The Traveller

Parish Newsletter

Summer 2013





'TRAVELLING WITH AUSTERITY' REPORT



THE NATIONAL TRAVELLER WOMEN'S FORUM



FOURTH TRAVELLER PRIDE AWARDS



'INSPIRING TRAVELLER WOMEN' LAUNCH



WELCOME

A warm welcome to you, and to all our readers! This edition of ***The Traveller Parish Newsletter*** comes just as primary schools join the secondary schools and colleges on the summer holiday break time. Our front cover features some of the increasing numbers of young Travellers who are going on to do the Leaving Cert and to graduate from secondary school. The Exchange House ***Annual Educational Achievement Awards*** *(p.26)* confirm the positive trend of recent years.

Against this however, it is sad to report that there is much on-the-ground anecdotal evidence of the regressive effects of the shocking and brutal 86% austerity cut to Traveller education supports. For the most vulnerable families the loss of supports makes a crucial and life-changing difference to their child. It can, and does, mean the difference between making it to Junior or Leaving Cert, or even to College – or instead dropping out as early as first year of secondary school.

Of course, it is not just Travellers who are affected by the cuts – many individuals, families, and communities in Ireland, and beyond, are experiencing the hardship and strain of austerity. What is particularly striking and of concern though is the concentration and severity of the Traveller-related cuts, so well documented recently in the Report '***Travelling with Austerity***' *(p.6)*.

Without losing sight of the serious and stark effects of the cuts, especially on the most disadvantaged, it is true that at the same time much good work continues in the community. Examples of this are featured in articles on the ***Traveller Pride Awards 2013*** *(p.14)*, the newly founded Traveller men's Soccer and Gaelic Football teams *(p.17-18)*, and the recently published, and very well received booklet, '***Inspiring Traveller Women***' *(p.11)*.

The Parish intercultural education work continues through our newly developed local parish hospitality programme, ***'Embracing Inclusion'*** which we will be presenting in our forthcoming conference, and then working to spread through other parishes. *(p.3)*

So, with extra busy times in the Parish, hopefully this summer time will also provide us, one and all, with some rest – and a bit of sun!

Finally, also at this time, the Catholic Bishops of Ireland are asking all parish communities to continue to pray the *Prayer for the Child in the Womb*, which includes the lines:

Guide the work of doctors, nurses and midwives.
May the life of a mother and her baby in the
womb be equally cherished and respected.

Help those who make our laws to uphold the
uniqueness and sacredness of every human life,
from first moment of conception to natural death.

Lord Jesus , help us to choose life in every decision
we take. Amen.

On behalf of all here,
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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Travelling Towards & Embracing Inclusion



In 2008 the Parish of the Travelling People set out on a four year journey to further develop pastoral activities and support for Travellers throughout the diocese of Dublin. A key part of that journey, called *Travelling Towards Inclusion*, involved the development of a pilot project, firstly in St. Ronan's Parish, Deansrath and later in the nearby Divine Mercy Parish, Balgaddy, Lucan South.

The first part of that journey has now come to an end and the many highlights and challenges encountered along the way have been well documented in this Newsletter since 2009. These highlights and challenges will also be explored in much more detail in the conference which the Parish of the Travelling People is organising in September.

Over the past year the work of the pilot initiative has taken place mainly in Divine Mercy Parish where the learning gained in St. Ronan's has been put to good use. The Parish of the Travelling People and Divine Mercy Parish have worked together to bring about a programme called *Embracing Inclusion*.

Embracing Inclusion was and is all about getting people to come together to reflect on what hospitality and welcome means to them and to look at how attitudes, prejudice and misunderstanding can prevent us offering or accepting hospitality. Specifically the programme is about working to create a welcoming environment for parishioners of all cultures and ethnic origins, in particular helping the parish to engage more fully with Traveller parishioners. The programme ran in November-December 2012 and April-May 2013. Each programme ran over five evenings and some twenty to twenty-five people took part including several Traveller women.

Drawing up the programme called for considerable commitment





on the part of the parish team and the parish pastoral council, and it was an important learning exercise for all concerned. The programme was well received and the outcomes show the value of all the effort that was put into preparing it. The feedback from the people who took part was very positive as the following sample comments show:

"The programme was great, I got to know more about Travellers and got to mingle and talk to Travellers and to other people involved in the parish".

"I thought hospitality was about smiling at people, now I know it's about a lot more".

"This programme worked, it reached people in ways other campaigns did not. People talked to each other and attitudes have changed. The impact is unbelievable".

"When I go to Mass I now stop for a chat because I know people by name and they know me by name. That would not have happened before this programme. Because I was involved in the two programmes I now have two sets of friends, I am completely comfortable going to Mass or to meetings, I'm not afraid to go forward. Before this you didn't know what kind of reception you'd get".

At the end of each of the programmes people agreed to work together on activities such as organising pilgrimages, inviting local Travellers to join the parish pastoral council and improving communication between all parishioners. These are important steps in the work of inclusion and they are happening in a parish that is ready and willing to support that work.

Kate O'Brien

Annual Conference of The Parish of the Travelling People, *'Embracing Inclusion'* – in All Hallows College, Dublin, on Wednesday, 25th September 2013

The work and learning of the *Travelling Towards Inclusion* Initiative's two local parish pilot projects will be presented and then explored in workshop input & discussion format. Guest speakers will include Dublin's Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, author of *'The Welcoming Parish'*, Donal Harrington, and organisational psychologist Dr. Seán Ruth.

The conference launch of the *Embracing Inclusion* Initiative will mark the beginning of a phased outreach to parishes with Traveller parishioners. The conference will aim mainly at participants from such Dublin parishes.

*For further details or enquiries contact **01 838 8874** – please note, places are limited so early booking is advisable.*

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.



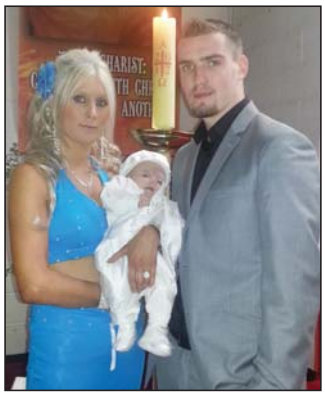
Berry Family Phibsborough.



Alanna Marie Gavin with parents Terence & Melissa, Ballymun.



