The Traveller

Parish Newsletter

Autumn 2011



PARISH ATTENDS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, HOLLAND



CELEBRATING OLDER TRAVELLERS' CONTRIBUTION



FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS & CONFIRMATIONS



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



YOUTH ZONE YELLOW FLAG AWARDS

WELCOME



During the month of November it is our strong tradition here in Ireland, and certainly nowhere more so than within the Traveller community, to give extra-special thought, time and prayer to our deceased loved ones, family members, friends, and all the faithful departed. As well as the day celebrating the Feast of All Souls on November 2nd, many Masses will be offered, candles lit, memories shared, and prayers said all through the month for those who have passed from this world. In the darkness of wintry November days the warmth and brightness of loving prayer for our deceased is itself a blessing, both for those who pray, and also those we pray for.

In this edition we remember especially those who have taken their own lives, and we include each one in our prayers. We think also of the families so deeply affected by their traumatic and sad loss, and we offer a prayer for the grace, strength, support, and comfort they need in their pain and grief.

As the articles inside confirm, suicide is an issue which as a society and as a community we cannot ignore. The work of groups like the ***Traveller Counselling Service*** and ***Crosscare's National Traveller Suicide Prevention Project*** has never been more important than now, particularly in light of the recent very high rate, within the community, of death by suicide.

In recent weeks, to mark World Mental Health Day, the ***Traveller Counselling Service*** hosted a conference, which we will have a full report on in our next edition. One of the guest speakers told a story from her own work experience as senior psychiatrist which struck me as particularly relevant to those of us in parish ministry at this time of high rates of suicide.

The story was that of a troubled man who sadly had taken his own life. The mental health services carried out an investigation after the death to try to see, in the context of provision of culturally appropriate services, if anything could be learnt from the experience of the man's interaction with the services. He had met with several counselling and therapy professionals, but each time was referred on when the he insisted that what he just needed was to speak to a 'medicine man'. Now, the man had grown up in an African country where the 'medicine man' was a strong part of the culture. It was also a country at war when he was a child, and he had been forced to become a child soldier, so witnessing and being part of some terrible events. 'What was the one thing', the conference speaker asked,' that the man was looking for, specific to the 'medicine man', and that for him the others could not provide?' The answer, it was suggested in this case, is release from the burden of guilt, by one who in his eyes had the power to offer that absolution.

The story was a reminder to me that the spiritual and faith dimension can play a vital role in caring for the mental health of self and others. Our Parish can say, through experience and consistent Traveller survey outcomes, that faith has a highly significant influence in the personal and communal life and well-being of many. It is good then to remember that the traditional Confessor role of the priest is still there, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and is freely available at certain times or by appointment in local parish churches. It may not be the full solution for everyone's situation, but certainly could be part of the solution for some. Like each of the sacraments it is there as a gift from the Lord waiting for us to receive, and there to heal and nourish, and give us the life he wants us to have and to live to the full.

Prayerful Blessings to you, Light of Heaven and peace to all our faithful departed…

Fr. Derek.

Fr. Derek Farrell, P.P.

"I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full."
John 10:10



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National Traveller Suicide Awareness Project

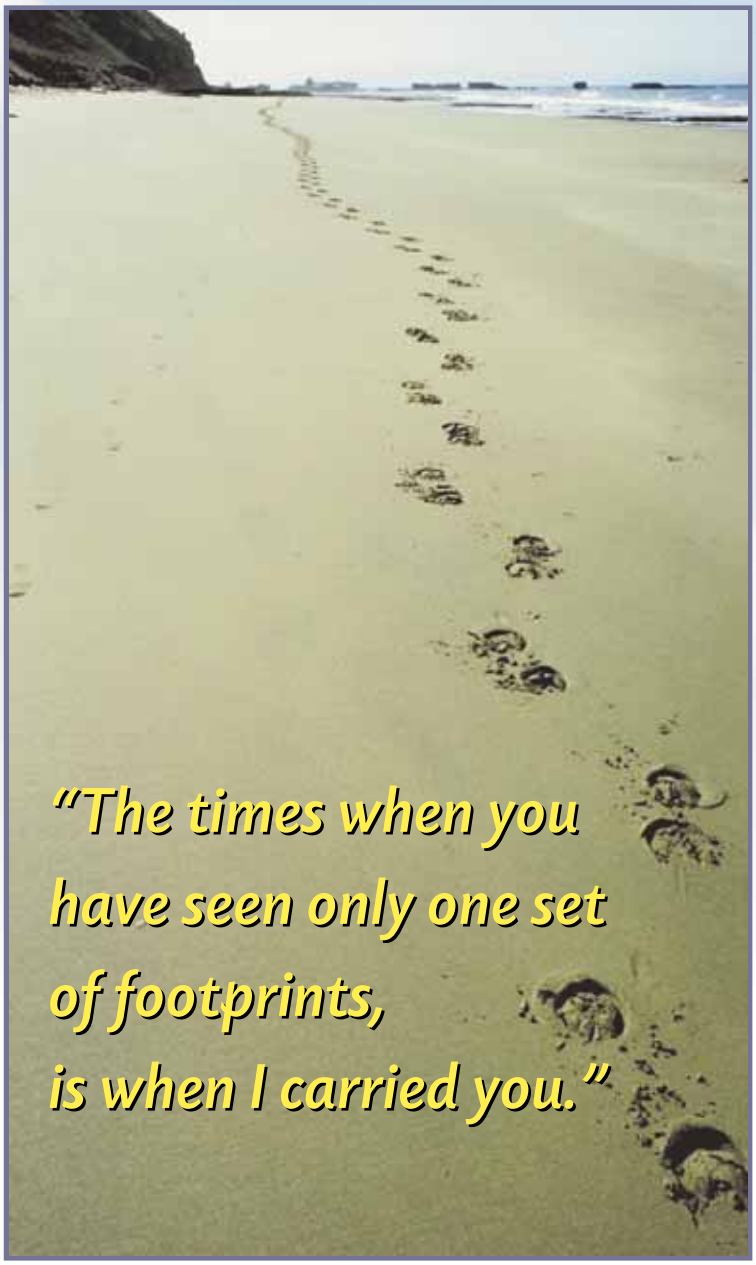


cross care social care agency catholic archdiocese of dublin
innovation and action for social justice

