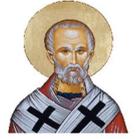


# St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-4530387 ---- 01-5611390



09 April 2017

## SUNSHINE FUND - ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



This weekend the Sunshine Fund run by the St. Vincent de Paul will take up their annual collection outside the church. The Sunshine Fund is a unique branch of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul which provides week-long Summer holidays for children, aged 7 to 11, from disadvantaged parts of Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare. The Sunshine Fund owns a purpose-built holiday home from the beach in Balbriggan, North Dublin, where it has been running these holidays since 1935. Over 100,000 young

people have passed through our doors since we opened. Sunshine House, our purpose-built holiday centre, is only 300m from the sea and is surrounded by 5 acres of grounds. Outside, children can play on the football pitches, basketball court, swings, slides, or play equipment. If it's raining, we organise activities indoors, where our sports hall, concert hall and top-of-the-range play centre, opened by President Mary McAleese, give plenty of space for the children to play all day. Between January and April the fund organises fundraising, recruitment of volunteers and ordering of supplies - which include clothes, shoes and toiletries.

Each week from May to August, 130 children are provided with food, board, €10 spending money, the chance to meet new friends and full-time, positive adult attention. It is all free to the families.

With the economic downturn, we're all feeling the pinch, but some are affected much more than others. Children are most at risk of being left behind, especially if they're living in areas of disadvantage. It's for them that The Sunshine Fund exists: we're trying to make a difference to the most vulnerable members of our community.

### The History

In the 1920s and 30s, many of Dublin's children were living in dark, squalid and overcrowded tenements - infant and child mortality was very high. In 1928, a dedicated group of individuals from the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul decided that providing holidays away from the city would give some of these children a short, but vital time, to play and be children, away from their worries at home. The Sunshine Fund was born. Kilcullen, Co. Kildare was the initial venue for a series of weekend picnics, followed soon after by day trips to Gormanston Strand, Co. Meath for thousands of children. This was just the beginning.

While waiting for the Sunshine House to be renovated, the Sunshine Fund hosted its very first week-long holiday in a disused wing of Loughlinstown Hospital, south Dublin. This was quite an experience for the boys who had the first holiday of their lives with us.

Each subsequent decade has brought fresh challenges to families living in Dublin: Tuberculosis, World War II, drug addiction, mass unemployment in the 1980s, right up to the terrible distress faced by families due to our current economic situation. However, the Sunshine Fund has continued to organise week long seaside breaks for boys and girls living in disadvantaged areas of Dublin and surrounding counties. Children who might otherwise never get a holiday.

Our generous benefactors help us to constantly upgrade the Sunshine House facilities, to ensure we can continue to deliver the best holidays possible:

1951 - added new dormitory wing

1972 - installed indoor play-centre

1990s - upgraded sports hall

2003 - carried out extensive play-centre refurbishments

2010 - installed new playground equipment

In 2010, we celebrated 75 years of holidays with the Sunshine Fund. Over 100,000 young people have passed through our doors since we opened. Last year, over 1200 young people had the holiday of a lifetime with us.

## NOTICES

### Money Matters

Sunday 02 April 2017

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p245

2nd Collection: p275

Share: p50

Family Offering: p357



### Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Jame Holohan (1st annv), Eileen Holohan, Michael Smith, John, Josephine & Mary Hannon, Kay Doyle, Christy Peppard, Rita Barclay, Marie Meier, Billy & Mary & James Murphy, Jane & Celine Brennan.

Sun 11.30: Mary & Gerard Martin, Bridie O'Neill.



### Good Friday Ecumenical Walk

Join us at 7.15pm leaving from Christchurch Cathedral onto St Mary's Pro Cathedral. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Archbishop Michael Jackson of the Church of Ireland will once again lead a silent procession on Good Friday evening carrying the Cross of the Taize ecumenical monastic community from Christchurch to the Pro-Cathedral. This walk of witness, starting from Christchurch at 7.15pm with a moment of prayer, is then followed on arrival in the Pro-Cathedral by a Taize Prayer around the Cross that lasts around an hour for those who wish to stay. All are welcome.