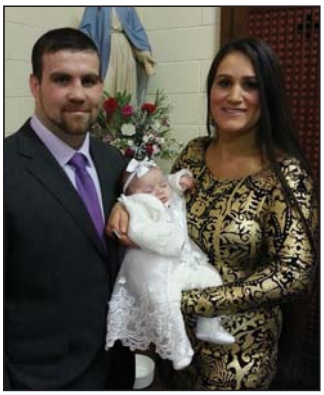
Anthony Daniel Stokes & parents Angela & John Paul, Ballymun.



Baby Jason Christopher Stokes, Killinarden and parents Simon & Marie.



Baby Patrick Lydon and parents Michelle & Daniel.



Sarah Theresa O'Donnell and parents, Clondalkin.



Baby Simon Paul Lawrence and parents Patrick & Mary, Ballymun.



Edward Anthony Corcoran and parents Martin & Nell, Tallaght.



Megan McDonagh, and parents John Paul & Tina, Ballymun.



Mylie Flynn and parents Ann & Mylie, Bluebell.



Rihanna Collins and parents Mary & John, Ballyfermot.

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 Rosita Mongan and parents Patrick & Melissa, Ballymun.



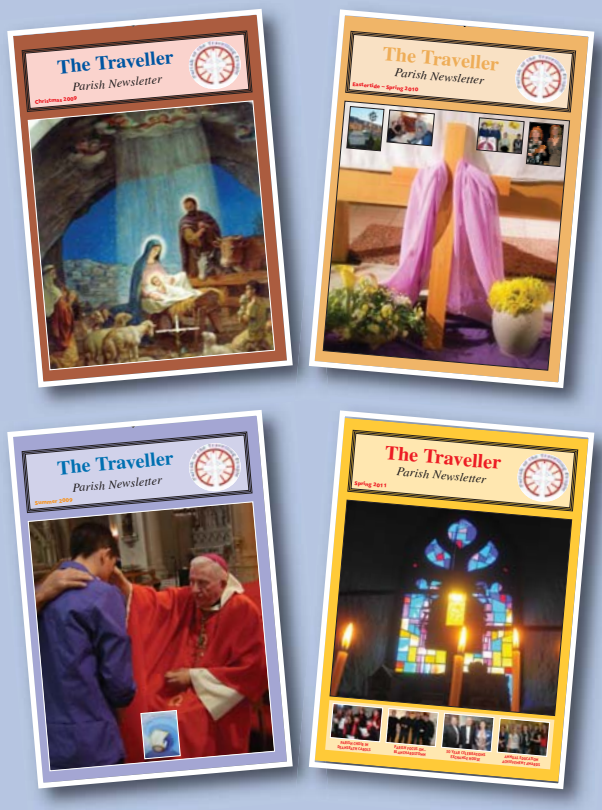
Rosarra Charlotte and parents Edward & Rose Reilly.



Baby Kathleen Sophia Maughan & parents Martin & Mary, Ballymun.



Tommy Lee and Patrick James Gosson, with parents Eleanor & Andrew, Rush.



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

'Travelling with Austerity' Report

Pavee Point in late April launched a report, Travelling with Austerity, which documents the cuts to Travellers, Traveller projects and services since 2008. ***'This Travelling with Austerity report exposes the lie that cuts are being apportioned fairly in society. The report documents and reveals government abandonment of Travellers under the guise of Austerity and is an indictment of government policy and commitments to protecting the vulnerable and ensuring fairness in society'*** **said Ms. Ronnie Fay, co-director of Pavee Point at the report launch.**



Photos courtesy of **Derek Speirs**

Using the government's own figures, the research documents the following cuts to Traveller services since 2008:

Traveller Interagency activities	-100%
Traveller Education	-86.6%
Traveller Accommodation	-85%
Equality	-76.3%
National Traveller Organisations	-63.6%
FÁS Special Initiative for Travellers	-50%

The report also highlights significant under-spend in the reduced budgets that are allocated. Given the level of need within the Traveller community, and government commitments to 'fairness', it is hard to justify such cuts. *'One can think of no other section of the community which has suffered such a high level of withdrawal of funding and human resources, compounded by the failure of the state to spend even the limited resources that it has made available'*, highlighted the Report's author, independent social researcher, Brian Harvey.

Speaking at the launch Martin Collins, Pavee Point co-director, said *'These cuts to Travellers and Traveller projects are unjust, disproportionate and short-sighted and will only serve to further marginalize and exclude another generation of my community to life on the margins of Irish society. They are not in the interests of either Travellers or Irish society.'*

The full report is available at: **www.paveepoint.ie** and also at **www.ptrav.ie**



THE NATIONAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CRISIS

On 17th April 2013 the ***Irish Traveller Movement*** (ITM) held a national Conference, *"Strategising a response to the National Traveller Accommodation Crisis"*. Some elements of this:

- Traveller Accommodation is going backwards
- Families cannot keep up with rent – leading to return to roadside/increased homelessness
- The current National mainstream Social Housing Assessment of Need will not capture the cultural needs of Travellers: With the first draft of the new Traveller Accommodation Programmes due this coming autumn, it is vital that local assessments are carried out beforehand to capture the real cultural needs of Travellers regarding accommodation.

Other issues that relate to the accommodation crisis include an increase in drug/substance misuse, and an increase in mental health issues and suicide. Also, private rented accommodation is understood by many to be the only option for Travellers who, without culturally appropriate options, believe there is a policy of assimilation rather than inclusion. ITM members also noted that the Traveller Accommodation budget has been reduced from €70million in 2000, to €4million in 2013, and also that no-one is being held accountable for gaps in Accommodation Programme delivery.

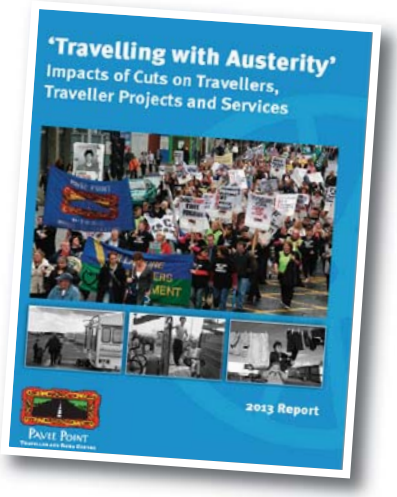
Impacts of Cuts on Travellers, Traveller Projects and Services



AN EXTRACT FROM THE PARISH RESPONSE TO

THE 'TRAVELLING WITH AUSTERITY' REPORT

FR. DEREK FARRELL, PTP



I can still remember the shock of two years ago. Of 1200 teaching posts being cut 773 were in Traveller education. No evaluation, no consultation, no transition. No recognition of progress achieved and of positive trends in Traveller education, trends coming from such a low base and so obviously still needing consolidation. I have the same sense of shock reaction to the stark findings of this report.

