

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

February 2021

MESSAGE FROM REV JOHN MARCHANT

Pat and I were parachuted into Donnybrook and Irishtown Parishes at rather short notice. We started on the first Sunday of November 2013. It seems like yesterday, but an awful lot has happened in the interim. My time here must finish at the end of March this year, as I reach the retirement age of seventy-five.

At the end of that first Sunday, someone in St. Matthew's asked me diffidently if I might take Assembly in the school on the next Friday morning. What school?! - no-one had let me know about St. Matthew's National School! Yet for me it quickly became pivotal to the future and sustainability of the whole parish. There are now 240-odd children and thirteen teachers. With the Principal, Naomi Rousseau, her fellow teachers and the School Board, I was pushing on an open door, and it has been central to my ministry.

When I started, the beautiful church of St. Mary, Donnybrook was at a cross-roads due to demographic change and structural problems. They ultimately proved unsustainable and it was de-consecrated by the Archbishop last July, ending a long involvement in the area. St. Matthew's Irishtown has however benefitted from the same demographic changes. And it has been able to find local financial support due to its position within the Ringsend, Irishtown and Sandymount coastal area.

The community spirit of all the people of this area has been a game-changer during my short time in the Parish. There is an indefinable yet very real urban village atmosphere which seems to attract people to settle down here. And our National School enables and mirrors that – all the children live in this local area, they grow up together in an easy relation-

ship which copper-fastens the community feeling of togetherness. And the open-hearted welcome I have received from all my local clerical colleagues - from St. John the Evangelist, Christchurch Sandymount, St. Mary's Star of the Sea Sandymount, St. Patrick's Ringsend and the Church of the Sacred Heart Donnybrook has sustained me through all the changes.

I want to specially thank the Church committee who have made so many things possible – the hard-working members of our Select Vestry. Four of those members will now form part a diocesan committee which will decide the next rector of this Parish.

Pat and I have made many friends in this community. We leave with very many good memories, and wish you all the blessings that come from your commitment, your determination and your hard work. There is never a good time to go, and it is more difficult at present because of the caution, disruption and uncertainty of this Coronavirus pandemic. Nevertheless, you have demonstrated what Barack Obama has called the audacity of hope. "Yes, we can!" And you will!

May God bless each and every one of you.

John



COLUMBARIUM WALL DEDICATION



On Sunday 28th February 2021 after the Live Broadcast, the Archbishop of Dublin Dr Michael Jackson will conduct a short ceremony to dedicate our new Columbarium Wall. Due to current

Covid-19 restrictions we are limited as how many people can attend the ceremony. We will be live streaming the dedication. To view the dedication please visit www.stmatts.live.

ST MATTHEW'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

It has been a busy few weeks at St. Matthew's National School as we switched to online, distance learning. We have been using Seesaw and Zoom as our two main platforms for teaching and learning. I have been amazed by the level of engagement and standard of tasks submitted, thank you to our parents for their investment of time and energy to enable this. Our children have been simply outstanding and have engaged with their tasks with a positive attitude, well done to each and every one of you.

One of the highlights for me has been our weekly zoom assemblies. We have explored the themes of kindness, gratitude, injustice, rights & responsibilities and love. We have completed weekly challenges on these themes and had a mindfulness focus and activity each week also.

We look forward to welcoming our pupils back in school, being able to learn together again.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

Mrs. Naomi Rousseau

Principal

ST MATTS LIVE BROADCAST

With current Covid-19 restrictions we continue to Live Stream our Service every Sunday morning at 10.30am. Our Parishioners have been logging in from all parts of the world to worship with us. In the absence of being able to meet together, we are thankful to You Tube Studio for keeping our Parishioners and Community together.



www.stmatts.live

PARISH CONTACTS

Rector

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Parish Administration

Jonathan Bell Tel: 087 254 0378

Nicky Bell Tel: 087 688 7049

Hon Secretary

Lindy Farmer Tel: 087 2246203

Hon Treasurer

Jonathan Bell Tel: 087 254 0378

Church Wardens

Miriam Hollowed (Rector's), Geraldine Wallace (People's),

Virginia Stewart (People's)

Glebe Wardens

Robbie Hamilton (Rector's)

Select Vestry

Lindy Farmer, Jonathan Bell, Gordon Kelley, Miriam Hollowed, Gladys Raethorne, Robbie Hamilton, Claire Wheeler, Steve Griffiths, Virginia Stewart, Karen Woods, John Wallace, Geraldine Wallace

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