

Irish Chaplaincy in Britain



Newsletter April 2011

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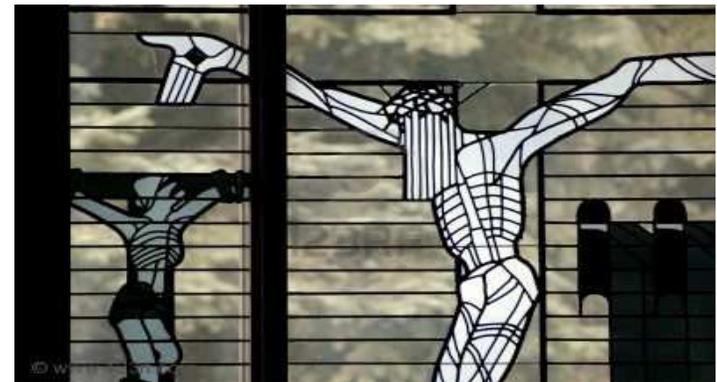
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Hello Friend

We hope this finds you well and in good spirits. Since our last newsletter there have been a lot of new developments at the Irish Chaplaincy in Britain (ICB). We hope we keep you informed with this newsletter. Arriving to work after sick leave, Sr. Patricia and Stafford are back on the road to recovery. Thank you for your prayers and best wishes.

Easter Holidays – Our office will be closed from Good Friday until Tuesday 26th April at 9.00am. Again we will be closed for the bank holidays on Friday 29th April, Monday 2nd May and Monday 30th May. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.



Easter blessing to everybody by Sister Patricia Maxwell (DC)

Last week as I travelled down 'memory lane' with a friend, we recalled our experience of Easter in Ireland in the 50's when we were encouraged to rise at dawn to see the sun dancing as part of the celebration of the Resurrection. We recalled too our special Holy Week poem by Katharine Tynan "Sheep and Lambs" which captures the solemnity of Holy Week. We recited the poem together and decided that it was appropriate to share with you some of the verses, which you may already know. Then we added our own stanza (number 3 below) to celebrate Easter together.

"Sheep and Lambs" by Katharine Tynan

1. All in the April Evening April Aurs were abroad Sheep and their little lambs Passed me by on the road .	2. The sheep and their little Lambs Passed me by on the road , and all on that April evening I thought of the Lambs of God.
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3. All on an Easter morning ,
as the sun danced in the sky ,
Jesus arose from the cold dark tomb,
never again to die.



EVENTS

LONDON IRISH CENTRE

Every Second Wednesday from 1.30 pm to 4.30 Live Music and Dancing plus raffle £50.00 Bingo Jackpot, London Irish Centre 50-52 Camden Square NW1 9XB , cost (£3.00)

First Sunday every Month - Music and Dance 2.30pm onwards

IRISH CHAPLAINCY IN BRITAIN

April: Launch of Lenten Social Justice booklet by ICB

May: Older Person Retreat date to be arranged. Invitations will be sent. Travellers in Prison Research Report launch.

June / July: Older Person Tea Mass in St George's Cathedral Southwark - Date to arranged. Invitations will be sent.

Launch off ICPO prisoner factbook

August: Sponsored Famine walk Co. Mayo Ireland

September: New Irish Traveller in Prison resettlement pilot initiative

October 2011: Annual Fundraising Concert

November 2011: The new best practice guide for prison staff in working with traveller's.



Brigid's best Irish Tea Brack

12 oz Mixed Dried Fruit
7 oz Brown Sugar
12 Fluid oz Cold Tea
10 oz Self Raising Flour
1 Egg

Soak fruit and sugar in tea overnight. Add to sieved flour.

Mix in beaten egg. Bake in a 7-8" round cake tin (lined with greaseproof paper) for approx. 1 hour and 45 minutes at 350 degrees F or 180 degrees C, Gas Mark 4.

Our next Newsletter is due in August. Slán for now. May Saint Brigid continue to bless us all.

Benefits - with new Government system there's been a lot of discussion about cut backs and services which may be changing.



