

Meet the Manager



My name is Maeve Carrick and I am the manager here in 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.

Maeve Carrick

My Summer Holiday

They left me at the start of July. The Active Retirementers. The Artists. Gardeners. Irish Dancers. Qigongers. Scouts. Youth Clubbers.

From A to Z they deserted me – all on their holidays. To enjoy the break and 're-charge their batteries'.

This is what they said. This was their excuse. 'Re-charge the batteries.'

The Volunteers left. Even my Boss, Maeve, left.

A few hardy souls remained.

The Bridgers stayed around as did the SVdP.

But practically no-one else.

Did anyone stop to think how lonely I would be?

From being the busiest PPC in Ireland (slight exaggeration) to total abandonment in just one night. That's what they did. I was so upset – and I soon got bored.

Nothing happening. Only Michael appearing in to empty the parking meter.

That was the highlight of my

day. A lonely life.

Then Damo appeared with his overalls, ladders, paintbrushes and helper – and, yes, paint.

He sanded down my walls he repaired the blemishes and within a week he had painted every part of me.

The walls, ceilings, skirtings, dados and most importantly I got a sparkling coat on my timber panelling.

Instead of it being a dull, supposedly natural matt colour, Maeve and Damo came up with this brilliant shining natural colour that shows off my best attributes.

And as Cheryl says in her ad, "Because I'm worth it".

Damo left and I was looking and feeling great.

Then the magic floor man came in and all the floors were cleaned with special solutions.

The gardens outside got a serious whoosh and the makeover was complete.

Maeve was back and that

Parish Pastoral Centre

meant I was back in business.

First week in September was like Croke Park on All-Ireland day – and we Dubs would know what that is like!

They all flocked back from A to Z and we even got an extra Z with Zumba.

I'm not sure what it means. I think it's either I have become multi-lingual or else I pulled a muscle.

Anyway we are back in full swing and with even more events.

The Volunteers are back and they are so important in keeping me going and keeping my spirits up.

The Youth Club appeared last week and Friday nights are manic again.

Saturdays mean the Arch Club are back and the Sunday morning cup of tea and chocolate biscuit is full steam ahead again after Mass.

Summer is gone but this Summer Holiday will not be forgotten!

Cooks' Corner

Ethel Kelly is a favourite among our Monday morning visitors. Not a Monday goes by without Ethel bringing us tasty samples from her kitchen for us all to devour. Thankfully, her baking is much better than her luck at booking holidays! **“Thankfully, her baking is much better than her luck at booking holidays!”** In April 2010, Ethel was booked to go on a wonderful trip to Egypt. However, volcanic dust decided to put a stop to her plans. Not to be defeated, Ethel decided to re-book for the following year, not realising the revolution was waiting in the sidelines - cancelled again! Playing safe this time, Ethel books to view

the Gardens of Penzance. However, not enough participants applied so the trip did not go ahead. Feeling adventurous again, Ethel books for Japan – need I tell you? Yet another disaster! Florence sounded like a nice place to visit, but booked out. At long last, Ethel made it to Madeira in June of this year and spent a wonderful week in the sun visiting this exquisite island! It might have taken two years but she did eventually manage to leave the country! Funnily enough, none of our other volunteers have invited her on holidays with them....!

Ethel has very kindly offered to share her recipe for Shortbread with us:

Ethel Kelly

Ethel's Shortbread

4oz butter at room temp.

4oz plain flour

2oz cornflour

2oz icing sugar

1. Place all dry ingredients in a food processor and mix well
2. Add chopped up butter and combine until the mixture comes away from the sides
3. Place on a floured board and roll into a 8"-9" cylinder shape
4. Slice into approximately 20 pieces
5. Cook in a preheated oven at 130 degrees for approximately 50/60 minutes until firm.



Kieran McGowan

Parish Finance Committee

The role of the Finance Committee is to oversee the Income and Expenditure of the Parish and to arrange for funding of both current expenditure such as lighting and heating, and also capital expenditure such as the Parish Pastoral Centre. It costs about €200,000 a year to run the

Parish on a day to day basis. The income to pay for this, as well as paying for maintenance of Parish buildings and servicing our outstanding borrowings, all comes from the Family Offering which is generously supported by the parishioners. The Finance Committee is comprised of Fr. Frank Herron,

4 lay members and meets about 5/6 times a year. Being part of such a committee in these straitened times certainly has its challenges, but to see such successful fruits of our labour - as the Pastoral Centre- makes it all worthwhile!

Craft Group

This group started out with only a few members, but has grown over the year and now consists of knitters, embroiderers, crotchetiers and all



sorts of other crafty people who are more than willing to share their expertise with beginners in the group.

We meet informally in the coffee dock after Mass on a Friday morning and have a good old natter while trying to count stitches and drink tea at the same time.....Don't worry if you can't cast on or do cable stitch, someone will help you and we

have lots of patterns, needles and instructions to get you started.

In America, these groups are often called "Stitch n'Bitch" groups, but, mindful of our surroundings, we prefer "The Happy Hookers" (another American word for Crotchet !!) Just turn up and join in on a Friday morning.

Sue Bradley

Foxrock Youth Club

The Youth Club is open to members from September to May in Foxrock Community Centre. It caters for boys and girls from 2nd year upwards.