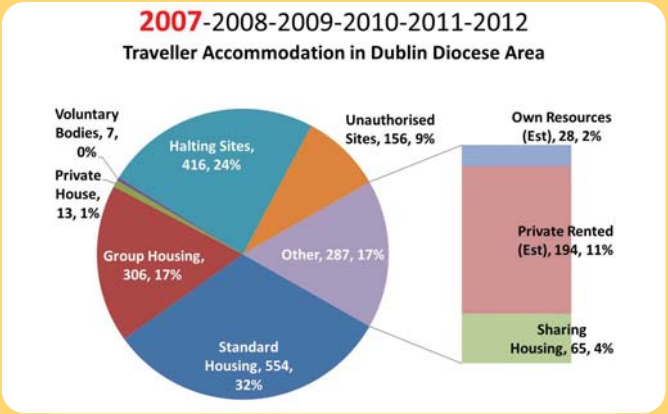
As parish priest of **The Parish of the Travelling People**, I am worried, hearing with increasing regularity the worries and concerns of the community: what is going on? what has the Traveller community done to have to suffer this clearly disproportionate level of austerity and disinvestment? The effect of this austerity then, is not just the burden of extra financial strain and loss of services, but also the burden of negative feelings like confusion, bewilderment, powerlessness, hopelessness.

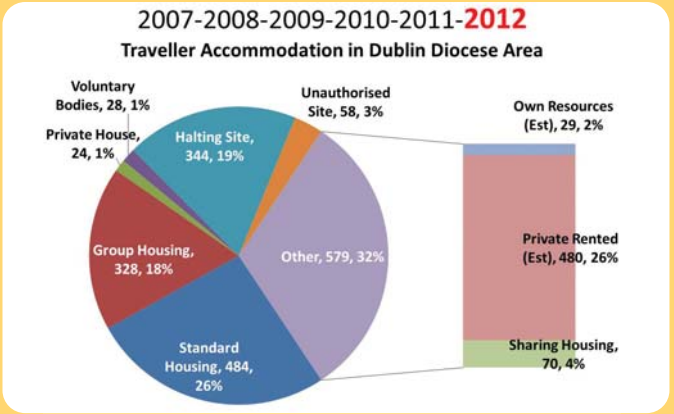
As **Parish of the Travelling People**, we work in close cooperation and solidarity with many Traveller organizations, services and local community groups. We see and often feel the benefit of much of their good work. We see too their struggle to maintain services due to cuts, and to minimize the damage done to Traveller infrastructure.

As parish, we aim to walk with, affirm and support the community. We are privileged to share in the joys and hopes of many on a day to day basis. We try to recognize and promote the wide-ranging qualities, contributions, and achievements of Travellers. At the same time we often share closely in the grief, burdens and anxieties being carried. On any one day in the Parish we are very likely to see at first hand the effects of austerity among those we meet who are in need – the human cost on individuals, families, and sections of a community already coming from a position of deep historical and ongoing disadvantage.

Recent political discourse at European and national level has begun to bring greater focus to these issues of social inclusion and the human cost in the effects of austerity especially on those who experience disadvantage. I believe that the clarity of this report's findings can help those reviewing and making budgetary decisions around austerity to sharpen that focus, hopefully at the same time bearing in mind the Irish Catholic Bishops view in their document *'From Crisis to Hope'* that: ***'the task of every government.. is to ensure that their policies serve the common good by protecting the weak and vulnerable, and by promoting integral human development for everyone."***

What is the experience of the Parish of the Travelling People in the Dublin Diocesan area? An examination of the Traveller Accommodation Counts by the Department of Environment may be helpful. The counts for the four Local Authorities within the Dublin Diocesan boundaries have been abstracted from the national figures and presented graphically below.

