



SHARE APPEAL SUNDAY 2018

They all shared... and God poured rich blessings on them

"The group of believers was one in mind and heart. None of them said that any of their belongings were their own, but they all shared with one another everything they had. With great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God poured rich blessings on them all." (Acts 4:32-37)

In the weeks following the celebration of Easter, along with the readings dealing with the Resurrection, we read from the Acts of the Apostles which looks at the life of the early Church, that small band of people, men and women, who gathered together, often in small rooms as they tried to work out how to live out the message that Jesus had taught them. They prayed, the chanted Psalms and the celebrated the breaking of the bread and the Lord had told them. This was the foundation of the community and, indeed, it still is.

However, another central part of their existence was their *sharing*. As the Acts puts it: *'they all shared with one another everything they had.'* While the way of sharing may have changed as the community grew into a church, the call to share is still part of what we are. So it is that we have special collections through out the year, often for good causes like Crosscare, Accord and the SVP, but also to support the life of our faith community in a way that allows it to meet its needs and to carry out its mission of maintaining, strengthening and spreading the faith in challenging times.

In all the 199 parishes of the Archdiocese of Dublin, we have two collections every Sunday to meet the ongoing needs of our Church. Both collections are counted on Monday morning and are then sent directly to the Diocese, from where they are distributed to meet the different needs.

The First Collection supports the priests of our parish, sick and retired priests, priests in low-income parishes, and priests working in special ministries throughout the Diocese.

The Share Collection provides essential pastoral services supporting all parishes. Share also provides support to low-income parishes and contributes to initiatives of the Irish Bishops' Conference. This is done in many ways: church repairs for parishes in need; pastoral workers and catechists; evangelisation and liturgy programmes; faith development for young people; child safeguarding and protection; parish financial and property management; charities act compliance support and training; communications; diocesan archives which preserve our history for future reference; and human resources support and advice.

The Church's mission and administration in our time is complex and requires significant resources but the essential idea of *sharing* is still central to it. In our parish, from the two weekly collections we usually take in between €1700-2000 each week, this comes to about €3 per person from the approximately 600 people who attend our Sunday masses. It should be added here we continue to have an annual deficit of approximately €50.000 and can only do this because we have been facilitated by the diocese in financing it. Obviously this cannot continue. Steps are being considered to address this and hopefully.

The SHARE collection so often not well understood by parishioners who sometimes, somewhat unfairly see it is money vanishing without any real transparency. The purpose of this SHARE APPEAL SUNDAY is to give a better understanding of what it is about and to appeal to parishioners to continue to support and if possible to increase their support in the knowledge that it is indeed money that is shared and shared in many necessary and good causes that will bring *"rich blessings on us all."*

St Mary's
Parish
Haddington
Road

Serving
the
Community

Serving the Family

Serving
the
City



Thoughts for a Day

Take note of this, for it is a certain truth: we do not pray in vain for those who are lost, even if they are our enemies. Yes, we do not pray in vain – even though everything seems to be hopeless. If we are truly concerned for their salvation and bring them before the Savior, he will bring them under his special care, so that – perhaps before we are even aware of it – miracles can happen, even among those whom we had already given up for lost.

-Johann Christoph Blumhardt

You can look everywhere for peace, but you may not find it. Or you can forget yourself and get on with whatever work is there in front of you. That's what brings peace – doing whatever needs to be done in the house, showing love to your spouse, or whatever else comes to mind. If you do it for the sake of the kingdom, it will bring you peace.

-Ruth Land

April-May Parish Diary 2018

- April 15: **Share Appeal Sunday**
April 21: **Dublin Pilgrimage to Knock: We are Pilgrims -**
April 22: **Day of Prayer for Vocations**
April 26: 7:15pm: **Patrick Finn Lecture:**
April 28: **First Holy Communion: St. Conleth's College**
May 8: 10:30 -11:30: **Holy Hour for the Protection of Human Life**
May 13: **The Ascension of the Lord: World Communications Day**
May 19: **Parish Schools First Holy Communion:**
May 20: 7:00pm **Concert: Dublin Orchestral Players**
May 28: **Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**

OFFICIAL FAMILY PRAYER

FOR WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018

God, our Father, We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son, One family, in the Spirit of your love. Bless us with the joy of love. Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need. Help us to live your forgiveness and peace. Protect all families with your loving care, Especially those for whom we now pray: [We pause and remember family members and others by name]. Increase our faith, Strengthen our hope, Keep us safe in your love, Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share. This we ask, through Christ our Lord, Amen

Mary, mother and guide, pray for us. Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us. Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us. Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us

Patrick Finn Lectures,
Thursday 26 April 2018, 7.15pm

Pope Francis and Religion in the Public Sphere



Lecture by **Philip McDonagh**
Diplomat, poet and playwright

Philip McDonagh's distinguished career as a diplomat included senior appointments to India, Russia and the Holy See. His work also included a significant involvement in the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

He has published a number of books and translations of plays by Russian authors.

In Memoriam

6pm, Liam Boyd (Anniversary)
11am, Charles and Rose Kenny (Anniversary)
Masses on 21st /22nd April 2018.
6pm... Andy Ryan (1st Anniversary)
11am... Jack Sharpe (Anniversary)

Masses and Confession

Sundays: Vigil, 6pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am, 5pm
-Rosary daily after 10am mass

Adoration Blessed Sacrament, Weds 10.30-12.40

Church Collections

W/e 8th April 2018

1st Collection... €1,015

Share Collection... €745

THANK YOU

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