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Welcome from the Chairperson

Welcome to the first edition of **Centre-point**, the newsletter for and about our vibrant Pastoral Centre. As we celebrate the second anniversary of our opening you can read about events past and future and about the helpers who assist in running the centre.

Our Pastoral Centre has become home to a large number of Parish and Community based groups. We opened the centre two years ago. We cater for parish, community and commercial groups in rooms built to accommodate functions from as small as 2 to as large as 200 people.

Over 40 parish groups, from Apostolic workers to Faith Friends; the Family Mass Group to

our very vibrant Youth Club use it every week. Community groups of all types and ages also use the Centre. The Arch Club and the Scouts are young users, and we go all the way to the Active Retirement. We also have three bridge clubs, yoga, drama, Irish dancing, playschool and many more users.

The Centre is a focal point for the parish and the community. We have a coffee dock which is open Monday to Friday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00. Here you can get the best beverages locally and catch up on the news with your friends. After 10am and 11.15am Mass every Sunday there is free tea and coffee or some juice for the children.

Happy Birthday to Us!

When the builder moved on site and started demolition of the outer buildings of the old hall it was very difficult to imagine what the new Centre would look like.

All we could see was muck and blocks and concrete and half our car-park gone.

Then it started to take shape and the Committee got to make their first visit into the shell and at last what was on their drawings began to

make sense.

The builder and the Design Team are professionals and it is expected that they know what they are doing. The Committee had to design the fit-out, decoration and furnishings from a set of drawings without being able to compare it to anything similar.

We had the new Johnstown and Glashule Centres to look at but our building was a completely different design

The Centre is run by our manager, Maeve Carrick and the many volunteers who help for a few hours either weekly or less regularly. Our volunteers are the heartbeat of the Centre. It is they who keep the life flowing through the place. Without these men and

women, the Centre would not be the success it is. Hopefully this newsletter will give you a feel for the work of the Centre and encourage you to join in its activities as a participant and/or as a volunteer helper. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mark Daly



Members of the original Pastoral Centre Management Committee at the official opening ceremony, June, 2009. From L to R (back row) Bert Mearley, Rachele Nelson, Michael Monaghan, Ben Codd, Kevin Healy, Paula Crotty (front row) Emily O'Keeffe, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Fr. Ciarán Holahan, Mark Daly. Missing are Billy Murphy, Fr. John Bracken and Isobel Butler

Billy Murphy

and usage than either of these.

Two years on and everyone who visits the Centre remarks how welcoming the Centre is and how it functions so well. This wasn't just by chance; this was down to the many, many hours of hard work and graft by the Committee in looking and weighing up all the various options, selections and possibilities and finally coming up with the furnishings and finishes we now have.

The Architect can design a fine building but it is the homeliness and warmth of the finishes which will make it successful.



A distant memory - The old Parish Hall

End of an Era

Upon retiring as President of Foxrock Active Retirement Association, I look back with great affection on my seven years with them (3 as secretary and 4 years as president). It was a great honour to serve the members of FARA, as we all became great friends - sharing our joys and sometimes our sorrows with each other. We currently have 112 members and warmly welcome newcomers. I can assure you they are a wonderful band of people helping to make life happy , enjoyable

Our Youth Club Disco

What to wear was the big question for the whole week before.

Then, was it going to be like Wez or would it be awful - or even better? Would the boys come ?

We arrive at 8:15 and the first thing we notice are the bouncers.

They are our Committee but taking no rubbish from any-

and active for each other.

Our activities included a monthly quiz, indoor bowling, golf, table tennis, league of health exercises, card playing, parties, dinners, outings to theatres and other places of interest, gardening, cruising the Liffey, visiting Dáil Éireann and tea with President Mary Mc Aleese at Áras an Uachtarán.

We also had entertainers like Sonny Knowles, Ronny Drew R.I.P., Aengus Mac Anally and Seán Dunphy.



one.

Inside we queue to pay. Then the Leaders search my bag and the boys are frisked. No drink coming in here tonight. We even have a cloakroom.

Into our Hall and it is like we have never seen it before. Dark with real flashing lights, a real DJ and real music.

Around a hundred of us , Katy said, and the boys came in groups as well.

Then the flashmob and all the Leaders joined in and it was great. It was so hot we had to go

A Matter of Finance



The costs of building and fitting out the Centre amounted to €2,000,000, with related debt of €560,000 still outstanding. This debt is being serviced by the Parish Finance Committee.

The mandate of the Management Committee is to organise the operations of the Centre, so as to cater for a variety of Parish activities, thereby enhancing community inter-

action. Our task is to operate the Centre so that it breaks even, after meeting all expenses. Hopefully in future years it will be in a position to make some contribution towards reducing the Parish Debt. To meet our objectives, we encourage commercial activities, which do not conflict with the ethos of the parish to help generate income, while retaining capacity for the many Parish

Maureen Nolan

Our holidays encompassed going to the 4 corners of Ireland alongside foreign trips to Italy, Germany and Scotland.

None of this could have happened without a dedicated and wonderful committee who were always there to lend a hand where necessary.

My good wishes go to the incoming President, secretary, treasurer and committee who I know will continue the enjoyable work of the association and continue to make everyone welcome.

Our Youth Club Reporter

out to get air loads of times and then back inside and we had an extra hour until 11:00pm.

Monday in school was all about the Disco. In class, at break and after and those who were at it telling the others what they missed and those who missed it wishing for the next one.

Was it like Wez ? No, it was much better than that. No pressure, our friends, our place. Can't wait for the next one.

Michael Monaghan

and Community activities.

Operating costs include the manager's salary, utilities, maintenance, lighting, heating, etc. We would very much like to acknowledge the help provided by the Parish Finance Committee, the many volunteers who contribute their time and Maeve, the Manager, who all help make the Centre the success it is.