The Club is run by a committee of ten parents and leaders drawn from members attending 6th year and third level college. The members meet every Friday night from 8pm till 10pm where they chat and play games including pool, table tennis, fuzball, etc. Additional activities are organised throughout the year which include bowling, cinema, ice skating, discos and barbeques.

The Youth Club runs a Christmas Festival every second year at the beginning of December which is open to the community. During the Festival, the final of "Fox Factor" takes place which creates huge excitement. A Summer Fair is also held in May with various activities including face painting and games for children.

Foxrock Youth Club is very proud of its major fundraising initiative which is held every second year, raising plenty of money for a chosen charity. It attracts huge community spirit, with everyone getting involved.

Our Youth Club Reporter

Last year our chosen event was "Boscathon" which was run in aid of Lauralynn House in Leopardstown. Over a 24 hour period, the Youth Club, assisted by the whole community built a house made from cardboard boxes. Over €50K was raised for Lauralynn and we hope to work with them again in the future as they depend solely on donations.

We are looking forward to another fun filled year!



We could've danced all night!

Well, we certainly sent Fr. Ciarán and Fr. John off in style! Two wonderful evenings were hosted in the Pastoral Centre and were well attended by parishioners from all walks of parish life - just showing the high level of esteem with which both men are viewed in this community. We will miss them but wish them every blessing for the future.



Fr. John, Fr. Ciarán and Fr. Derek enjoy proceedings.

Photos of these and other events are available for perusal on the Pastoral Centre website. There is also an array of other information pertaining to events, classes, etc.. All can be found at:

www.parishcentre.ie

Book Club

The inaugural meeting of the Pastoral Centre Bookclub took place in November last year and as we reconvene after the summer break, a look back over some of the books we enjoyed might encourage you to read some of them or consider joining one of the bookclubs yourself. Our club was seen to be such a sociable way to spend a Tuesday morning once a month, that more bookclubs started up in the centre and we had to find a name for ourselves to prevent mix ups! After discussion, we chose BOOKMARKS.

Some of our favourite books so far have been :-

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

by Mary Ann Schaffer

Sister

by Rosamund Lupton

The Story of a Marriage

by Andrew Sean Greer

Brooklyn

by Colm Toibin

Hotel on the corner of Bitter and Sweet

by Jamie Ford

Sue Bradley

As we approach our 1st Birthday, I think we can say we have had a very interesting, enjoyable year with some lively discussion, lots of laughs and last but not least, amazing cakes to go with our cup of coffee. So, don't be shy, **contact Maeve** in the Centre and get reading!!





Message from the Chairperson

Mark Daly

Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre has just started its third year of operations. We cater for the pastoral needs of the parish as well as the community as a whole. It is a sign of our success that the centre is busy every day.

A major part of our success is due to the volunteers who help to man (or woman) the centre at all times of the day. While Maeve, our manager, is the driving force behind the centre, our volunteers are the engine that keeps it going. Their work often goes unnoticed by the general public, but is very much appreciated by the management committee. We are always on the hunt for new volunteers. Have you a couple of hours a week or even an hour a month to help out? All extra help will be gratefully accepted. Talk to Maeve if you are interested in being part of our success.

This second edition of "Centrepunt" will update you on what's new in the Pastoral Centre, and reminisce on some of the events that have been held in the last few months.

Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre is your centre. It is the focal point of the parish and the community. If you have never or rarely been in, come after 10.00 or 11.15 Mass on Sundays for free tea or coffee, and meet other families and parishioners. Maybe you might be inspired to help?

We'd also like to wish Fr John every blessing and success in his new parish of Mount Merrion. He was an inspiration to us all during the design and the building of the centre. He then became an influential member of the management team. We on the Pastoral Centre Committee will miss him greatly, but welcome Fr Frank who we know will be an able replacement.

On the Grapevine...

Hearty congratulations to Lynda Clarke from Stepping Stones Playschool on the birth of her daughter, Robyn. Wishing you and your family every happiness for the future.

Best wishes to Colette Redmond, volunteer, on the birth of her new granddaughter Lucy. Best of luck with the babysitting!

Congratulations to Anne Kennedy, volunteer on the engagement of her daughter Aoife to Paul Jordan. Happy hat-hunting!

Dates for your Diary

Dublin Art Society will host their annual **art exhibition** in the Centre on the **5th and 6th of November**. Do drop in for a peek.

The **Foxrock Christmas Festival** will take place in the Pastoral Centre on **Sunday 4th December**. Hope to see you there!

Something old, Something new..??

We have a number of new exercise classes now running in the centre. For the young, Yvonne Treacy is running yoga classes for children on Monday afternoons. This helps to improve, posture, breathing, self esteem and relaxation. You can contact her on **086 3150010**

Zumba, a fantastic salsa cardio workout, is now here on Monday mornings at 9.30am and is going down very well with parishioners. Spaces are still available and you can get further details from Claudia **085 763 7981**.

Dani Sheils is now running a second teenage yoga class on Thursday evenings. Yoga classes meet the criteria for part of your Gaisce award and is the ideal way to help you relax and deal with the stress of student life, while also improving your self confidence. Further details from Dani on **086 8122847**.

For those of you less energetic, French classes are a great way to spend a morning. With small classes, every one is encouraged to speak French from the very start. Linda will teach you, providing all materials, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Contact her on **087 057 5966**

Manager: Maeve Carrick

Phone: 01-2895650

Email: foxrockppc@gmail.com

www.parishcentre.ie