

The local Parish Partnership of City Quay, University Church, St. Stephens Green, Westland Row. The three parishes work together to provide services to the local community under the administration of Fr Alan Hilliard as of July 2024. There is wider partnership which includes Harrington St, Clarendon St and Whitefriar St. under different administration.

Blessed Carlo Acutis.

Please let people know about our shrine to Blessed Carlo here in the Church. The image was blessed beside his remains in Assisi. A Saint helps us all realise that our human condition does not necessarily limit us. We too can come to know God in amazing ways.

Here is a piece that I wrote for RTÉ Radio's A Word in Edgeways regarding Saints and their role in our lives. Hopefully this will help us understand that significance of Blessed Carlo's beatification.

Saints

'What's a martyr?' he asked me. I thought for a moment and cobbled together a theological response. I blurted it out. He looked unimpressed and hummed some nonsense and, as if he disapproved, he kept his eyes down, looking at nothing.

When eventually he lifted his head, he caught me straight in the eye and said, 'I think a martyr is somebody who has to live with a saint!' Admittedly I was puzzled for a while but when he smiled, I laughed. I got where he was coming from. I thought of all the people I knew who thought they had saintly status and boy were they hard work. To live with them is indeed a form of martyrdom. Today we celebrate the Feast of All Saints, including martyrs! Saints, for me, are important. It's not the chalk statues that do it for me but it's their wisdom and legacy. There is not one problem I encounter, not one wall that I can't see over that one of the saints hasn't been there too and subsequently offers me a lifeline.

When I'm anxious or distressed I think of the beautiful prayer of Teresa of Avila, found after her death; 'let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, all things pass away'. It always brings me to a better place. Then there is St Francis of Assisi who just wakes me up to delight in the beauty and wonder of creation. Francis's simple and peaceful outlook tells us all things are our brothers and sisters and nothing can be destroyed or overlooked—just admired and rejoiced in. Then there are lesser-known saints like Peter of Chanel. He spent his whole life on an island in the Pacific and when he died, he had achieved nothing. However, following his death, people reflected on his existence, and they embraced his message.

Sometimes I feel frustrated with a lack of results and outcomes. Peter inspires me not to become distracted and to keep focused on doing what is right and good. There is a saint for everyone and there is a saint for every day. For Christians, they are our family, and they are worth getting to know. And if you feel sainthood is not for you, remember that a saint is someone with a past—a sinner is someone with a future!

Refurbishment of our Church.

The report from the consultant from the SEAI (Professionals who advise on sustainable energy use) has come back and it reviews the expenditure on heating and lighting over the last year. The recommendations will be forwarded to whatever architect is appointed. The findings are very helpful and have not yet been fully digested yet. However underlying the recommendations is the question regarding the best form of heating for the Church. We are seeking information as to the best form of heating if the Church is to be kept open all-day rather than a heating system that is just switched on and off whenever we have Mass etc. The study also investigates the use of Solar Panels and eludes to the fact that when we most need energy we have the least sunshine i.e. winter. The fact that this piece of work is completed is helpful to our future planning. We are also advised as to what aspects of the refurbishment would be grant aided.

Safeguarding

We are in urgent need to someone to be a Safeguarding Officer for our parish. If we want to restore altar servers or create a children's choir it can't be done until the parish has proper guidelines and practices in place.

Feast of the Assumption -15th August

Thursday is a Holy Day of obligation to celebrate Mass, Masses for the Holyday – which is a working Holyday will be at 8 am and 12.45 pm.

Theological Studies

Have you ever wanted to know more about your faith? Are you looking for a course that can help you grow in your ministry?

Pathways is an Adult Faith formation programme run by the Archdiocese aimed at all adults, members of PPCs and those in parish ministry.

It is a 2 year course running on Thursday evenings from September to May (excluding holidays) from 7pm-9.30pm in DCU, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.

The course has a number of modules including input on Images of God, Discipleship, Scripture, Liturgy, Church, Vatican II, Sacraments and Parish.

The Second Year has a more intentional focus on Ministry.

Each evening includes a presentation on the topic as well as small group sharing and discussion and there is no written work or assessments.

The cost is €400 per year (Some parishes may help to cover some of the cost or you can contact us to discuss the possibility of a bursary)

For more details, and to complete the online application form, please visit www.missionministry.ie/pathways or email peter.siney@dublindiocese.ie.