The National Traveller Suicide Awareness project has had another busy year. With this climate of cuts, recession, and difficulty coping there has never been a greater demand for the work of the project. The project has noted that sadly in the period since January 2011 at least 12 Travellers have died by suicide, and that there has been an increase in the rate of female Travellers taking their own life. The rate of Traveller suicide is a critical issue for the community, as it is more than six times higher for Traveller men than for settled men, and three times higher for Traveller women than for settled women.

Against this background, it is good to report on a more positive note, that the project has had some success, despite the recession and the cuts, in successfully obtaining funding for two male workers to develop work with Traveller men, which promotes positive mental health and suicide awareness. These two workers, Martin Ward and Karl O'Reilly, have been working with the project just since September. They will be working nationally, so if you are interested in talking to them about developing work with Traveller men, we would love to hear from you. They can be contacted on 086 7765368 for Karl, and on 086 7765367 for Martin.

Further information on training and supports available can be obtained from Petra at 086 1729168



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.

The Helpline is operated by their team of counsellors nationally, and aims to provide support, advice and referral services to anyone bereaved by suicide.

- ***The Console National Freephone Helpline is a confidential listening service for people bereaved through suicide.***
- ***This service provides callers with the space and safety to speak about their loss.***
- ***Callers are given the opportunity to express how they are feeling and coping or not coping as can sometimes be the reality.***
- ***Callers will be offered contact details of Counselling Services and Support Groups as near as possible to the location of the caller.***

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

Talking about Suicide



Thomas McCann, Psychotherapist, Manager of the Traveller Counselling Service

The issue of suicide is a very difficult issue for most people to talk about, from my own experience it would seem even more so within the Traveller community. However, the more that people who are feeling suicidal talk about the issue openly with someone the less of a burden they feel they are carrying. It's a wise saying that a problem shared is a problem halved. Often, when someone finds a safe opportunity to talk about how low they feel, or about their thoughts of suicide, they find this a great relief, and it sometimes allows them space and time to work out what to do next or how to improve their situation.

When it happens that a member of a family dies by suicide the family are devastated by it and are left trying to understand why someone would take their own life. The family of someone who has died by suicide may need to get support and talk about how they feel as often they may be carrying a lot of painful feelings, maybe feelings of guilt and shame, and sometimes anger at the person who has taken their own life for doing it.

All of these feelings are normal but we may need help sometimes to deal with them as they can start to make us feel depressed or want to withdraw into ourselves. We have to be careful and ask for help and support if this starts to happen to us or to someone we know after a suicide.

At present the numbers of Travellers and particularly Traveller men who die by suicide is very high and is about six times higher than it is in the settled community. This is a recent development. Whereas in the past you would never hear of Travellers who took their own life, now it is on a regular basis and we need to do something about. When I say 'we', I mean within the Traveller community, and not just the agencies who are working on these issues.

So I hear you ask, 'what can we do?'.

We need to be able to talk about it more openly, we can support each other to get the help that we need, and we can keep an eye on each other when something like suicide happens. Whether it is men or women, we can advise a person if we feel they are withdrawing in to themselves, to talk to someone. But whatever we do, we cannot afford to do nothing about it.

Travellers have faced many difficulties in the past and have managed to deal with these difficulties; I have every confidence that we can do the same with suicide if we can support each other to talk about our problems and get the help we need.

In the ***Traveller Counselling Service*** we can support people who might be thinking about suicide or feeling suicidal. It is a safe, confidential service where Travellers can talk freely about whatever difficulty they are having without being judged.

If you or someone you know would like to talk with one of our counsellors please feel free to contact us on **086 308 1476**

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 60

***Text:* 087 260 90 60**

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.

Life, as we all know is the most precious of God's gifts - and to take one's own life is a tragic and terrible thing. Unfortunately, it's the choice of too many troubled people today - Travellers and Settled! - a choice that causes so much pain to loved ones left in their grief to ponder and struggle with the question 'Why?'

You know, the mind is a fragile thing - and can all too easily flip - because I don't believe that anyone in their right senses would take their own lives. All our instincts, our very nature, is to hold on to life and to protect it with all our might.

So, to those who might at any stage think of going down that dark road of suicide - I say TALK, TALK! Talk to a friend, share your problem, get help - there is plenty available! Whatever problems you face can be faced more confidently with another person - and especially with a friend or someone who really cares or who is trained to help. And to those who know someone that might be thinking of harming themselves or taking their own lives – again I say TALK to them, LISTEN to their story, support them in the troubles they experience and encourage them to look for help.

We need never be ashamed when serious problems come our way. They are temporary things for which, with help, we can find a solution. Ending it all is not the answer - the answer lies in sharing and seeking the help of those who, in the long run, can help us live again - and live with hope and love and new energy.

Fr. Paddy Kelly, Redemptorist

Extract from a Funeral Mass homily.



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.



