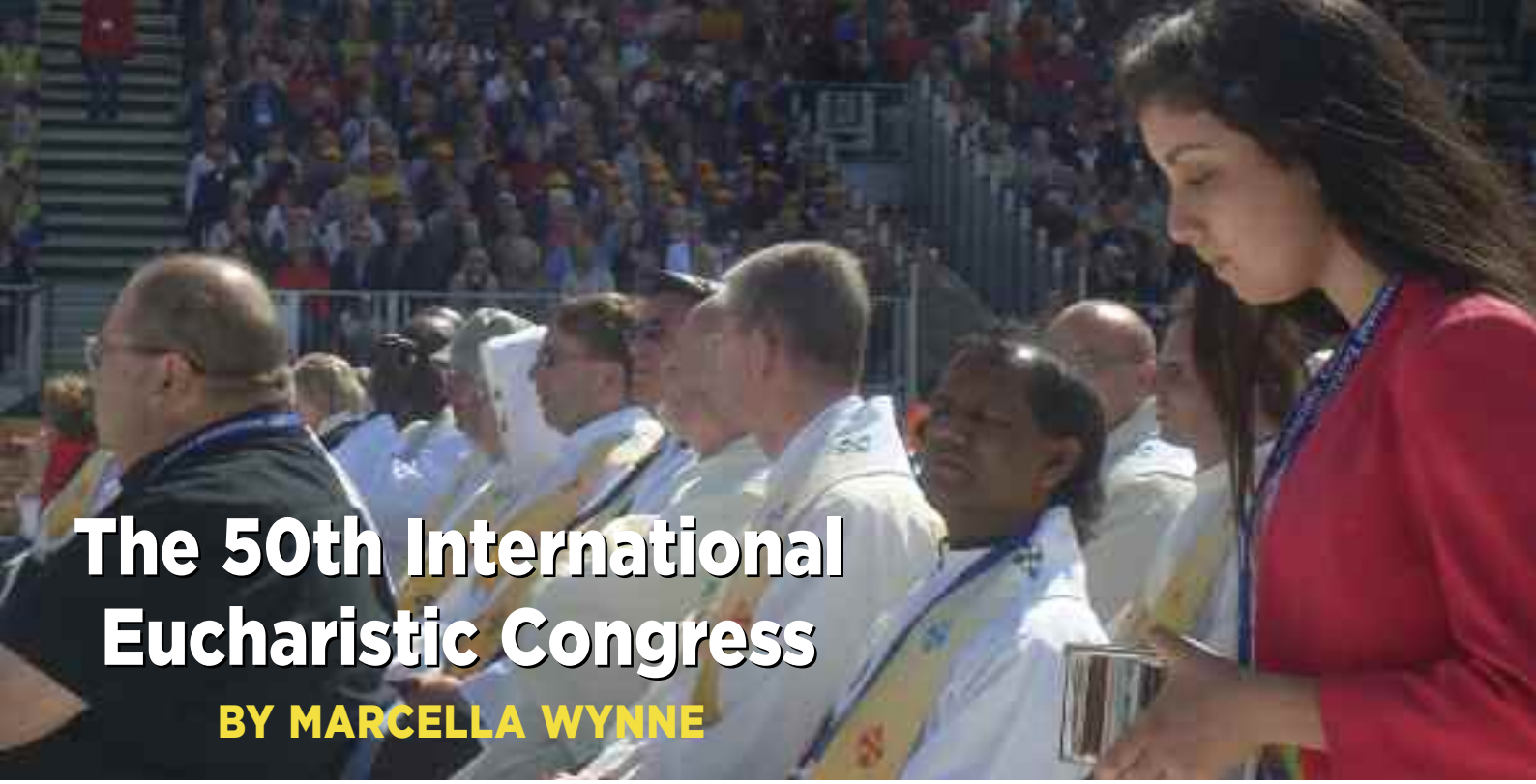












The 50th International Eucharistic Congress

BY MARCELLA WYNNE

The 50th International Eucharistic Congress was held in Dublin in June 2012. There were many events planned for that week which began with the opening Mass held in the RDS on Sunday 10th June. This Mass was attended by many of the faithful from different cultures and nationalities. Noreen Ward and her daughter Nikita were among the people who brought up the gifts, and Geraldine McDonnell from the Parish of the Travelling People read the prayers of the faithful. This Mass was televised all over the world. The Parish of the Travelling People also had a stand in the RDS. There were various items for sale (at a very reasonable cost) which were hand made by Travellers. These included work by tin-smith Tom McDonnell and paper flowers made by Traveller women from around the country. The Parish of the Travelling People held a workshop on Thursday evening which explored Traveller faith, through image, poetry, story and through shared experience and insight.

On Friday of that week Sr May and Colin from The Parish of the Travelling People organised "The Pilgrim Walk" This walk intended Pilgrims to visit seven of the oldest Churches in the city of Dublin. It all sounded very exciting and I invited my friend Angela to join the group. The Irish weather didn't disappoint us (it poured with rain) but nothing could dampen our spirits. The first Church we visited was St Ann's on Dawson Street. This is where you collected your passport which is stamped in each Church as you go along. Our Lady of Mount Carmel was our second Church.











The relics of St Valentine are to be found here. These relics are very special to courting couples or people who are looking for love.

We made our way along the road each carrying our petitions for family and friends. Our pilgrim journey took us to John's Lane Church in Thomas Street and St James's in James's Street. It was here in St James's Church after silent prayer that we were kindly invited to have a very welcome cup of tea and biscuits. When we had finished we followed Sr May (as she was our leader) through winding roads and narrow cobbled streets of Dublin until we reached a bridge which brought us from the south side of the city to the north side. It was here on the north side that we visited St Mary of the Angels in Church Street. This Church runs a day centre for the homeless, parish and youth work and also has a mission office. Whilst in this Church more



Pilgrims joined our group. Sr May gathered us together at the foot of the Altar and led us in prayer, and as it was the feast of the Sacred Heart we said a special prayer to Him.

