



## Choose peace.....



As we enter into the Advent season and look forward to Christmas, it is worthwhile reflecting on the year gone by. The death of Pope Francis, whose last days were taken up trying to persuade leaders of the need for peace, not just peace at the end of war but a peace with justice, gave us pause to think of his real value as one who believed in loving one's neighbour, all of them.

With the election of Pope Leo XIV, the faithful perceived the work of the Holy Spirit in action with a young Pope with broad experiences of the various strands of the Church

and a world view like Pope Francis. Also, the Church celebrated the elevation to sainthood of a number of remarkable young people as role models for the youth. The increase in interest in religion among young church members is down to these new saints.

The year, however, has been marked by so many tragedies here and worldwide with the ongoing horror of Gaza, even within the ceasefire. Ukraine grinds on mercilessly as in an existential war for Europe itself. It is almost like 1939 all over again with lies and falsehoods being used to confer rights on Russia to prosecute its immoral war.

Pope Leo in his recent trip to the Lebanon where violent attacks happen almost daily, spoke about peace and the need for peace. He said that countries should choose peace, "Choose peace as a way, not just a goal." This phrase highlights once again the dilemma that we have in the west.

Some countries believe that peace is the cessation of war, and all their efforts seem to desire and end to killing, while ignoring the need for justice and reparations.

This is a noble aspiration, but true peace can only exist if peace becomes the future of relationships between countries. If the guns and bombs fall silent but hatred remains, then true peace can never exist. Differences in family may be civil but if the root core of hurt and anger exists untreated then peace will always be fragile.

This Christmas as we light each Advent candle we must hope and pray that the land of Christ's birth will know true peace, and that in Europe that peace which we have enjoyed for so long will be renewed and will not fall away because of narrow self-interested politics.

As the Lebanese saint, Saint Charbel Maklouf reminds us, **"Their buildings rise, their morality sinks. Their worldly goods increase; their values diminish. Their speeches multiply, their prayers grow scarce.... An edifice based on man may well rise, but it ends up crushing him.**

Photo. Young people waiting to greet Pope Leo in Lebanon

## Pope Benedict on Eucharistic Adoration.



"Pope Benedict XVI viewed Eucharistic adoration as a natural and necessary consequence of the Mass, emphasizing it as a way to prolong and intensify the encounter with Christ. He taught that adoration is a priority, a way to deepen one's faith, grow in compassion, and be transformed by God's love, which then fuels a desire for mission and evangelization. He saw extended adoration as a vital practice for a more intimate relationship with Jesus and for a stronger sense of community.

## Christmas Dues

Christmas Dues Envelopes are currently being delivered to each household in the parish and there are also spare envelopes available at the back of the Church. Please ensure that returned envelopes have your name and address on them. Envelopes may be placed in the safes at the back of the church or handed into the Sacristy .

## Baptisms

Please welcome into our Christian Community all the children baptised recently in our Parish Church

### October 2025

Theo Kinsella - Fabian  
Clodagh Annie Carey  
Bobby Wesley Savage  
Rían Joseph Malone  
Arabella Lelia Keane  
Leo Patrick Flynn  
Maeve O'Malley

### November 2025

Caoimhe Lily deBúrca  
Milo Anthony Earley  
Donnacha Charlie O'Donnell  
Piper Bailey Russell  
Eabha Helena Doyle  
Violet Marie Osborne Cunningham  
Albert Desmond Price  
Nora Patricia Price  
Alexandra Colm Barclay  
Leo James Houlihan  
Charlie Joe Houlihan  
Zara Dot Phillips



*I baptize you in the name  
of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit*

## Why Sunday Matters

### An invitation to reflect on Sunday Mass



The Irish Bishops, warmly invite all Catholics to reflect on the immense significance of Sunday Mass and, for those who have not yet done so, to return with renewed joy to the celebra-

tion of the Eucharist.

From the very beginning of our Christian faith, Sunday has been central to the life of the Church. Attending Mass on Sundays, or its vigil on Saturday evening, is not just an obligation; it is a profound privilege and a chance to experience God's love in a deeply personal way. On Sundays, we gather not only as individuals but as the Church, the Body of Christ. In the celebration of the Eucharist, we affirm our communion with one another and with Christ.

In this sacred celebration, we have the opportunity to be transformed, to receive God's grace, and to become the best versions of ourselves. As we navigate life, with all its joys and struggles, the Eucharist offers us the community and support we need to flourish and grow in faith.