John Stokes, Elizabeth Stokes, Elizabeth Corcoran, Baby Curtis Jonathan Corcoran and Michael Corcoran, Deansrath



Bernard & Bernadette McDonagh & Baby Gerard John, Phibsboro



John & Mary Mongan & Baby Martin Paul, Tallaght



Baby Michael Hutchinson, parents Jimmy and Rosemarie & family



Thomas & Christine Doyle & Baby Chloe, Phibsborough



Martin & Julie Connors & Baby Ann, Inchicore



Martin & Phillis McDonagh & Baby Sarah Louise, Ballymun



Patrick & Kathleen Marie Gavin & Baby Ann Sophia, Ballymun



Baby Kelly Collins and parents John & Annmarie with Fr. Paddy, Finglas



Gerard and Margaret Brown & Baby Tommy Dean, Sallins

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

Celebrating Older Travellers' Contribution





The Minister of State with wide-reaching portfolios, Kathleen Lynch TD, visited on 31 May 2011 to launch Pavee Point's celebration of older Travellers' contribution to their community and wider society.

An event which took place during the Summer in Pavee Point Traveller Centre celebrating older Travellers' contributions to the Traveller community and wider society heard that life for older Travellers in Ireland has changed significantly. Some of these changes have been forced and some are by choice. However what was clear to participants at the celebration is that they have challenged the traditional Traveller way of life. Some of the changes have been positive and some have had a negative impact.

The event, which was opened by Minister for Older People Kathleen Lynch TD, heard from a number of older Travellers about their experiences, and about the role Older Travellers have had in the community.

Pavee Point is fostering initiatives to strengthen dialogue between young and older Travellers and to build inter-generational solidarity, as well as working with mainstream services to make them inclusive and appropriate for Travellers.

"We want to get recognition in our own community for the lives we led and we want to age and die with dignity in Ireland. Many of us were forgotten about by society in our younger days and we don't want this to happen in our old age" said **Sheila Reilly** at













the celebration. *"We are calling on the Minister for Older People to take account of our culture and way of life in services that are available to older people, and we want to have opportunities in our old age that were denied to us in our younger days"* .

Among the traditional activities experienced by the Minister were tinsmithing, paper flower making, and life in a barrel top wagon.

INFORMATION

- There are only 8 Travellers over the age of 85 years out of a population of 40,000 Travellers on the island of Ireland.
- Less than 3% of Travellers live to 65 years of age. (Findings from Our Geels-All Ireland Traveller Health Study, UCD, 2010).
- The gap in life expectancy between Travellers and the general population is 13 years.

The Positive Ageing position paper, published by Pavee Point and launched by Mr Pat Bennett of the Family Support Agency, is available now for download from Pavee Point at **www.paveepoint.ie**







Photography: Some photos are courtesy of Derek Speirs.

RECENT FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS & CONFIRMATIONS

















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.











Parish Focus on... Coolock





COOLOCK TRAVELLER EDUCATION WEEK 2011

Coolock's Traveller Education Week 2011 was packed with a variety of events, competitions and talks at various venues throughout the area. The Week has two aims: firstly, it encourages Travellers to make the most of the educational opportunities which exist for all ages in the area; and secondly, it promotes knowledge and understanding of Traveller Culture amongst the wider community.

The Week was launched at Coolock Library by the Co-Director of Pavee Point, Martin Collins, who highlighted the importance of education for Travellers now and in the future. He mentioned the cutbacks which have been introduced without consultation, and praised the Organising Committee for their efforts as an example of what can be achieved through local initiative.

The week included a variety of events which promoted the importance of education for Travellers. There were a number of talks on different aspects of education, ranging from how to increase the numbers of Travellers staying in school beyond the Junior Cert, to what opportunities exist for Adult Travellers who wish to return to education.

The second aim of the week was achieved in two ways. Firstly, Navan Travellers Workshops, led by Michael McDonagh, brought their Traveller Living History interactive project to the local primary schools, while outlying schools were visited by Traveller Storytellers. Secondly, all schools and centres were encouraged to participate in three competitions with the common theme of "Culture". The Primary Schools' Art Competition had hundreds of entries, and the Writing and Photography Competitions for Secondary School students attracted many imaginative entries. Judges Paul McCann (Art & Photography Competitions) and Thomas McCann, Declan Clarke & Matthias Borscheid (Writing Competition) had their work cut out, but they were satisfied that the winners merited the prizes of Book & Cinema Vouchers which had been donated by Coolock & Artane Credit Union. All of the selected entries were exhibited to the public in Coolock Library.



The Organising Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to making the Week a success. They hope that next year's event will build upon this year's positive experience.

DETAILS OF THE COMPETITION WINNERS:

Art Competition:
Category Winners: Shauna Kennedy, Ross Hogan.
Overall Winner: Chloe Ward.

Photography Competition:
Joint Winners: Amy Gibbons, Saoirse Burke.

Writing Competition:
Runner Up: Aaron Moore.
Joint Overall Winners: Stephanie Kehoe, Patrick McDonagh.

Declan Clarke, former Visiting Teacher for Travellers, Dublin 17.



The Parish of the Travelling People covers the whole of the Dublin Diocese from Balbriggan to Arklow & out to Athy. In this feature page we hope to foucus on different parts of the Traveller community around the Dublin Diocese in each edition. If you would like to have you area featured, contact the Parish Office on Tel: (01) 838 8874.