St Michan's Church in Halston Street was our next port of call. This Church brought back a lot of memories for me as it was in St Michan's that I made my First Holy Communion and my Confirmation. It hadn't changed in all the years; it was like stepping back in time. The Church still had a certain aura about it and a special place in my heart.

Though our feet were beginning to ache our spirits were high as we approached the final Church which was St Mary's Pro-Cathedral in Marlborough Street. I am proud to say that I was baptised in this Church. Now you know that I'm a true Dubliner born and bred. The Pro-Cathedral is in the very heart of the city of Dublin and it has witnessed many important events. With great delight and a sense of achievement all the Pilgrims received their certificate and last stamp on their passport. We ended our Pilgrim Walk with Mass and Holy Communion. I cannot explain the wonderful feeling I felt at being a part of such a memorable time in our history of the Church.





A Note of Thanks

To each and everyone who helped us in preparation and throughout the week, thank you for your part in contributing to the Parish Community's involvement and presence at IEC2012.

The Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has a very important role in the life and work of the Parish. Examples of the PPC's contribution over recent years include its work in helping to formulate the *Travelling Towards Inclusion* initiative (2008-2012), the planning and involvement in the Parish involvement in IEC2012, and representing the Parish at various deanery, national, and international events.

This contribution is much appreciated, as is the commitment shown by members to the work of the Council, and their attendance at monthly meetings. Unlike the norm for other PPCs, our members must travel, for some quite long distances to attend the meetings at our Parish Offices in Phibsborough. Present members come from Finglas, Coolock, Tallaght, Maynooth, Walkinstown, Clondalkin, and Balbriggan. As the Parish covers all of Dublin Diocese we are still on the lookout for potential members from other areas also.



The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body of parishioners that is meant to enable the priest and people to work together to build up a dynamic Christian community that is characterised by faith, mission, worship and service.

According to the constitution of our Parish Pastoral Council, the period for membership is for two years with the possibility then of reappointment. Earlier this year, officers were elected to important roles that need to be carried out. Noreen Ward was elected as Chairperson. Pauline McDonnell and Geraldine McDonnell were elected as Co-Secretaries to the Parish Pastoral Council.