### Accord

the Catholic Marriage Care Service, is currently recruiting in the areas of:

Marriage and Relationship Counsellors and Marriage Preparation Facilitators who will give courses to couples preparing for Marriage and assist in the area of Marriage and Relationship counselling. If you would like to

be part of a dynamic team, can relate easily to people in a sensitive and genuine way, would like fulfilling and meaningful work by making a real difference to couples and individuals, you might consider one of these positions. Training will be provided for both roles through the Pontifical University in Maynooth. Information evening for Marriage Preparation Facilitators will take place on: 20th April 2016 at 7:30 pm in ACCORD Dublin, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3 For further information please contact 01 4780866



### Thought for the Day

“Calamities can bring growth and Enlightenment,” said the Master. And he explained it thus:

“Each day a bird would shelter in the withered branches of a tree that stood in the middle of a vast deserted plain. One day a whirlwind uprooted the tree, forcing the poor bird to fly a hundred miles in search of shelter -- till it finally came to a forest of fruit-laden trees.”

And he concluded: “If the withered tree had survived, nothing would have induced the bird to give up its security”

From ‘One Minute Wisdom’ by Anthony de Mello



### Reminder

Our main Reconciliation Service for Easter takes place on Tuesday evening 11th April at 7pm here in the church. For those may not wish to come out in the evening there will be a Reconciliation Service on Monday 10th April at 3pm in the afternoon. Spread the word about both.



### Visiting the & Churches

Psalm Sunday, starting at 2pm from James Street we will visit the 7 local churches, spending about 5 minutes in each. We will finish up in Meath Street, with a cup of tea in the Little Flower Hall. It’s very enjoyable and good craic too!



### Pope Francis Meets Charles & Camilla



Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, met on April 4 with Pope Francis at the Vatican. The Pope and the British royals

spoke privately for 27 minutes. The Vatican did not issue a statement about the topics covered in the private conversation. Following their private meeting, Prince Charles introduced the 15 members of a delegation accompanying him. Among them was Arthur Edwards, a Catholic who has served as the official photographer of the royal household. “He is an important man. He has followed us for 40 years,” the Prince told Pope Francis. After the

presentation, Prince Charles confessed to the Pope that it was “difficult to know what to give your Holiness.” He presented the Pope with a gift basket full of produce, including tea and chocolate, from the Royal Gardens at Highgrove, their private residence.



### Pope Francis appoints Irish priest to key child protection role at Vatican



An Irish priest, who was ordained for the archdiocese of Dublin, has been chosen by Pope Francis to oversee the disciplinary section of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in the Vatican. The Holy See announced on Tuesday that Mgr John Kennedy from Clontarf in Dublin, who was ordained in 1993, will head up the CDF section that

processes clerical sex abuse cases. Mgr Kennedy was an assistant to the previous head of the section, Fr Miguel Funes Diaz, who is one of three CDF officials who recently departed the congregation.

The announcement follows the resignation of clerical abuse survivor, Marie Collins, from the Vatican’s Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors on 1 March over her frustration with resistance to reform from the Curia. In the middle of March, Mrs Collins wrote an open letter to the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), Cardinal Gerhard Müller, warning him that dysfunction can no longer be kept hidden behind institutional closed doors. 49 year-old Mgr Kennedy trained for the priesthood at Clonliffe College. He was ordained in 1993 and is a graduate of University College Dublin. He served in parishes in Crumlin and Francis Street in Dublin before undertaking postgraduate studies in canon law in Rome in 1998, where he lived at the Teutonic College in the Vatican, located between the audience hall and St Peter’s Basilica. He began his service with the Holy See in September 2002 under the then Prefect of the CDF, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, later Pope Benedict XVI. The CDF took over responsibility for dealing with clerical child abuse cases in 2001 at the instigation of Cardinal Ratzinger, who felt that dioceses weren’t disciplining clerical abusers as church law required. From then on, bishops and religious superiors were required to submit all credible accusations against priests and religious to the CDF, which then determined how to proceed. Following the resignation of Marie Collins, Cardinal Sean O’Malley, who heads up the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, said in an interview that the CDF needed more resources to deal with the abuse caseload. In an interview with the Zenit news agency following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI in 2013, Mgr Kennedy recalled his former boss as a “shy, but extremely intelligent man, a person who was very sincere, very gentle”. “I remember when my mother turned 60, I asked if it would be possible for her to meet him, and he said, “Oh yes, bring her in at a quarter to one.” I brought her in and they sat like two friends on the sofa in his private office, and had a good old chat for about fifteen or twenty minutes. He was very kind. He was very gracious. He’d remember details about you, and years later he’d be able to say: How is that situation, or how is that person that I met years ago?”