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
1st March	Annmarie Reilly & Willie McDonagh	Inchicore
3rd March	Kathleen McDonagh & Michael McDonagh	Finglas
8th March	Annmarie Mongan & Simon Stokes	Inchicore
15th March	Michael Stokes & Geraldine McDonagh	Finglas West
5th April	Helen Reilly & Brian Corcoran	Inchicore
6th April	John Gallagher & Natalie Ward	Priorswood
9th April	Davey McDonnell & Lisa Collins	Priorswood
26th April	Thady McDonagh & Charlene Kerrigan	Finglas
26th April	David Kerrigan & Joanna Joyce	Finglas
4th May	Kathleen Flynn & Michael McDonagh	Clondalkin
7th June	Martin Joe Collins & Margaret Collins	Crumlin
14th June	Frank O'Donnell & Margaret O'Donoghue	Crumlin
21st June	Martin Corcoran & Elizabeth Stokes	Clondalkin
23rd June	Peter McDonagh & Julie Collins	Co. Meath
30th June	Catriona Stokes & Eddie Mooney	Newcastle
30th June	Jim Dinnigan & Brigid Dinnigan	Finglas West
1st July	Martina Connors & Ryan Fardeen	Tallaght
21st July	Brian Stokes & Fiona Stokes	Finglas
22nd July	Helen Connors & Sean Stokes	Newcastle
24th August	John Paul Collins & Leona McDonagh	Mullingar
24th August	John Berry & Helen Connors	Inchicore
6th September	John Cawley & Margaret Cawley	Co. Dublin
7th September	Christy Kerrigan & Margaret Collins	Finglas West



Catriona Stokes &
Eddie Mooney, Newcastle



Martin Joe & Margaret Collins,
Crumlin



Frank O'Donnell &
Margaret O'Donoghue, Crumlin



Brian & Fiona Stokes,
Finglas



John Berry & Helen Connors,
Inchicore



Davey McDonnell & Lisa Collins,
Priorswood



Martina Connors &
Ryan Fardeen, Tallaght

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



Martin Corcoran & Elizabeth Stokes, Clondalkin



Helen Connors &
Sean Stokes, Newcastle



Simon Stokes & Annmarie Mongan, Inchicore

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 a least 18 years old to be married in the Church.
- You must give a 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 Fatima 2011



Marcella Wynne writes…

In May 2011 I journeyed with a group from our Pastoral Council of the Parish of the Travelling People to the shrine of Our Lady in Fatima. My greatest memory of Fatima is the first night I witnessed the candlelight procession. The crowds of people both young and old, people of all nationalities walking along side by side in prayer: holding tightly onto their candles and rosaries, each praying for their special intention. The pious look upon their face as they sang Ave Maria in honour of Our Lady of Fatima, that look will always stay with me.

I remember the stunning white flowers that surrounded Our Lady were illuminating and swaying in the evening breeze as She was being carried ever so gently by four strong men. As they reached the Apparitions chapel the sea of pilgrims parted and the men carried our lady back home to the place where little Jacinta, Lucia and Francesco had first seen her. I felt very humble as I stood praying among the crowd, and so privileged to be part of this night. When the priest had given us the final blessing the crowd walked reverently away from the shrine, I thanked Our Lady and have been doing so ever since, for bringing me to this holy and beautiful place.





Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima

Queen of the Rosary, sweet Virgin of Fatima, who has deigned to appear in the land of Portugal and has brought peace, both interior and exterior, to that once so troubled country, we beg of thee to watch over our dear homeland and to assure its moral and spiritual revival.

Bring back peace to all nations of the world, so that all, and our own nation in particular, may be happy to call thee their Queen and the Queen of Peace.

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for our country. Our Lady of Fatima, obtain for all humanity a durable peace. Amen.

Parish Pastoral Council

Several members of our Parish Pastoral Council were able to be part of the pilgrimage to Fatima in May. I would like to thank again all the members of the Parish Pastoral Council for their regular attendance and dedicated work on behalf of the Parish.

The Parish Pastoral Council will be looking for some more new members in the New Year ahead. If your site or centre would like to be represented, or even if you as an individual would like to be involved, please contact us for more information at the Parish Office (01) 838 8874. - **Fr. Derek**.

The Irish Centre Fatima

Eleven years ago in April 2001, Brenda Cleary had the idea to open a drop-in centre for English speaking pilgrims visiting Fatima.

Brenda had been visiting Fatima since the late eighties and being a typical Irish woman missed her cups of tea. In those days the coffee shops in Fatima hadn't mastered how to make tea, and indeed today most of them still don't know how to make it. After much searching we were offered the premises we now occupy and have been here ever since.

The Irish Centre opened on the 10th of May 2001 with the support of the Order of the Servants of Mary a religious order based in Dublin and Benburb in county Tyrone. Our initial year was one of trial and error, mistakes and successes. We were joined in the early days by a stray Scots man and a Missionary of the Sacred Heart priest who was home from the missions in South Africa. Their help and guidance were invaluable in the early days and today both are actively involved in the centre.

The centre is now the hub of Irishness in the midst of Portuguese Fatima, visited by thousands of people from every corner of the English speaking world, India, the Philippines, Canada, the Caribbean Islands, USA, Australia, New Zealand, you name it and sometime over the past years they've been in the centre. Most visitors call for a chat and a cup of tea, they make use of the Oratory for quiet prayer and the Rosary and visiting priests sometimes use it for Mass. They want to know did Roscommon win, who's top of the league of Ireland, how are the elections going, is it raining at home, where are the Stations of the Cross?

Monies raised go to support various Missionary activities. Sr Juliana a Servite nun working with orphans in Mozambique, Bishop Mendes Dos Santos in San Tome, and The Association of the Sacred Jesus in Nicaragua. Next time you're in Fatima call and have a cup of tea and enjoy the craic.







OUT & ABOUT



Mount Seskin Community College, Tallaght,
Leaving Certificate Applied
Faith & Justice Project.



Irish Traveller Movement AGM,
Athlone.



Eileen Flynn (ITM) addressing
the Education Cuts Protest.



St Ronan's, Deansrath parishioners with Fr. Daithi,
Martin Rowan & Georgina Jameson, - Pilgrimage to Our Lady's Island, Wexford.

OUT & ABOUT



St Oliver's Park Community, Clondalkin - outdoor Stations of the Cross.



Education Cuts Protest March, Kildare Street.



Knock Pilgrimage in June for the National Eucharistic Congress.