It is important to gather physically for Mass, and although technology is helpful, it can never replace the tangible experience of being with the community as we listen to God's word and receive the Body of Christ. As the late Pope Francis reminded us, 'We do not go to Mass in order to give something to God, but to receive what we truly need from Him. In this spirit, we are called to approach the Eucharist not out of obligation, but with a deep desire for spiritual transformation.' This is why attending Mass on Sundays is so vital – it nurtures and nourishes our faith.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, many Catholics have faced challenges attending Mass due to health concerns. For those still unable to attend, the Church offers Communion to the sick and housebound. For those who can, it's time to return and celebrate the Eucharist together. While virtual options have helped, they can't replace the in-person experience of communal worship.

The Irish Bishops encourage you to reflect on what is special about Sunday and what it means to you, and, if you no longer attend, perhaps you would consider returning to Mass.

### Josephine(Jo) Giblin– An Appreciation

Marino Parish has lost another of its stalwart parishioners with the recent death of Jo Giblin of Grace Park Heights, as she was known to all. Ever since she and her late husband, John, arrived in Marino they became involved in the life of the parish. Jo was involved in the Meals on Wheels delivery system for over twenty years.

She was also one of those who braved rain and cold collecting the monthly and weekly Parish Envelope offerings, along with the Christmas and Easter dues. Our Mass arrangements for these holiday times were always in the door on time. She was also part of the delivery team for the Parish news letter and it was always on time and hot of the presses..

Jo was also a long standing member of the Hospitality team. She is remembered as a woman of faith with an unassuming and gentle presence, which concealed always the work that she did and the support which she gave to neighbours and friends and to any venture that required volunteers.

On behalf of the parish community we offer our heart felt condolences to her family and her wide circle of friends and neighbours.

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Closing date for the next issue to be announced

## Simply Cooking

Favourite recipes from the late Mary O'Mahony's  
popular cookery book

### TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CAKE

#### Ingredients:

- ¼ lb. Butter (340 g)**
- ¼ lb. Sugar (340 g)**
- 6 Eggs**
- 1 lb. Flour (452 g)**
- Pinch Salt**
- 1 lb. Sultanas (452 g)**
- 1 lb. Currants (452 g)**
- ¼ lb. Raisins (113 g)**
- 6 ozs Candied Peel (170 g)**
- 2 ozs Cherries (57 g)**
- ¼ lb Chopped Almonds (113 g)**
- ½ tsp Mixed Spice**
- 2 tbs Treacle**
- Glass Brandy (Whiskey)**



#### Method:

Beat butter and sugar to a cream.

Add each egg separately and beat until the mixture is stiff and uniform.

Stir in the flour, salt, fruit and chopped almonds, spice, treacle and Brandy (Whiskey), mix well and transfer to baking tin and bake for 6hrs 20 mins at Gas Reg. 2, Electric 150°C (300°F).

Bottom Shelf of oven

#### Preparation of Cake Tin:

9" tin. Fully lined (sides and bottom) with double brown paper and then a layer of greaseproof paper well buttered.

Editors Note: Once again at this time we are republishing one of Mary's handiest recipes for Christmas cake

## Recent Marriages

November 2025

**Adriana Berges Munoz de Alba**  
&

**Arturo Miranda Garcia Torres**

**Many congratulations to the Happy couple**



### Marino Newsletter Brent Watch



Once again we have been visited by our feathered friends, the Brent Geese. As always they return to their usual haunts on the slob lands at Clontarf and on many green areas around.

Their v formation flights continue to make us gaze skyward as they fly over. With the advent of the port Greenway it is possible to see them at rest on the water. A sign of winter with the hope of a Spring to come.

### Parish Financial statement:

The Parish Financial statement for 2023 and 2024 gives all parishioners an insight into how our parish is financed.

You will notice from it that for the past two years we have been living beyond our means and our expenses have been greater than our income.

We are extremely grateful to all who have and are contributing to the Parish and we are inviting new people to share the load and to support the Parish through the various methods outlined, Family offering envelopes, standing order, either monthly, quarterly or annually, or by joining the Parish Lotto, or donating online on the Parish website or by using the tap and go machine at the back of the Church.

Again, thank you to all for your support.

It is important to note that the Sunday Mass collections Collections taken up at Weekend Masses are NOT retained by the Parish.

THE FIRST COLLECTION at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days together with Christmas and Easter Dues are for the support of priests and the Diocese. It also supports the sick and retired priests of the diocese. The first collection for 2024 amounted to €70,165 The Christmas and Easter & Summer Dues came to €66,305

THE SECOND COLLECTION i.e. the SHARE collection is for the diocesan building fund and diocesan pastoral services. The total amount collected in 2024 in our parish amounted to €45,765

These figures show how generous and supportive all our parishioners are especially in their contributions to poorer parishes and in servicing those areas where there is greater need.