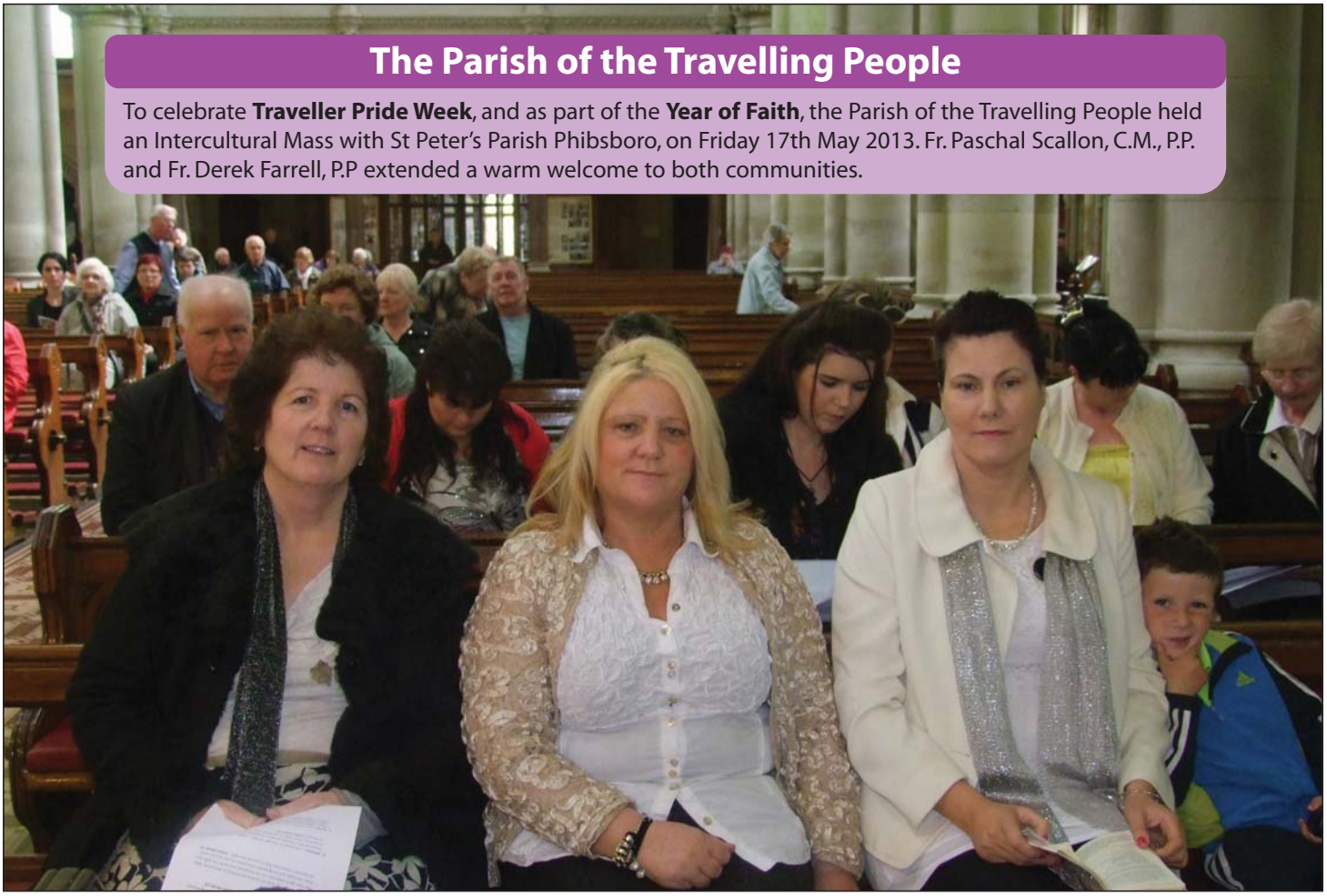




Traveller Pride Week 2013

The Parish of the Travelling People

To celebrate **Traveller Pride Week**, and as part of the **Year of Faith**, the Parish of the Travelling People held an Intercultural Mass with St Peter's Parish Phibsboro, on Friday 17th May 2013. Fr. Paschal Scallon, C.M., P.P. and Fr. Derek Farrell, P.P extended a warm welcome to both communities.



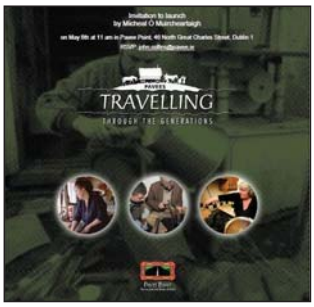






Pavee Point launch of book
'Travelling Through the Generations'





As part of the EU Year for Inter-generational Solidarity (2012), and to mark the Traveller Pride Week 2013, this book was launched in Pavee Point by Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh.

Wicklow – Visit to CEART Centre



A group of TY and Youthreach students visiting CEART in celebration of Traveller Pride Week. They were shown around the building and given presentations on the work of the CDP, Shuttle Knit and Primary Health Care and we had a tinsmith displaying his craft.

Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group Community Open Day

The Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group held a community open day during Traveller Pride Week. As part of the event various Traveller Traditions were on display in the BTDG office to celebrate the craftwork of Travellers along with an opportunity for those attending to avail of hair and nail treatments from participants in training on the Fas Funded Traveller Women's LTI Programme (Local Training Initiative) and the Community Employment Programme which are both based in the BTDG offices.

The Traveller Traditions on the day were provided by Traveller Tinsmith James Collins and Traveller Flower Arranger Teresa Ward Joyce who both carry on the Traveller Traditions that was passed down through generations of their families. The Traveller traditions in action proved to be popular viewing and the stories that accompanied the work were an interesting part of Traveller history to listen to.

Other activities on the day included cake sales and singing from Traveller young people who are participants in the Afterschool programme which is a part of the Education programme in BTDG.

Overall the day was very successful and enjoyable and was a great way to celebrate the achievements of Travellers.







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.

YEAR OF FAITH 2012 2013

The National Traveller Women's Forum – Family Support Skills Programme



The National Traveller Women's Forum – Family Support Skills Programme is a FETAC accredited programme undertaken by eight Traveller Women from Ballyfermot Traveller Action Project, Southside Travellers and Tallaght Travellers Project on a weekly basis over the course of 2012-2013.



Key modules of the Family Support Skills Programme are Adult and Child Development and Protection, Violence Against Women, Gender and Culture, Understanding the Legal System in Relation to Family Support, Understanding the health service system and the support structures and facilities for families and the range of community and voluntary supports which can be accessed. This course is now complete and been presented to the VEC.

The 8 women were presented with Certificates to celebrate the completion of the course as part of the NTWF and ITM Traveller Pride Week event *Inspiring Traveller Women* on the 16th June 2013. Some of the women spoke on the day of their experiences, the challenges and the highs along the way. And in the words of the women who have completed the course:

'This type of course is about empowering women and it is great to get to the end of a course and have the sense of achievement that it gives to us both personally and what it can bring to us in our work'.

NTWF & ITM Launch of Booklet

INSPIRING TRAVELLER WOMEN







On the 16th June 2013 as part of Traveller Pride Week, the National Traveller Women's Forum and the Irish Traveller Movement jointly launched the publication '**Inspiring Traveller Women'** in Wynn's Hotel Dublin. The publication sets out the stories that Traveller women chose to share about their own lives, their work and who inspires them. It gives an insight into the wide range of work and activism undertaken by the women and the personal achievements of and challenges faced by these very inspiring women.

On the day of the Launch, Geraldine McDonnell spoke of her experience in bringing the women's profiles together and taking it one step further in the compiling of the booklet. Some of the women who shared their stories in the booklet also spoke on the day of what it was like to share some aspects of their lives and why they felt it was important to have publications such as this which profile the lives of Traveller women in a positive way. The **'Inspiring Traveller Women'** booklet was launched by Anastasia Crickley who is the head of the Applied Social Studies Unit in NUI Maynooth. Anastasia also sits on United Nations Committee for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD).

The day itself was really positive and there was very much a celebratory mood and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended which was over 80 on the day.













OUT & ABOUT



Bray Travellers CDG Youth Development Activities.


Visit to Bray Travellers Community Development Group.


Mags Stretch Retirment, Ballyowen Meadows




Parish Team and Pastoral Council Pilgrimage to St Bridget's Well in Kildare.