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



Dear Reader,

We always like to get your feedback on ***The Traveller Parish Newsletter***, so..

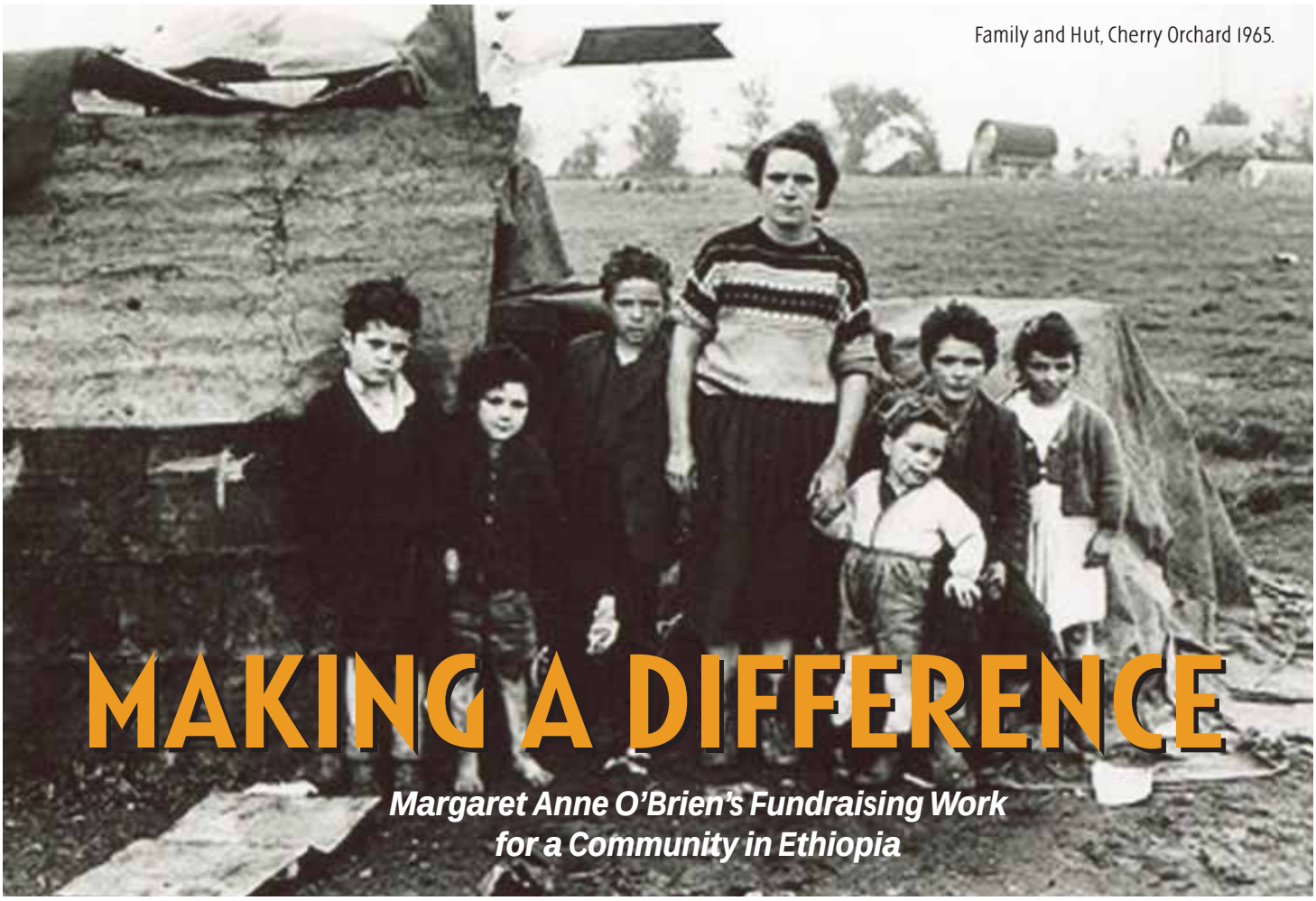
What do you think?

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.



Family and Hut, Cherry Orchard 1965.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Margaret Anne O'Brien's Fundraising Work for a Community in Ethiopia

Photo: Copyright Alen MacWeeney

Looking at a photo taken by Alen MacWeeney of Travellers camped at Cherry Orchard back in 1965, I could not help but make a comparison between the image I was looking at and the latest project Margaret Anne O'Brien is involved with. In the photo taken by MacWeeney, we see a Traveller family standing beside a small makeshift hut (home) made of wood with a corrugated roof. In the background there are a number of barrel top wagons. It is an image from another time, but not all that long ago, it's maybe an image from a culture making the transition from the country to the city, it is an image of people living on the edge of society in very poor and inadequate accommodation, it is an image of marginalization.

In Ethiopia there is a small tribe known as the Negede-woyiot Tribe, also known locally as the 'Outcast People' living on the edge of a town called Bahir Dar. Originally they were a nomadic people who have moved to the town in search of work. Due to stereotyping and prejudice, they experience a great deal of discrimination and find themselves very marginalized. Life is very difficult for them. They live in very basic and inadequate accommodation and they suffer a lot of hunger and illness. There is no sanitation, no electricity and no running water. Due to the negative attitudes many people hold against them, they are understandably suspicious of outsiders. However in the past couple of years the Vincentian Fathers in Bahir Dar have been working with the Tribe and they have slowly built up a level of trust with each other. As a result, children from the Tribe have been attending 'The Dawn of Hope' school set up especially for them just outside the camp. For some families, this is the first time any of their children have attended school; it is a big step for them. One of the women from the Tribe is employed as a classroom assistant and has the ability to understand and appreciate any issues that may arise for the children or the families. The school is so successful that some of the local people are keen to send their own children. As such the school has already begun to break down the barriers that separate the larger community from the Tribe.