The following can offer help and support

www.direct.gov.uk

The Camden Citizen advice Bureau (CAB) offers advice to those full-time in the borough of Camden. Telephone Advice Line: Mon - Fri 1pm - 4pm **0844 856 3700**

Age Concern - 97 Peckham High St London **0844 499 4134**

Margaret Hepburn Centre 11 St Chads Street London WC1H 8BG

www.ageconcerncamden.org.uk , Phone number **020 7837 3777**

Southwark: 224- 236 Walworth Rd London SE17 1 JE **020 7701 9700**

Please remember if you claim Housing benefit (or any other means-tested benefit) you should notify the benefit provider of any change to your income or circumstances.

The Consumer Credit Counselling Service FREEPHONE helpline: 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday. **0800 138 1111**

Consumer Credit Counselling Service, Wade House Merrion Centre Leeds LS2 8NG

Ireland's Own

We have received a small supply of back dated Ireland's Own magazines.

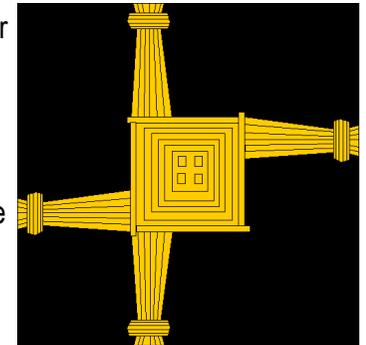
Please call Stafford if you are interested 0207 4828 962

Many people are unable to attend the Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies but be assured that your intentions will be in our thoughts and prayers as we celebrate this Easter.

Saint Brigid - On January 28th the Irish Chaplaincy launched Saint Bridget (453- 523A.D) as our Patron Saint. She is well known for her cross and was the daughter of an Ulster prince. Once when nursing a wounded pagan chief she made a cross like the one pictured below out of straw to explain the story of Jesus to him. St. Bridget founded four monasteries for women in Ireland, the most famous one being in Kildare.



We have Saint Bridgid's crosses for sale at the Chaplaincy - £4.00 each. Many mothers used to say "On the eve of St Bridget's day, put a bandage out on a tree and it will cure your headache for a year."



Stations for Justice - The ICB led the Stations of the Cross with a Social Justice theme at Our Lady Help of Christians Kentish Town during holy week. Guests from nearby parishes were invited to participate in the event by sharing reflections on various readings. The text of the prayers following each station is enclosed with your newsletter.

Director of ICB, Philomena Cullen said: The ICB are delighted to be able to highlight the Stations of the Cross, and it's a chance for us to engage with the broader community in the area in which we work, we hope to see as many people as possible."

Volunteer Corner We are delighted to see plenty of new volunteers within our Prisoner, Traveller and Elderly persons programmes. We welcome them all to our team. Brighid is our new Co-ordinator of volunteers, herself volunteering her time. If you would like or know anybody who like to volunteer with ICB please contact us.

Brighid McIntyre. Born in Co. Roscommon and moved into Co. Mayo. I have started coming into the ICB offices for a few hours on Wednesday and Thursday to do some administration work. I previously worked in Camden Town Hall for 23 years – the last four of them part time. Twelve months ago I retired, but after a few months I thought it would be nice to do something to "give a little back" as it were. I became friendly with Stafford Cunningham when I met him in the Church in Camden and asked if there was anything I could do on voluntary basis. He spoke to Paul Raymond, his manager.

I came in to meet him. I filled in an application form and had a brief interview. And here I am!! Paul calls me a "volunteer volunteer co-ordinator". I never really knew about all the good work that is carried out by ICB until I started coming here. As St Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Blessed Trinity, I would compare the ICB to the shamrock- the three leaves shooting out from one stem, working with Prisoners, Travellers and the Elderly.

The people who work here are just unbelievably committed to their work, as are the numerous volunteers who give their time and energy in helping out, either as visitors / befrienders or in any way they can. It is a pleasure and an honour to contribute in the very small way that I do.

A belated



Our celebration of St Patrick's day included Mass, Irish breakfast at the London Irish Centre and a long stretch of the legs at the Parade. We were joined among others by TD Jimmy Denihan, Fine Gael Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The McNamara Hall was full on Saint Patrick's day proper for mass, followed by bacon and cabbage lunch and music by Mustangs. Plenty of chat, dancing agus craic with old and new friends.



The Irish Chaplaincy in the Parade and blessed with Irish weather!!!
God Bless you St Patrick for a great day out!!!