Protest outside Leinster House
On the 13th April 2013 a protest was held in response to a recent upsurge in anti-Traveller racism, particularly from public representatives and members of the judiciary. On the day a letter was presented to the Taoiseach and to the leaders of all political parties calling on them to challenge any instances of racism perpetrated by party members.


Easter Morning, Dawn Mass with the Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin, Corcagh Park.



The Parish of the Travelling People coffee morning fundraiser for St. Francis Hospice raised €700 for this good cause - a big Thank You to all who attended the coffee morning, and to those who donated prizes for our raffle. The cheque was presented to the Hospice by Nancy Collins & Geraldine McDonnell.

OUT & ABOUT



Mary Quinn receives the thanks and good wishes of the Parish on her retirement from ACCORD.



PTP Pastoral Council members at Deanery Conference, in Lucan

First Holy Communion Day 2013












Visit to Matt Lane, Balbriggan for Mass with Fr. Paddy Kelly & the community.



Enjoying a cuppa after Mass in the Matt Lane Centre, Balbriggan.



TRAVELLERS HONOURED AT FOURTH TRAVELLER PRIDE

THE PILLAR ROOM, ROTUNDA HOSPITAL, DUBLIN

Guest of Honour – Silver Medal Olympian John Joe Nevin
During Traveller Pride Week 2013, the fourth Traveller Pride Awards which honour the achievements and contributions Travellers make to their own community and to Irish society, were held attended by silver Olympian John Joe Nevin who was the guest of honour, and by Olympic, World and European boxing champion Katie Traylor. They celebrated with the Award winners, including two of Ireland's last remaining Traveller tin-smiths, the captain of the Republic of Ireland under-17 Women's Soccer team, the "Voice of Ireland" runner-up Kelly McDonagh-Mongan, Traveller women entrepreneurs, a long time Traveller activist, an inspiring drugs worker, and a 16 year old recognised for her involvement in school , community and social initiatives.

The event which was hosted by RTÉ presenter **Anne Cassin** was attended by Travellers, Traveller champions and prominent Irish personalities some of whom presented awards including **Nora Casey** radio and TV presenter and CEO of Harmonia Publications, **Martin Warde**, Traveller and comedian, **Stephen Dunne,** musician, **Liam Heffernan**, actor and were entertained at a lively ceremony of craft musical and narrative pieces, by the winners.

Winners were selected from Cork, Dublin, Mayo, Wicklow, Kerry, and Galway in categories of *Education, Arts / Culture, Music,*



John Joe Nevin & overall Award Winner Tom McDonnell

Enterprise, Youth, Sport, Community and for the *Overall Traveller Pride*.

In recognising *Traveller Pride* winners' accomplishments the Awards provide encouragement and inspiration to other Travellers to keep the flame burning for activities which promote Traveller identity and the valuable contribution Travellers make to Irish life.



AWARDS



FULL LIST OF WINNERS

Category:
- **OVERALL AWARD**

Tom McDonnell and James Collins

Category:
- **COMMUNITY**

Jim O'Brien (Bray, Co Wicklow)

Category:
- **ENTERPRISE AND EMPLOYMENT**

Bridget Kelly, Anne-Marie McDonagh, Joanna Corcoran (Galway).

Category:
- **YOUTH**

Mary Maughan (Mayo)

Category:
- **ARTS / CULTURE**

Tom McDonnell and James Collins (Dublin)

Category:
- **SPORTS**

Savannah McCarthy (Kerry)

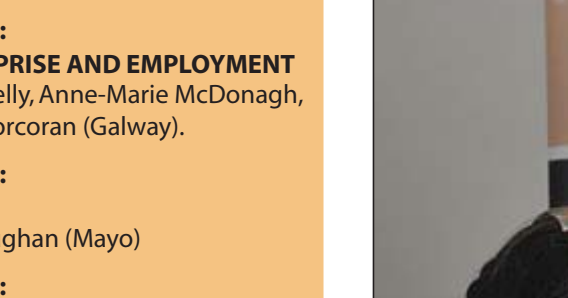
Category:
- **MUSIC**

Kelly McDonagh Mongan (Cork)

Category:
- **EDUCATION**

Christy Moorehouse (Bray, Co Wicklow)

The Irish Traveller Movement is the co-ordinator of the Traveller Pride Awards which jointly supported by seven Traveller organisations.



Bridget Kelly, Anne-Marie McDonagh, Joanna Corcoran, Eneterprise and Employment Award Winners with Nora Casey



Savannah McCarthy and Katie Taylor



Kelly McDonagh Mongan with Stephen Dunne

Well-being & Health Matters



Cairenn Bryson

Hi All,

Let's take a minute to remind ourselves how to care for our mental health. It is our responsibility to take care of our mind and here are some reminders of how we can do this. Some of these things you may already be doing so, good for you. Maybe you could decide to try out one or two new ideas for caring for your mental health. The mind is a delicate thing, so treat it carefully, and remember, have fun.

Get Exercise:

With some great weather this summer get outdoors alone or with a friend. Go for a walk, cycle, run or swim. Whatever it is, it will relieve any stress. Make you feel happier and will give you more energy.

Have Fun:

We can all have busy lives and lots of worries. It's very important to have times of fun and relaxation in your routine….it's a must.

Basic Needs:

Be sure you are getting enough sleep, 6-8 hours for adults. Don't skip meals and be sure to keep these meals as healthy as you can. You will feel the difference and your well-being will increase.

Hobbies:

Take up a new hobby or make time for an old one… gardening, knitting, flower arranging or painting. We feel good about ourselves when we are being creative.

Learn something new:

Push yourself to learn a new skill, or take on a course. When we better ourselves we feel good about ourselves.

Meet up with friends:

It does us all good to meet friends and have a good time. Time with friends can lift our spirits.

Alcohol:

Cut down on alcohol as it can make you feel depressed. Low risk for women is 14 standard units a week and 21 standard units for men.

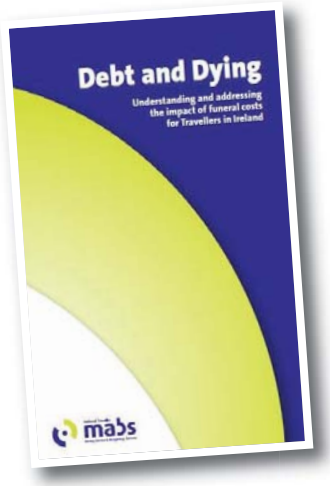
Get Support:

We all experience difficult times in life. Do not suffer alone. Reach out to friends or someone in your community. Call a helpline or reach out on-line.