One of the major difficulties the Tribe faces is the very poor quality of their accommodation. As a nomadic people many families still continue to live in small huts made from river reeds, these structures were fine when the Tribe were moving from place to place and required a temporary shelter. However as a permanent home they are hopelessly inadequate. During the wet season, the very heavy rains often destroy these little huts and expose the

However as a consequence of the efforts of Margaret Anne O'Brien, twenty of the Tribe's families, who are living in very difficult circumstances, have experienced a very small but somewhat significant change in their living conditions.

Negede-woyiot Woman beside new Mud and Corrugated Hut.



families to the elements. This inevitably leads to older people and children getting sick. There is no government support for families in such a plight and so they just have to rebuild and make do with what they have.

However as a consequence of the efforts of Margaret Anne O'Brien, twenty of the Tribe's families, who are living in very difficult circumstances, have experienced a very small but somewhat significant change in their living conditions. Margaret Anne organized a series of church gate collections in Ballyfermot, Inchicore, , Saggart, Clondalkin and Sruleen and managed to raise 4,000. This money was used to build some basic structures made of wood, clay and corrugated iron roofs. The development was carried out in consultation with the families and with the permission of the local government. Already it has made a difference to the children attending the school and to the prospects of some of the men who are seeking work. Indeed many of the men in the families were employed in the construction of the homes.

No doubt over the years life has improved for the family outside their little hut in Cherry Orchard but looking at the families outside their hut in Bahir Dar, it is not hard to appreciate the connection between the two stories.

If you would like to comment on Margaret Anne O'Brien's work or support her in her efforts to help fund the development of this Tribe, please email: margaretanneobrien@gmail.com

Fr. Stephen Monaghan, SM



Margaret Anne organised a series of church gate collections in Ballyfermot, Inchicore, Clarendon Street, Saggart, Clondalkin and Sruleen and managed to raise €4,000.



Negede-woyiot Woman beside new Mud and Corrugated Hut.

'THE TRAILER OF BRIDGET DINNIGAN'

Axis Theatre, Ballymun, 5th-9th December

As part of Traveller Pride Week 2011

Ticket Information: (01) 883 2100 or 679 6577 (ITM)

Editor's Parental Advisory: Some Adult themes/content

Following its sell-out success at Project Arts Centre in 2010, this new adaptation of 'The House of Bernarda Alba' by Federico García Lorca updates the classic Spanish tragedy from the 1930's to a present-day Travellers' halting site, and features 11 Traveller women as performers.

"Profound" – **The Irish Times**



International Conference – Holland 2011



Noreen Ward reports…

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 cooperation. The CCIT has special relations with the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Travelling People.

Fr. Derek, Martin, Georgina, from the Parish of the Travelling People, myself and Biddy Connors who are on the Parish Pastoral Council flew to Holland for two days to attend CCIT Conference for Travellers, Sinti and Roma people throughout Europe.





We were made feel very welcome from the minute we arrived by Nellie. We had coffee and cakes at the airport while we waited for other people from Italy and Spain, who were also attending the Conference, to arrive. We stayed at Rolduc which is a beautiful place with lakes, a hotel and a church on the grounds. A lot of people attended the conference which took place over two







days. There were a lot of speakers from around Europe giving speeches about ''Europe under discussion: In the heart of its frailty.'' A hope which is a current and complex issue. Speakers also reflected on matters often uncomfortable relating to the Gypsies in Europe. On the second day we broke into small groups and shared stories about how Travellers and the Roma, Sinti and nomadic prople lives are still affected today with discrimination and racism and lack of accommodation in Europe. When we finished we went back into one large group and one person from each group gave the feedback.

On the last night they held a festival with stalls of food and drink from each country which we all had a taste of and it rounded off with live folk music and a few drinks which was a great end to the day.

Before we departed we had Mass in the very old and beautiful church and then we headed back to the airport. It was a great experience and hopefully it will take place more often and we will be able to attend and try keep updated on how different nomadic groups are getting on abroad.







VOICES UNHEARD

A Study of Irish Travellers in UK Prisons





The Irish Chaplaincy in Britain (ICB) launched a groundbreaking report into the experiences of Irish Travellers in prisons in England and Wales, at the Houses of Parliament, London in June.

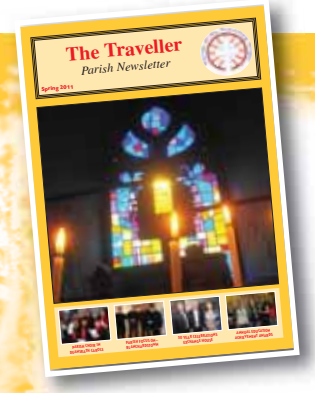
The report highlights the distinctive difficulties faced by Irish Travellers in prison, in particular, problems with literacy, access to rehabilitation and resettlement.

This is the first time that any substantive research has been conducted specifically into the Irish Traveller population within prisons in England and Wales. The research has found that Travellers comprise around 1% of the total prison population. Travellers are officially recognised as an ethnic minority group in the UK, however, unlike many other minority groups there is no system in place to monitor their numbers in the prison system or to assess their particular needs.

The ICB Director, Dr Philomena Cullen, said:
'With over 25 years of experience of working with Irish prisoners in the UK, the Irish Chaplaincy in Britain (ICB) became increasingly concerned about the isolation and hardships experienced by Irish prisoners who come from a specifically Irish Traveller background. It seems that Irish Traveller prisoners face difficulties pertaining to both their ethnicity as Irish, and to their culture as nomadic Travelling people, resulting in what one could perhaps describe as a double whammy of exclusion and misunderstanding. Our report aims to throw light on the unique challenges faced by Traveller prisoners, challenges which have yet to be adequately acknowledged by statutory agencies, let alone solved by them. We hope this report will mark a major step forward in addressing those problems, for the benefit of the Traveller community and wider society.'