#### Marino Parish Income and Expense Summary

	2023	2024
Income	€179,088	€164,283
Expenses	-€249,677	-€217,974
Surplus or Deficit of Income over Expense	-€70,589	-€53,691

#### Income -high level breakdown

Donations & Bequests	€27,976	€30,378
Family Offering	€79,078	€71,262
Tax Refund	€34,842	€23,168
Shrine	€14,925	€13,345
Parish Lotto	€265	€7,039
Other Income	€9,519	€9,230
Rent Income	€12,480	€9,860

**Total Income** €179,085 €164,282

#### Expenses -high level breakdown

Staff Salaries	-€64,801	-€61,085
Pastoral Expenses	-€22,385	-€25,067
Supply Priests	-€2,850	-€4,020

Repairs and Renewals -€31,412 -€28,596  
Maintenance -€16,643 -€12,077

Operating Expenses (light, heat, phone, insurance etc) -€86,982 -€77,278

Other Expenses -€24,604 -€9,851

**Total Expenses** -€249,677 -€217,974

**Surplus or Deficit of Income over Expense** -€70,592 -€53,692

## Recent Bereavements

*Pleas pray for the following deceased members of our parish:*

**October 2025**

**Joseph O'Reilly**

**November 2025**

**Josephine (Jo) Giblin**

**Denis Haugh**

**Paula O'Connor**

**Br. Donal Leader**

**Jamie Gill**

**Seán Neuin**

**Charlotte Stewart**



## Our Christmas Crib



The image of the Christ Child in the manger and other pictures of the story of Bethlehem have been used in church services from the earliest days. One of the first

images of the Nativity scene is said to be in one of the Roman catacombs in the burial place of a Christian family.

The crib as we know it originated with St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis felt that he could explain the story of the Nativity by creating a living tableau of people and animals at the Church to fully comprehend the circumstances of the humble birth of Jesus. On Christmas Eve in the town of Greccio in Italy the first living crib came into being. Such was the manner in which this event captured peoples' imagination from that small town that the practice of having living cribs became part of the European Christian tradition. Because of the difficulty of always organising these living cribs particularly during times of war and pestilence that the practice of producing models became widespread.

Italian cribs usually show a great variety of people in these static tableaus harking back to that first occasion with St. Francis. The innocence and simplicity of the Manger scene has inspired artist and writer since then and not only adults, but our children are still capable of wonder at the sight of the baby in the manger. We see how popular the Moving Crib in Parnell Square is, organised by the Dominican Order. In Marino courtesy of our Catechist, Ms. Anne Dooley younger children can experience the sense of the moment by taking home their own mini crib for one night to shelter the Holy Family and experience the simplicity and humanity of the Birth of a Child.

In other times cribs were always set up in the home using figurines gathered over the years and at one time every household would have a crib in the window or prominently inside the house. From the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve when the image of the Infant was placed in the crib until the figures of the Magi arrived, the Church crib became a place to visit and to reflect on that miracle of Jesus present to us. As Tom Kettle wrote on that fateful day in 1917, men carry the burden of the world not for fame or fortune, "But for a dream, born in a herdsman's shed, And for the secret Scripture of the poor".

Photo. Our Crib last year

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.**

*(Individual Confessions with communal preparation and thanksgiving (Parish Clergy and visiting Priests))*

**CAROL SERVICE**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30p.m.**

**CONFESSIONS**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

*10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon & 3.30p.m. to 5.00p.m.*

**MASSES**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve)**

*10.00a.m., 5.30 p.m. & 8.00p.m. (Christmas Vigil Mass)*

*(Carols from 7.45p.m.)*

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December – (Christmas Day)**

*9.15a.m. & 11.00a.m.*

*(Church closes after Mass)*

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December – (St. Stephen's Day)**

*Mass at 10.00 a.m.*

*(Church closes after Mass.)*

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

*Normal Schedule Resumes*

***The Priests of the Parish along with the Parish Team wish you all Peace and Joy for Christmas and the New Year***

## Congratulations:



We extend our sincere congratulation to Fr. Christian Ameh on his graduation with a Master's degree from St. Patricks Pontifical University Maynooth on the 8th. November last. Father Christian has been studying for his Masters over the last two years and was awarded his Masters for his thesis on New Perspectives on the Rite of Baptism and the Christian Initiation of an

adult.

At our recent Sunday Mass Father Christian thanked the parishioners of Marino for all their support during his studies along with Father Noone, our Parish Priest, the parish team, and our Archbishop, Most Reverend Dr. Dermot Farrel and his own Bishop in Nigeria.

We are blessed in our Parish to have Father Christian with his gentle presence among us and we wish him every blessing and grace during his time here with us in Marino.

## A Huge Thank You

***Sadie Staunton of Griffith Court wishes to give a huge thank you to all who so generously supported her Bewley's Big Coffee Morning in aid of Saint Francis Hospice, Raheny on the 18th September 2025 last which raised the very generous sum of €9,494.***