If you are interested in finding out more, or perhaps in how you could become a member, please feel free to talk to someone in the Parish. For more information please telephone the ***Parish Office (01) 838 8874****.*



"A Heart Flooded with Love"

THE STORY OF 5 IRISH TRAVELLER WOMEN IN ETHIOPIA

Anne Garvey who was with the group visiting Ethiopia reports that a unique event hosted by Travellers took place earlier this year in the Royal Irish Academy in Dawson Street, Dublin.

Marie Cash's book received fulsome praise on all aspects from the Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn. Launching the book the Minister praised the author Marie Cash for her courage in taking the action of recording her experiences in Ethiopia, writing the story and seeing it through to publication.

The Minister spoke of the importance of introducing children to books and reading from an early age. He mentioned how challenging this was for those young people today who spend long periods of time watching television or playing computer games and have no books in their homes. Marie is a great role model for young Travellers and her book provides evidence of what can be achieved through gaining literacy skills.

Marie Cash's story has the potential to impact on the perceptions of Travellers prevailing in our school system. It presents the reader with a positive image of Travellers engaging in actions to make the world a better place.

Marie was also invited to Áras an Uachtaráin to present her book to the President, Michael D. Higgins. The President said what he liked about the book was how it put together the stories of Travellers and people in Ethiopia. He said he liked the idea of respect for people's stories and that stories put side by side is how we live. The President thanked the group for the work they were doing in development education saying that some of the people paying the greatest price for what is happening in the world today never get a chance to tell their story.







Negede-woyiot Woman beside new Mud and Corrugated Hut.

The next phase of the project is to explore creative ways of introducing the book into as many schools as possible, where it can be used as a school resource for children to engage in critical thinking and dialogue on local and global justice issues.



Marie would like to thank the Parish of the Travelling People for supporting this project.

"..knowing that saying thank you does not fully describe the deep gratitude I feel for the people, I would like to say a sincere THANK YOU to all of the women, men and children I met in Ethiopia who selflessly shared their stories with us. You will be forever in my heart."

Marie Cash, 2012

Enquiries on Marie's Book, School Visits, etc: –
Parish Office 01 838 8874.

Don't Bring Sweets, an eleven minute radio documentary on this story is available as an RTÉ Documentary on One podcast, or can be listened to online at:
http://www.rte.ie/radio1/doconone/curious-ear-doconone-travellers-ethiopia.html.



'What I love about this book is that it gives me a chance to re-evaluate my own stereotypes and my own prejudices. The act of charity that these women undertake is radical. The act of travelling is radical. The act of what they learn is radical. The act of writing is radical. And, most importantly, the act of empathy is radical. The moral force of Marie Cash's book lies in the questions it offers.'

Preface to *'A Heart Flooded With Love'* – Colum McCann, New York, 2011

National Traveller Suicide Awareness Project



The National Traveller Suicide Awareness Project has a new home. The project is pleased to announce that Exchange House is the new home for the project in Strand Street in Dublins city centre. Exchange House beat of stiff competition in winning the tender to host the project, and is very well placed to provide the project with a new home after five years in Crosscare. The National Traveller suicide Awareness Project is very much looking forward to being able to develop and increase the work which has been happening over the last five years, and as part of the Exchange House family support team we feel that new and exciting opportunities and will come our way.

The project is also delighted to announce that we have secured funding to develop specific mental health recovery projects in four areas and we look forward to updating you in the next Newsletter.

We also launched our website **www.travellersuicide.ie**. Check it out and let us know what you think, or if you have any information you would like us to share contact pdaly@exchangehouse.ie.

As always we urge you to talk about any issues which cause you stress and seek help if you are finding it difficult to cope. For support and information on where to get help contact the project on 086 1729 168 or Email: pdaly@exchangehouse.ie. If you are interested in getting involved in training or awareness or would like training on mental health and suicide prevention in your area please contact the project on 086 1729 168 and it can be organised free of charge.