The report's author, Conn Mac Gabhann said:
'Travellers are a group whose voices often go unheard in society, and particularly in prison. This report aims to address that and highlight the real and particular challenges faced by Travellers in prison.'

www.irishchaplaincy.org.uk



FRIENDS OF THE TRAVELLER PARISH NEWSLETTER

We are asking those who may be in a position to do so, to support the work of *The Traveller Parish Newsletter* with a financial contribution. We have been able to produce and distribute the free magazine in recent years mainly through the generosity of others - from parishioners & colleagues who enable us to bring their events and experiences together for others to share. Through the generosity of our Parish staff in pulling it together and getting it out. And finally, through the generosity of kind benefactors of the Parish whose passion for education and empowerment is always an objective and hopefully to some extent an effect of *The Traveller Parish Newsletter*, both within the community and beyond.

In this respect, we regularly receive positive feedback, which along with constructive criticism and suggestions, is always welcome. As *The Traveller Parish Newsletter* has developed and still develops, we are constantly adding to our mailing list. So now, beyond our distribution in the community to sites, Training Centres, and Traveller organisations, and *(as part of our Travelling Towards Inclusion initiative),* to every parish in Dublin diocese, *The Traveller Parish Newsletter* also outreaches to prisons *(both here and in the UK),* hospital chaplains, school and college chaplains, libraries, and various other State, Local Authority and Church agencies.

If you would like to support *The Traveller Parish Newsletter* in this ongoing and hopefully expanding outreach in the coming year, we would be grateful for anyone, again in a position to do so, for any help that you can give. We will be very grateful for any donation. For instance, if anyone is at present receiving one copy *(normally three editions per year),* then €10 each year would cover our production and postage costs.

Those who can and who would like to help and support us in this may contribute either as a single donation, or as a contribution on an ongoing annual basis. If you wish, you can pay this directly into the Friends of The Traveller Parish Newsletter bank account. If you are thinking of regular donations, one option available is by standing order. Our bank details are:

Bank: AIB
140 Lr. Drumcondra Rd. Dublin 9.

Sort Code: 93-22-05

Account: Friends of The Traveller Parish Newsletter

Account No. 50079-182

Your contribution will help us to reach new readers. Once again, on behalf of all the Parish Team, thanks to all readers, contributors, and Friends of The Traveller Parish Newsletter.

Fr. Derek – (01) 838 8874



IEC 2012 is happening in Dublin next June, 10th-17th – *what's it all about though?..*



The International Eucharistic Congress is the gathering of Catholics from all over the world to pray and learn more about the Eucharist. People come together every four years, in different countries and next June it will take place in Dublin, between the RDS and Croke Park.

The Eucharist is the centre of our faith as Catholics, and this Congress will give us a chance to explore and deepen our own understanding further. Over the coming months we will report on the many preparations in our own parish community, and from all around the country. So please, watch this space!.. For more information or to volunteer to help please contact us.

As the Parish of the Travelling People we would like many Travellers to be involved in this important event, so that Travellers can contribute to and also be enriched by this faith journey in the life of the Church.

Georgina Jameson, Tel: 838 8874

IEC 2012
50th INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS



Parish of the Travelling People

PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
You were sent by the Father
to gather together those who are scattered,
You came among us, doing good and bringing healing,
announcing the Word of salvation
and giving the Bread which lasts forever.
Be our companion on life's pilgrim way.

May your Holy Spirit inflame our hearts,
enliven our hope and open our minds,
so that together with our sisters and brothers in faith
we may recognise you in the Scriptures
and in the breaking of bread.
May your Holy Spirit transform us into one body
and lead us to walk humbly on the earth,
in justice and love,
as witnesses of your resurrection.

In communion with Mary,
whom you gave to us as our Mother
at the foot of the cross,
through you
may all praise, honour and blessing be to the Father
in the Holy Spirit and in the Church,
Now and forever.

Amen



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

The Parish values and encourages the participation of children and young people in all Church liturgies and parish activities and all that enhances their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development. It appreciates the generous service of the adults who facilitate such participation and respects their integrity.

The Parish recognises the dignity and rights of all children and young people and is committed to ensuring their safety and well being in a way that promotes their human dignity, integrity and worth as children of God.

The Parish recognises that all who work with children and young people have a special duty of care towards them. Leaders must create a safe environment for children and young people to secure their protection and enable their full participation in the life of the Church.

The Parish recognises the responsibility that each child/young person has to respect the dignity, rights and reputation of all who facilitate their participation in Church liturgies, diocesan events and parish activities.

The Parish has committed itself to putting best practice procedures in place to ensure the welfare and protection of children and young people together with the welfare of those who work with them.

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.**

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) 836 0314** (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:
FAOISEAMH: **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

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2011

WITH THE NATIONAL TRAVELLER WOMEN'S FORUM - ANNUAL FORUM DAY, TULLAMORE.



To mark International Women's Day 2011 the National Traveller Women's Forum held their Annual Forum day in Tullamore. This is an important event for the National Traveller women's forum every year and it gives an opportunity for Traveller women from throughout the country to come together and discuss common issues.



This year's theme was violence against women, an issue which the NTWF believe needs discussion and debate. The NTWF have been busy over the past 3 years working with both local projects and services to ensure the safety of Traveller women and ensuring Traveller women and Traveller organisations have access to support and information in dealing with this sensitive issue.