Laugh more:

Try not to take life or yourself too seriously. Have a few good hearty laughs every day.

New National Traveller MABS research report



National Traveller MABS has published its most recent research - ***'Debt and Dying – Understanding and addressing the impact of funeral costs for Travellers in Ireland'.***

The research shines a light on the heavy burden and often extreme financial difficulty that many find themselves in following the death of a loved one. Additionally, the report explores many barriers in accessing affordable and legal credit as a means to pay for funeral costs.

In the near future, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin will officially hand this report over to the Traveller Community and begin a community conversation with the community on issues raised in the report. National Traveller MABS sees this as only the beginning of creating awareness of this sensitive yet very important issue. It is hoped that a community conversation will stimulate informal debate around the issues and recommendations contained in the report.

We will be contacting all Traveller organisations to invite members of their groups to meet with the Archbishop and participate in the community conversation in the near future. We look forward to meeting with you then.

Copies can be obtained by calling Margaret at 0761 072 230 or Emailing: margaret_collins@mabs.ie


KER AFL Herald Herald AFL

PAVEE THE CHAMPS!

Brilliant Burke hat-trick not enough to save 'Diggers' in superb Harding final

RESULTS

PAVEE UNITED FC

Pavee United FC is an all-Traveller soccer team drawn from young Traveller men in Coolock, Finglas, and Ballymun, and the greater Dublin area. The main aim is to target young Traveller boys and men to get involved and take part in and to take ownership of this team as a community, and to have a positive outlook and thinking for themselves. The aim is also to help them with their personal fitness levels and get involved in healthier life-style.

We were accepted into the Amateur Football League Dublin (www.afl.ie) and have just played out our first season in the AFL 2012/13 Division 1 Sunday. We succeeded in winning the Double of both the League and also the Harding Cup, winning 4-3 in the Cup Final against Glasnevin FC at the Oscar Traynor Centre, Coolock .

There was a need for this initiative and the Team. As young Travellers in the targeted area are having problems with employment and community related problems and issues, I feel this will give them something to look forward to and concentrate on.

Plans are in place to set up opportunities to run mini-leagues this summer for the kids in the area at the end of June 2013, and for the young Traveller children to hopefully progress to be the next crop of players for the Traveller soccer team.

If you would like to join, or know anyone that is interested in joining ***Pavee United FC,*** *please feel free to contact me on the email or number below.*

John Paul Collins, Manager





CONTACT :
John Paul Collins:
Tel: 087 115 8030
Email: john8351@me.com



PAVEE GAELIC FOOTBALL CLUB

My name is Paddy McDonnell. I used to manage the old pavee Gaelic team in the 1990's. I am now the manager of a new football team which is also called Pavees, and with the support of Patrick McDonagh and Martin Reilly we got this new team up and running this summer.

We started up this team with Traveller men from the greater Dublin area north and south. I have a great love and passion for Gaelic football, and so do the lads on the team. I think it's a great thing for the Traveller men to get involved with; unfortunately there is a lot of drug abuse and also a high rate of suicide among young Traveller men. The football will help them mentally and physically, and help build up their self-esteem. It is great for the younger generation to come and watch the matches, some of the lads on this team, their fathers used to play for the old pavee team of the '90's.

My aim is to get another young Traveller Gaelic team of 13 to 16 year olds started in the near future.

At the moment we are in the championship and the league, and we are looking forward to a good year, please God. The team is called Pavees, which in Traveller language means Travellers. We are very proud of our culture, and this is one way of showing that there are very positive things happening in the Traveller community.

There is great support from the Traveller community and the wider community with regard to this team. We would like to thank all those who have helped to get this team off the ground, especially the team of lads themselves and their families as it takes a big commitment to be part of this team.

We would like to thank those who have helped us financially it is very much appreciated.

Paddy McDonnell, *Manager*

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



Goodbye and Good Wishes to Petra Daly



We all here at the Parish would like to say goodbye and good luck to Petra Daly. Petra has recently resigned from her position as co-ordinator of the National Traveller Suicide Awareness Project.

We hosted the piloting of the project, and so we first had the privilege of working alongside Petra here at the Parish Office when she took up the position 6 years ago. The issue of suicide among the Traveller Community was in need of a well co-ordinated response. Petra took on this role with great determination and enthusiasm. Among her achievements was the development of training on mental health and suicide prevention. As many our readers know she reached the far corners of our island with this training and the message that, "Yes we can change the instance of suicide in the Traveller Community".

With the help of members of the steering group, Petra worked to secure significant Geneo funding to develop specific mental health recovery projects in four areas of Ireland. We cannot overstate her contribution to this often very difficult and challenging work.

Petra always had a smile or a joke for you in the office. She will be sorely missed in this area of work and many of her colleagues will long remember her.

Good Luck and Thank You from The Parish of The Travelling People.

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.

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 2012	
7 August	Tom Stokes & Julianne O'Donnell	Corduff
8 August	Michael O'Brien & Mary Teresa McDonagh	Dundalk
28 August	Thomas McDonagh & Natasha Keogh	Finglas
31 August	Michael James Keenan & Roseanne McDonagh	Finglas West
31 August	Martin Anthony McDonagh & Leanne Darcy	Finglas West
4 September	Joseph O'Donnell & Teresa Lawrence	Ballymun
14 September	Michael Doyle & Lisa Maughan	Crumlin
5 October	John Joe McDonagh & Charlene Collins	Finglas West
7 November	Patrick Collins & Kathy Lawrence	Balbriggan
8 November	Charles Collins & Margaret Collins	Crumlin
27 November	John Paul Cunningham & Ellen Marie McDonagh	Priorswood
4 December	Mikey McDonnell & Leanne McDonnell	Finglas West
20 December	Johnny McDonagh & Lisa McDonagh	Finglas West
	Weddings 2013	
29 January	James McDonagh & Sharon Joyce	
15 February	Martin McCarthy & Missie Joyce	Mountview
28 February	Ann Wall & Patrick Flynn	Inchicore
30 April	Michael McDonagh & Christina O'Reilly	Inchicore
1 May	Stephen Stokes & Kathleen Mongan	Celbridge
11 May	Douglas McDonagh & Joanne McDonagh	Mountview
14 May	Patrick McDonnell & Winnie McDonnell	Donabate
17 May	Richard McCann & Una Ward	Dublin
23 May	Jerry O'Donnell & Noreen Donoghue	Knocklyon
28 May	Francie McDonagh & Julie O'Donnell	Ballymun
5 June	Gerry Berry & Margaret Casey	Inchicore
10 June	Christopher Stokes & Lisa O'Donnell	Finglas



Ann Wall & Patrick Flynn, Inchicore.



