



**St Mary's  
Parish  
Haddington  
Road**

**Serving  
the  
Community**

**Serving  
the Family**

**Serving the City**

## The Art of Community

*Peter Mommsen*

"Beauty will save the world," runs a line by Dostoyevsky much quoted by art lovers. Yet it's not at all obvious that beauty, at least the artistic kind, can do any such thing. Nor should Christians expect it to. Jesus himself seems to have preferred the lilies of the field to the artful adornments that arrayed Solomon, and his most active apostle, Paul, famously antagonized the sculptors' guild in Ephesus.

Repeatedly in church history, movements of renewal have been deeply sceptical of art, from the original iconoclasts, who among other things sought to restore the early church's simplicity, to Savonarola, to the Reformers, to the Puritans. As a pithy hymn by an Anabaptist martyr from the 1520s puts it: "Beauty and art – these cannot bring you to God. They stink before him and are good for nothing. Strive instead for humility."

Iconoclasts generally haven't fared well at the hands of historians, who dismiss them as gloomy fanatics. Nevertheless, their conviction that beauty may damn as often as it saves has today found a home within art itself. Contemporary art, whether visual, musical, literary, or architectural, is marked by its suspicion of beauty. We moderns have learned that the beautiful is often a mask for barbarity. Schubert performances were beloved by the guards in Auschwitz.

And yet: an equally ancient strain within Christianity insists that there *is* a beauty that can save the world. In the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible that the early Christians used, when God in Genesis pronounces his creation good, he says of earth, plants, animals, and humans: "It is beautiful." In that sense, the medieval theologian Nicholas of Cusa understood the creativity of the artist to reflect the creativity of the Maker of heaven and earth. The Romantics were at least partly right: the artist who creates beauty can be a channel for divine truth.

This isn't just a high-flown theory, as anyone can attest who has joined with others to sing Bach's *Saint Matthew Passion* or to stand before a painting by Raphael or Chagall. At such moments, art creates a community bound together by the beautiful, the good, and the true – that is, by God. Through theater, iconography, music, and the objects and architecture of everyday life we find expression as a community and they are an important part of who and what we care.

But that is still only a part of the picture. It isn't just that art can foster community. Christian community, the daring attempt to live and work together in justice and peace, is itself a work of creativity: a work of Jesus' Spirit. This is the beautiful – if often difficult – adventure to which, in the end, each human being is called.



Contacts: Fr Fachtna McCarthy, Administrator, Fr Patrick Claffey C.C. Fr Josip Levaković Tel 01-6600075

Streaming and Website [www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie](http://www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie) email: [info@stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie](mailto:info@stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie)

Child Protection: <http://www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie/ministries/child-protection/> also [www.csp.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.csp.dublindiocese.ie)

Streaming also at [www.churchservices.tv/haddingtonroad](http://www.churchservices.tv/haddingtonroad)

Funded by Living the Joy of the Gospel Campaign

### Bereavement Information Evening

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 5.30–8.00pm

Alex Hotel, 41-47 Fenian Street, Dublin 2.

Niamh Fitzpatrick, sister of Captain Dara Fitzpatrick, will address the gathering and speak on the theme 'Living with Loss'. Admission is free. For more information, contact The Irish Hospice Foundation: [www.hospicefoundation.ie](http://www.hospicefoundation.ie)

### World Youth Day Panama (January 2019)

A number of places are still available for World Youth Day in Panama. Pastoral preparation for all pilgrims will commence later in September. More information and details for online registration are available on [www.evangelisation.ie](http://www.evangelisation.ie)

### St. Mary's Autumn Diary

- October 20: Parish Council Induction Day: Clonliffe College  
October 21: Mission Sunday  
November 3: Requiem Mass: Order of Malta, 3:00pm  
Remembrance Concert, Lassus Choir, 7:30pm  
November 4: Mass for the Deceased of the Past Year, 11:00am  
November 17: Remembrance Day Mass, 10:00am  
November 19: Pastoral Council Meeting, 5:45pm  
December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
December 9: St. Vincent de Paul Collection

### FAITH CONVERSATIONS 2018

We are now happy to announce the third Faith Conversations programme, will be presented by Therese Fitzgerald, a sister of Our Lady of Sion, She has chosen as her theme and title 'Navigating change and inspiring inner wholeness' in which she will examine 'emerging and challenging perspectives in reading the Bible.'

**Every Wednesday evening,**

**from 12 October-12 December, 6.30pm.**

**The Catherine McAuley Centre  
Herbert St.**

### Masses and Confession

**Sundays:** Vigil, 6pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am, 5pm

Daily masses 10am and 12.40pm, Saturday 10am only

**-Rosary** daily after 10am mass

**Adoration Blessed Sacrament, Weds 10.30-12.40**

### Church Collections

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: €1,091

Share Collection: €805

Weekday collections: N/A

**THANK YOU**



The Church's mission, directed to all men and women of good will, is based on the transformative power of the Gospel. The Gospel is Good News filled with contagious joy, for it contains and offers new life: the life of the Risen Christ who, by bestowing his life-giving Spirit, becomes for us the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. *Jn 14:6*).

He is the *Way* who invites us to follow him with confidence and courage. In following Jesus as our *Way*, we experience *Truth* and receive his *Life*, which is fullness of communion with God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. That life sets us free from every kind of selfishness, and is a source of creativity in love.

(Pope Francis, *Mission Message 2107*)

### NEXT SUNDAY

The collection for the support of the Church's Missions will replace the Share Collection



### HELPLINE

Anyone in the parish who is in need of assistance should contact the Society of St Vincent de Paul at

**087-7819590.**

### In Memoriam

6pm: Richard Kelly (Anniversary)

11am: Mary Kelly (Anniversary)

5pm: Collette Connor (Anniversary)

### Masses on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

6pm: Patsy Lynch (Anniversary)

11am: Sr Anne Marie Stacey (Months Mind)

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