The day began with a performance of "Don't Say a Word" written and performed by Patricia Byrne which tackles the theme of domestic violence. First produced by Sole Purpose Productions in 2004 it was extensively researched in association with Foyle Women's Aid, The Probation Board for Northern Ireland and the Police Service of Northern Ireland Domestic Violence Unit. It has been touring extensively for four years, playing to packed theatres and other performance venues across Ireland. The play seeks to raise awareness and increase understanding amongst the general public and to give hope to those who may be in a controlling, violent relationship.

Staff from refuges and support services made themselves available on the day to provide information to Traveller women attending the conference.

If anyone wishes to access information, or is interested in availing of training you can contact the NTWF at ntwf@iol.ie

The National Traveller Women's Forum has moved office, please note our new address:

Block 3 Office C,
The Plaza Office Suite,
Headford Road,
Galway

Our land line number remains the same but are waiting for a reconnection in the meantime you can reach us on this number: **087 9630323**

Our email address remains the same ntwf@iol.ie



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

March 2011		
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

First Year Anniversary

April 2011		
23rd	Sam Gavin	Santry
May		
27th	Baby Brigid Collins *(aged 11 months)*	Navan
June		
4th	Margaret 'Hoy' Maughan	Finglas
18th	Dan Connors	Maynooth
18th	Margaret O'Donnell	Finglas
30th	Baby Paddy Noel Walsh *(aged 8½ months)*	Tallaght
July		
6th	Michael James Mongan *(aged 2½ years)*	Dunsink
13th	Mary 'Henny' Connors	Knocklyon
20th	John Moorehouse	Bray
29th	John Maughan	Glasthule
August		
6th	Mary McDonagh	Sandyford
10th	John Maughan	Cabra
11th	John McDonagh *(aged 14 years)*	Clondalkin
15th	Winnie McDonagh	Donabate
20th	William O'Donnell	Balgaddy
25th	Baby Winifred Katelyn Collins *(22 months)*	Bluebell
September		
6th	Michael John Joyce	Dunsink
10th	Brigid Duke	Kells

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.

First Year Anniversary

In loving memory of
Baby Paddy Noel Walsh

Died 30th June 2010 *(aged 8½ months)*



The midnight stars are shining on a grave not far away
where we lay our son baby Paddy one year ago today

How do we put on paper the feelings we feel inside?...
for a broken-hearted Ma, Dada who missed you since you've died

If God had just prepared us to let you go for good
we would not feel the way we do, we might have understood

We feel your love around us
you are always on our minds
and when we talk about you
it's always happy times

On earth you played,
in heaven you rest,
as the song goes baby Paddy
you are simply the best

Loved always,
from your broken hearted parents, Samantha and Keith,
Grandparents, Uncle Paddy, Uncles, Aunts and Cousins

YOUTH ZONE



Four Schools Receive Yellow Flag Awards in 2011

The Yellow Flag awards were made to two primary and two secondary schools; **Aston Village Educate Together, Drogheda, & St. Josephs GNS in Finglas, Dublin and secondary Margaret Aylwards Community College, Dublin and Abbey Community College, Wicklow**. Presenting Flags to each school former TD and long time human rights champion, and now President-elect, Michael D Higgins, said; *"The yellow flag awards for intercultural awareness and practice have the potential to have the same impact in time as the green flag awards have had for schools in the environmental area. This is a marvellous initiative by the Irish Traveller Movement... The yellow flag awards emphasize the central importance of recognising, on equal terms, the dignity and contribution of each person in differing circumstances and with different cultural experiences – they are a marker of respect. These awards have to be earned and I congratulate all of the schools who have made the standard"*



The Yellow Flag Programme provides a practical series of 8 steps that ensures issues of diversity and equality are not merely seen as "school subjects" but can be understood and taken outside the school setting into everyone's personal lives. On completing the 8 steps and external assessment the school is awarded its "Yellow Flag" and the school can fly its flag with pride. The 8 steps are:

1. **Intercultural and Anti-Racism Training for Staff and Management**
2. **Going beyond the School's Walls: Engaging with the Community**
3. **Establishing a Diversity Committee**
4. **Conducting an Intercultural Review**

YOUTH ZONE



5. **Formulating an Action Plan for a Diverse School**
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation and Information Dissemination**
7. **Curriculum work**
8. **Production of a diversity code and anti racist policy for the school**

Pioneered by the Irish Traveller Movement in 2008, the Yellow Flag was a practical and innovative solution in the absence of progress in the area of intercultural education at that time.

'When equal doesn't mean the same'

Speaking at the Awards Brigid Quilligan, Assistant Director of the Irish Traveller Movement said "*Children thrive in an environment where they feel safe, secure and have a sense of belonging, unfortunately the reality for a lot of children from a minority background is that they do not feel any of those things in school. Sometimes, they are made to feel that to integrate they have to lose all sense of who they are. It is not necessarily done consciously, but under the ethos of 'equal means the same'. The Yellow Flag Programme provides steps to support students and teachers to ensure diversity and interculturalism is valued and visible throughout the school.*"

Yellow Flag

If you want to find out more information on the Yellow Flag Programme log onto the ITM website on www.itmtrav.ie/keyissues/yellowflag or contact **Yellow Flag Co-ordinator**, **Paula Madden** on
Email: yellowflagprogramme@gmail.com
Tel: (01) 679 6577





St. Martin de Porres,
Feast Day, 3rd November.

Prayer for Courage in Difficulties

Dear St. Martin you have always been the friend of those in trouble or distress of any kind.

At this present time I am weighed down by worries and I can see no solution. There seems to be no escape from my present misfortune. I turn to you now and ask you to intercede for me to our loving and merciful Father.

If this is to be my lot please ask that I may be given the courage and strength to accept whatever God has in store for me, believing, as I do, that God can make all things work for good.

I ask this through
Christ Our Lord. Amen

St. Martin de Porres
pray for us.

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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