Centre Activities

Book Clubs

seem to be all the rage at the moment and we currently have 3 book clubs up and running here in the centre. The clubs meet monthly on a Tuesday morning at 10.30am and have about 10 members in each club. Books selected cover very broad genres, from classics such as *“To Kill a Mocking Bird”* by Harper Lee to *“The Story of Lucy Gault”* by William Trevor. At the meetings, one member in turn facilitates by looking up appropriate questions on the book and has the all important job of supplying a treat such as chocolate cake (shop bought!) to sustain fellow members. If you are interested in joining, give us a call here in the centre.

For those of you looking for a more active way to expend

your energy there are several options. **Qigong** is the philosophy and practice of aligning breath, physical activity and awareness for mental, spiritual and corporeal health, as well as the development of human potential. Why not give it a go on Wednesdays at 10am? There is also **Pilates** at both beginner and improved level at various times on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, as well as **Yoga for Stress** on Fridays.

For all you hassled Mums and Dads out there we have a **Parent and Baby Yoga** class at 11.15am on Thursdays. This is the perfect opportunity to have some one-on-one bonding time with your child - with beneficial side-effects! **Kindermusik** is another activity which is relatively new to the Centre. It gives young

children an introduction to and appreciation of many different music styles in an active and fun environment. Try it out on Thursdays at 10am.

If you're of a more creative persuasion, perhaps the **Art Group** on Tuesdays and Thursdays or the **Creative Writing** session on Wednesdays might appeal to you. Alternatively, why not join the **Garden Club** where ideas, problems and successes of a more outdoor nature can be discussed.

Whatever your interests, there's sure to be something for everyone. A comprehensive list of times and activities ongoing within the Centre can be found in the brochure recently delivered to all houses in the Parish. Alternatively, check out our website on www.parishcentre.ie

A Golden Farewell

On Saturday 21st May we join with Fr. Ciarán and his family in marking the occasion of his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood. He will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving with parishioners at 6.30pm and afterwards a reception for all will be held in the centre.

Fr. Ciarán has been our Parish Priest since 1998. For a number of years he was Chairperson of the management committee of the Community Cen-

tre. Under his stewardship plans were designed to re-develop the site to build our Parish Pastoral Centre. The vision, was not so much about having a beautiful building, but rather a bright, modern and welcoming place for parishioners to gather. The naming of the rooms after some Irish Saints was encouraged by Fr. Ciarán to remind us of our Christian heritage and faith.

In the summer Fr. Ciarán will be retiring. We wish him every blessing in retirement and hope to see him often in the centre for a cuppa.



Fr. Ciarán at the official opening of the Pastoral Centre

While we're on the subject...

Two of our Management Committee's most committed members have recently announced their decision to resign their positions. Emily O'Keeffe, our valued Secre-

tary, and Bert Mearley, our own 'Jim 'll fix it', have been involved in parish and community life in Foxrock for decades - well before our new Centre even existed. Heartfelt

thanks for all you have contributed to our parish, Emily and Bert. We will miss you terribly but wish you every blessing in the years ahead.



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We're on the Web!
www.parishcentre.ie

*At the heart of the
Community*

On the Grapevine...

The centre would like to extend a warm welcome to Anne Mc Donagh and Louise Osbourne, who have recently joined us as volunteers.

Hearty congratulations to Frances Mac Donald on the birth of her new grandson Eoin.

Best wishes to Joan and John O'Reilly on the recent engagement of their daughter Suzanne to Stephen Corkery and also to Kevin and Rosaleen Healy on

their daughter Avril's engagement. Recently married are Fiacra Kennedy and Ciara Cauldwell. Fiacra is the son of Anne Kennedy who is also a volunteer here in the centre.

We are also delighted to welcome Margaret Tansey to the centre. Margaret is taking over from Lynda Clarke in Stepping Stones Play school, who is commencing her maternity leave.

Good Luck Lynda! Finally, a fond farewell to Maureen Nolan and Anne Murphy who are retiring from their posts with Foxrock Active Retirement group. It was a pleasure working with you. (Anne is particularly renowned for her chocolate cake.) Enjoy taking a back seat for a change!



Dates for your Diary

- **Sat 14th/28th May**
The boys and girls of Hollypark celebrate their First Holy Communion with the annual Communion 'breakfast' being held in the Centre after the ceremony. We have fingers and toes crossed that the sun shines guys!
- **Sat, 21st May**
We join with Fr. Ciarán and his family in marking the occasion of his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood. He will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at **6.30pm** with parishioners and afterwards a reception for all in the centre.
- **If you are organising an event** in the Pastoral Centre and would like us to mention it in our next newsletter, please drop us an email (foxrockppc@gmail.com) or leave a telephone message with the relevant details.

My name is Maeve Carrick and I am the manager here in the Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre. The centre is open seven days a week and caters for all age groups, from our mother and toddler groups to Active Retirement for our grown-ups! I work part time from 9am – 2pm, Monday to Thursday and am very lucky to be assisted by a team of wonderful volunteers who man our coffee dock and also assist with room set ups and reception duties. Together we try and create a friendly and inviting experience for all our visitors. Many locals call in for a chat and a cup of tea and help put a smile in our day! We also have a number of activities which are free for parishioners including book clubs and flower arranging to mention just two. My main responsibilities are to manage the day to day running of the centre, manage the hiring out of rooms to both parish and commercial groups, assist the volunteers and clients and keep everyone happy! Days can be very busy but ultimately very enjoyable. It's great to go in every morning and know it's going to be fun! Do call in and stay for a chat over a cuppa. I would love to meet you.