Further information on training and supports available can be obtained from Petra at 086 172 9168

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

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.

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 our Diocesan offices and agencies, and in our parishes. It extends to all the many and varied ways that children share in the life of the Church in our 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

OUT & ABOUT



Cork Travellers group visiting Dublin with Christine McDonagh & Pauline McDonnell *(back row)*, Finglas



JOHN COLLINS from Pavee Point carries the Olympic torch in the lead up to the London Olympics.

Speaking just before the flame was transferred to his torch, John expressed his pride on being asked to carry the flame for his whole community.

"I'm thinking of the great Traveller sportspeople who have been proud to represent Ireland and our community. I can hardly express how proud I am to be here and to have this opportunity."



President Mary McAleese's visit to Pavee Point, one of the last engagements of her two-term presidency, was an opportunity to reflect on the work of Mrs McAleese and the impact it has had on the Traveller community, Ireland's largest indigenous ethnic minority. In speaking during her visit the President said, "you have made Ireland a better place".

During the morning, the President visited a tree she planted in 2000, in memory of her friend and the founder of Pavee Point, John O'Connell.

OUT & ABOUT



A Mass and reception marked the closing, after 31 years, of St. Basil's Training Centre, Tallaght





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



Nan Wall, Tallaght with her grandson Mickey and her son Gerry who made this beautiful barrel-top wagon



Confirmation Day in St. Ronan's Church, with Bishop Fiachra O'Ceallaigh



St. Margaret's Community Centre, Ballymun - Traveller Pride Week Mass

Parish News...

The period leading up to and during the summer 2012 was one of enormous change for many Traveller organisations, projects and related personnel. As one factor widely recognised the economic crisis and the harsh Traveller-specific cuts have hit hard with job losses and closure of centres and services. In addition to this, some changes have come through moving on for personal reasons, and some have come through moving on to new pastoral appointments.

It is good to have the opportunity here to acknowledge, thank and express every good wish to those connected in different ways to the Parish, who have moved on. Each in their own role and capacity have contributed to, or worked either parallel to or in collaboration with, aspects of the mission and work of the Parish.



To begin with, at the end of August, Martin Rowan moved on from his work for the Parish as Pastoral Development Co-ordinator. Having been appointed as part of the Parish's ***Travelling Towards Inclusion*** initiative launched in December 2008, Martin began his work of establishing the initiative's Pilot Project in early 2009, based in St. Ronan's Parish, Deansrath in Clondalkin. Following its original two year timeframe, the pilot role was extended for a further year, and then up to the end of August this year. The contribution that Martin made is widely and warmly appreciated, both at Parish team and Pastoral Council level, and also in the community and other arenas where Martin represented the Parish with passion and commitment. In particular, Martin's on the ground developmental work of the pilot helped to foster the mutual understanding, relationship and sense of belonging the pilot was designed to promote. In helping to lay this foundation during his time in the Parish, the fruits of Martin's work will continue to make an important contribution to the ongoing inclusion objectives of the Parish into the future.



Bridget Stokes with her daughter Mary, and her grandson - Farewell Mass, Neilstown

Then, in September, Fr. Daithi Kenneally, CSSP moved from his position as Parish Priest in St. Ronan's Parish to take up new duties with his own Spiritan Community in Kimmage Manor. During his five years in Deansrath, Fr. Daithi was very supportive and co-operative towards our presence and work, from his initial openness in welcoming the inclusion pilot at the very beginning, right on through the various challenges and successes, the ups and downs of different stages of the pilot through to its completion in June. Writing recently following his move Fr. Daithi in turn thanked the Parish of the Travelling People for all the support over the past five years.

Also in September, Fr. Donal Roche moved from his position as Parish Priest in Divine Mercy Parish, Balgaddy/Lucan South to take up his new appointment as Administrator in Wicklow






Damien Peelo


Brigid Quilligan


Fr. Sean O'Leary


Fr. Eamonn Bourke


Fr. Francis Okoro

Parish. Having a second parish to extend our inclusion pilot into is very important for our initiative, and in this the support and co-operation of Fr. Donal was very helpful.