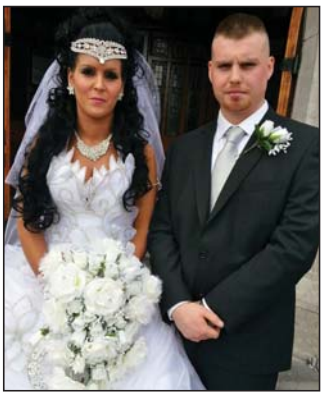
Margaret Casey & Gerry Berry, Inchicore.



Jerry O'Donnell & Noreen Donoghue, Knocklyon.



Julie Marie O'Donnell & Francie McDonagh, Ballymun.



Kathleen Mongan & Stephen Stokes, Celbridge.



Kathy Lawrence and Patrick Collins, Balbriggan.



Leanne & Mikey McDonnell, Finglas.

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


Lisa & Johnny McDonagh, Finglas


Lisa O'Donnell & Christopher Stokes, Finglas.

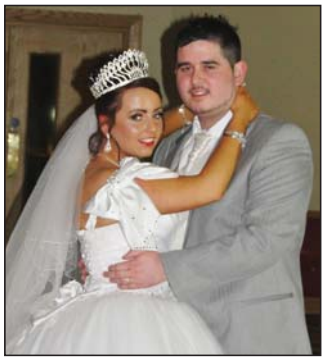

Una Ward & Richard McCann, Dublin.


Michael Doyle & Lisa Maughan, Crumlin.


Paddy & Winnie McDonnell, Donabate.


Christina O'Reilly & Michael McDonagh, Inchicore.


Roseanne McDonagh & Michael James Keenan and Martin Anthony McDonagh & Leanne Darcy.


Sharon Joyce & James McDonagh.

What you need to do when getting married

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:

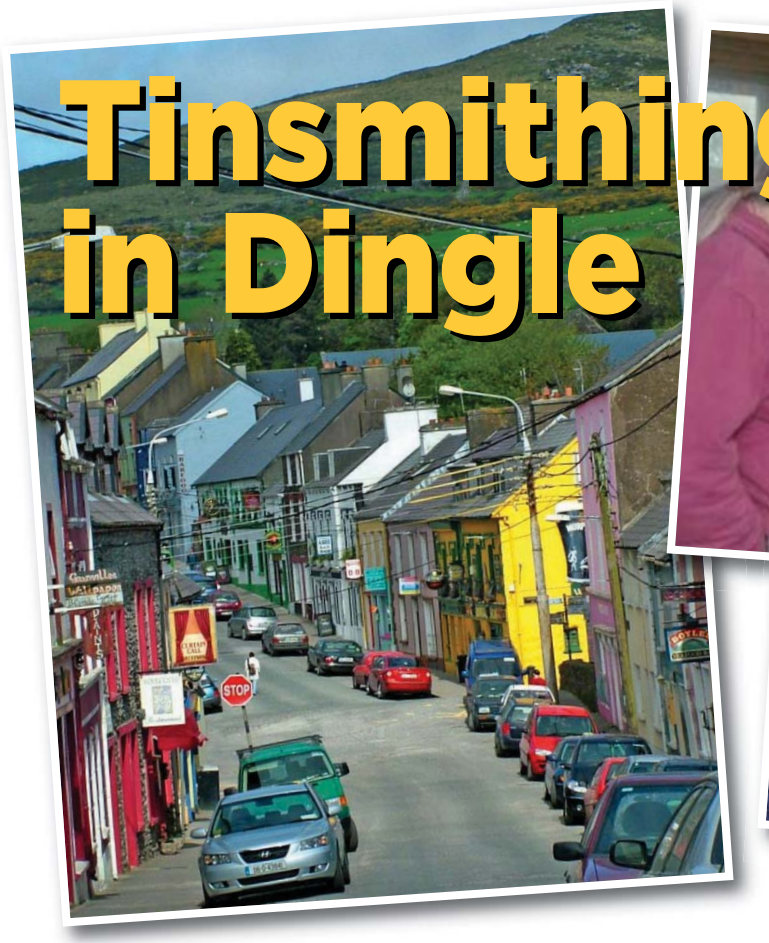
  Information on the date, the place, and the priest for your wedding.

  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

Tinsmithing in Dingle









In May of this year my father Tom McDonnell who is one of a few Traveller Tinsmiths in Ireland was invited to take part in a four day arts festival in Dingle.

The community arts festival Féile na Bealtaine (Irish for *"the good fire"*), which takes place in Dingle is in its 19th year and is an Annual festival of the arts, featuring music, the visual arts, film, poetry, literature, politics, children's activities and lots more. *(Full details on the festival website)*

Tom was to be part of a group called Umha Aois (Irish for *"Bronze Age"*) which consist of various different artists demonstrating their skills such as blacksmiths, and metal workers among others, and Tom was going to be demonstrating his skill of tinsmithing.

The group worked on various different individual pieces throughout the few days and also worked together to create a great cauldron, everyone brought their own unique way of working, but were also very interested in learning from each other. As part of the festival, there was also an exhibition of different kinds of work. Each of the artists had to contribute a piece or two to be put on display in a gallery space in the arts centre.

There was great interest from the local people of Dingle and visitors to the festival, Tom was received very well, and was one of the talking points of the festival. Some of Tom's Family also went to Dingle for the few days, we got a very warm welcome, and overall it was a great experience for us and a few days that we will remember A Big thank you to those who sent the invite to Tom and extending it to members of his family, and please God we look forward to taking part next year.