Over recent months, as part of our involvement in the Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin, the Parish has been involved in some Neilstown Parish Masses following Fr. Donal Toal and Fr. Paul Monahan's departure, including representation at their farewell Mass. Also, as part of our involvement with the various local and national Traveller organizations, the Parish was well represented at the farewell gathering for ITM's Damien Peelo. Damien's great contribution in his seven years as Director of the Irish Traveller Movement is recognized and appreciated by many, including the Parish of the Travelling People.


Deacon Joe Walsh with Francis Oladiipo


Parish Inclusion Initiative Hospitability Programme in Balgaddy, November

In conclusion, it is good to have the opportunity to also express a welcome and good wishes to those in their new appointments, Brigid Quilligan as Director of ITM, Fr. Seán O'Leary as Administrator in St. Ronan's Parish, and in Divine Mercy Parish, Balgaddy, Fr. Eamonn Bourke as Parish Priest along with recently ordained Deacon, Joe Walsh, Fr. Francis Okoro recently arrived to replace Fr. Francis Oladiipo who is returning to Nigeria in late November.

In remembrance of

We were saddened recently to hear the news of the death of the Vincentian priest Fr. Sean Johnston who worked in our parish during the 1980's. Fr. Aidan Galvin, C.M., has kindly provided this brief reflection…

Though small in size he had a big heart, a great smile and a lovely gentle presence. Sean was born in the city of Armagh. His life in the Vincentian Community had taken him to work in both Africa and England. His years before joining the parish in 1986 were spent travelling around Ireland giving retreats and parish missions. There were few places where Travellers had been that he did now know of.

Fr. Sean was happiest in the midst of people. He loved to hear Travellers tell their stories. A good listener he was blessed with the gift of sharing our laughter when our hearts were light and feeling our sorrow when pain and tragedy came. The last years of own life were filled with much suffering. However despite confinement to a wheelchair and a reduced ability to speak, his smile remained bright. His passion for living and delight in the beauty of music was a wonderful reminder to all his friends to be grateful for their own gift of life. He slipped gently into eternity on August 29th 2012 in St Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire.



We express our deepest sympathy to his sister Phil and his Vincentian brothers. May he rest in peace!

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

January 2012		
4th	Christopher McDonagh	Brookfield
4th	Mary Cash	Labre Park
8th	(Baby) Margaret Rihanna Sweeney	Bluebell
25th	John McDonagh	Rathfarnham
February		
1st	Tom Stokes	Finglas
8th	Melanie McCarthy McNamara	Tallaght
14th	Martin Ward	Tallaght
22nd	Maisie Doyle	Ballyfermot
March		
27th	Maureen Bryson	Santry
28th	Barney McDonagh	Inchicore
May		
27th	William 'Billy Boy' O'Brien	Kilshane Cross
June		
15th	Martin Anthony Lawrence (3 months)	Swords
July		
22nd	Logan Joyce (4 years)	Ratoath Road
19th	Martin Maughan	Baskin Lane
August		
9th	Mike Joyce	Dunsink

First Year Anniversary

March 2012		
10th	Mick Connors	Ballyfermot
11th	Aaron Oliver McDonagh	Swords
13th	'Baby' Nan Connors	Tallaght
26th	Nan Lynch	Inchicore
April		
12th	Mary 'Ites' Connors	Tallaght
May		
5th	Davey McDonagh	Dunsink
July		
9th	Mary Connors	Darndale
16th	Robert Gavin	Coolock
28th	Martin Casey	Ballyfermot
August		
14th	Mickey Joyce	Coolock
28th	Ned Cash	Ballyfermot
September		
3rd	Tom McDonagh	Ballymun
10th	John McDonnell	Finglas & Balbriggan
26th	Johnny Power	Navan
October		
25th	Maggie McDonagh	Navan
30th	Mary Lawrence	Skerries

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.











A FAMILY PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF FAITH



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.





The National Educational Achievement Awards

2011 Award Winners

The Exchange House National Education Award acknowledges educational achievement within the Traveller community and its importance to the future of the Traveller community. The award also recognises and celebrates the potential that Travellers of all ages have as individuals and as a community in general to succeed in education and in all areas of society.

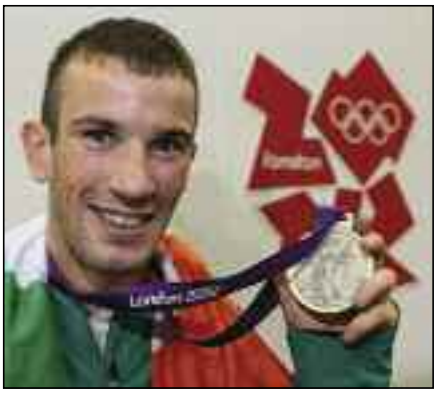
The award is open to all Travellers from the 32 counties that have completed Leaving Certificate, Junior Certificate, GCSE's and A levels, certificates, diplomas or degrees.

This award congratulates students on their achievement as a result of all their hard work, the support of their families and schools. The Award highlights role models that already exist within the Traveller community. The recipients are all inspirational to any Travellers who are preparing for exams or who are thinking of returning to education.

For more information or if you would like to nominate someone for an award, please go to our website www.exchangehouse.ie



John Joe Nevin



Following his wonderful success and great achievement in winning the Silver Medal at the London 2012 Olympics, John Joe has weighed up his options and decided to remain as amateur.

As well as adding our own congratulations to him, we join with many others in wishing John Joe all the best both for the future and in continuing as the positive role model he has already proved himself to be.





SAM MAGUIRE COMES VISITING





My name is Geraldine McDonnell. I work in the Parish Office and live on a site in Finglas.

In early June, (*and before Sam Maguire went on loan to Donegal!!*) the Parish of the Travelling People had a preparation day in Clonliffe College for the International Eucharistic Congress. Coincidentally the Dublin football player Ger Brennan was visiting Clonliffe on the same day. Ger was with David Hickey who is currently the Dublin selector. Some may remember that David Hickey himself was a player on the great Dublin Team of the 1970s. He is a man of many parts as he is a well known surgeon, an advocate for human rights and by no means least, the brother of Conor Hickey the director of Crosscare, the social care agency of the Dublin Diocese.

It was great to see Jim O'Brien hoist the Sam Maguire Cup over his head and there could be no doubt for this group that this was a celebration of being a Traveller and being Irish. The women would not be out done though. Amidst the banter of the group the county rivalries emerged, but Dublin were the champions for sure on this occasion.



Jim O'Brien and friends

Then I invited Ger Brennan out to visit Traveller sites in the Finglas area with the Sam Maguire Cup and he and David readily accepted the invitation.

The weather reflected the mood of everyone on the site on a beautiful sunny day in June. Even the sky was decked out in blue (a rare occasion this summer) to welcome the Dublin player and Sam Maguire to Finglas. "It's my first time on a Traveller site and I've really enjoyed it" Ger Brennan said over a hot cup of tea in a trailer in Dunsink. Travellers gathered young and old decked out in their Dublin kits as many are keen supporters of the Dublin team, even though there were a few supporters of other counties present they also appreciated a visit from Sam Maguire.

There were two sites visited in Finglas that day, and it was great when David Hickey spotted a young Traveller who had been one of his patients over ten years ago.

All of the parishioners in Clonliffe and those on the Finglas sites are grateful to Conor Hickey for inviting his friends in to our meeting in Clonliffe and so making this event possible. Thank You.

Geraldine McDonnell



Sam Maguire visits Finglas





Ger Brennan and Sam Maguire



David Hickey with Joseph Collins a patient of his from years previous.

Prayer to Saint Anthony of Padua

1195-1231 A.D.



O Holy Saint Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and Charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers.

Encouraged by this thought, I implore you to obtain for me [request].

O gentle and loving Saint Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen.

"Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints"

The Traveller Parish Newsletter is published by The Parish of the Travelling People, St. Laurence House, 6 New Cabra Rd, Phibsborough, Dublin 7.
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