Geraldine McDonnell





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

International Conference – Austria 2013



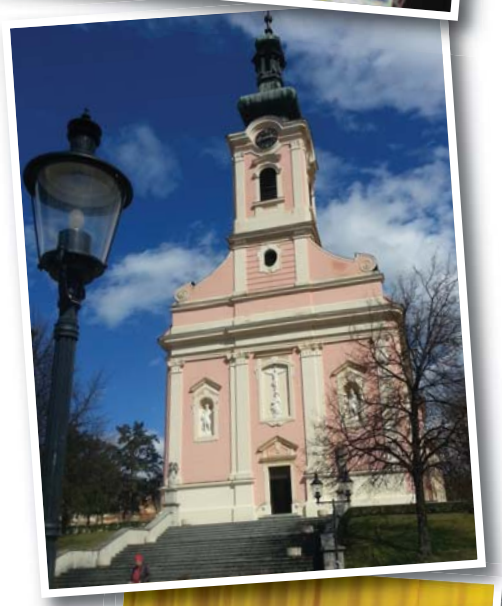
The CCIT, or International Catholic Committee for Travellers, was established in 1976 in response to the need for an international debate on the nomadic communities and their human and spiritual welfare. It is an association of 46 members in 14 European countries offering a forum for sharing experiences, and for establishing new bonds of friendship and co-operation. The CCIT has special relations with the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Travelling People.

The theme of this year's conference was 'Recognizing God's mystery in your neighbour'. This fitted in very well with our recent work in piloting the local parish based *Embracing Inclusion* hospitality programme. In this sense it was particularly valuable that each of the group representing the Parish had knowledge and experience of the programme. When it came to the conference's small discussion group sessions we found in both English-speaking groups we were part of that there was much interest, and there was a big focus on our approach and our experience.

The conference concluded with all the groups from around Europe gathering for Mass, led by Fr. Claude Dumas, a Traveller







priest from France, with music from different parts of Europe – including Ireland, through our own group! The custom is to include in the conference an intercultural festival evening. So as we had experienced in previous years, there were stalls of food and drink from each country which we all had a taste of, rounded off with live folk music from the various countries which was a great end to the enriching, interesting and informative gathering.

Mary Maughan, Maggie Reilly, and Nuala Reilly who were part of the group from the Parish all agreed that it was a great experience to visit Austria for the CCIT meeting. *"We had been to a previous CCIT meeting, so it was good to see some familiar faces, and great to meet new people. Overall it was a very worthwhile, enjoyable and informative trip."*







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

August 2012		
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
January 2013		
9th	Patrick O'Rourke	Whitechurch
May		
6th	Bill Doyle	Inchicore
9th	Jimmy Power	Navan

First Year Anniversary

December 2012		
17th	Denis Ward	Bray
26th	John Stokes	Rowlagh
January 2013		
4th	Christopher McDonagh	Brookfield
4th	Mary Cash	Labre Park
8th	(Baby) Margaret Rihanna Sweeney	Bluebell
25th	John McDonagh	Rathfarnham
February		
1st	Tom Stokes	Finglas
14th	Martin Ward	Tallaght
22nd	Maisie Doyle	Ballyfermot
March		
13th	Michael O'Donnell	Balgaddy
28th	Barney McDonagh	Inchicore
May		
27th	William 'Billy Boy' O'Brien	Kilshane Cross

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.

YOUTH ZONE

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT









The National Educational Achievement Awards

Frances Fitzgerald T.D and the recipients of the 2012 Awards

The 2013 Exchange House National Educational Achievement Award will take place on October 18th 2013 in The Venue, at Dublin City Council at 5pm. The Exchange House National Educational Achievement Award is presented to Travellers from the 32 counties of Ireland, who have recently completed the Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate, GCSE, A Level examinations or Third Level Courses, in recognition of the hard work and commitment shown by the recipients in reaching their goals.

"There are lots of positive things happening in the Traveller community but they tend to go unnoticed outside our 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" says Cathleen McDonagh Clark, Education Service Manager. Formal education attainment is becoming the norm in the Traveller community and Exchange House is happy to host this celebration of academic achievement.

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 is a fun-filled, fast paced event and all nominees who attend on the night are included in a draw for an iPad, a laptop, cameras and MP3 players.

The Award highlights role models for other Travellers who are engaged in, or are considering returning to, formal education while portraying positive images of the Traveller community.

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



Graduating Primary School
Graduates from St. Joseph's GNS, Finglas.

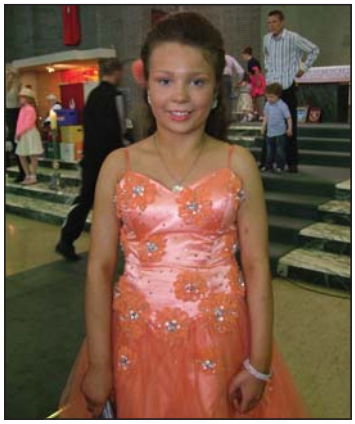


Secondary School Graduation
Julieann McDonnell, Rebecca McDonagh & Emma McDonagh.

YOUTH ZONE

CONFIRMATION DAY - MAY 2013





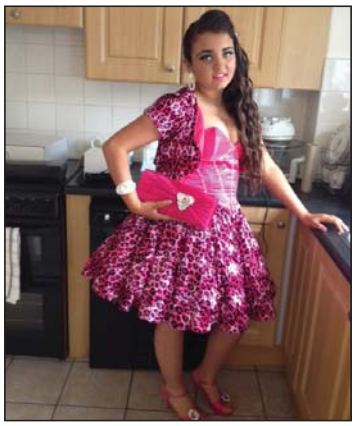


A Prayer for You

I shall pass through this world but once.
Any goodness, therefore,
That I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being,
Let me do it now
Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again.









Prayer to Saint Thérèse



O Little Flower, of the Child Jesus,
Please pick a rose for me
From the heavenly gardens
And send it to me
As a message of love.

Ask God today to grant
the favours
I now place with
confidence
In your hands.

(Mention your specific requests)

St. Thérèse,
help me to always believe,
As you did,
In God's great love
for me,
So that I might imitate
your "Little Way"
each day.
Amen.

The Traveller Parish Newsletter is published by The Parish of the Travelling People, St. Laurence House, 6 New Cabra Rd, Phibsborough, Dublin 7.
Tel: (01) 838 8874 **Fax:** (01) 838 8901 **Email:** info@ptrav.ie **Website:** www:ptrav.ie