

WELCOME TO ST. PATRICK'S ESKER/DODSBORO/ADAMSTOWN
NEWSLETTER

8TH SEPTEMBER 2019



Welcome To
St Patrick's Esker/Dodsboro/ Adamstown
September 8, 2019

Mass Intentions for coming week: **Sat. 7pm:** May and Kevin Britton (A);



occur.

Sun: 9am: Harry & Kathleen Lacey (A); **10.30 am:** Michel Fay (RIP); **12 noon:** Ann & Charles Smith (A); **Remember:** Maureen Ryle (m.m.); Pierce, Marie & Conor Ivory; Carol O'Connor, Michael & Helen Mongan whose anniversaries

Mon. 10am: Sr Theresa Ryan Intentions; Chris Foley Jackman (RIP); **Tues. 10am:** Sr Rita O'Dowd Intentions; **Wed. 10am:** Sr Ines Intentions, Anne McCarthy Intentions; Christina Foley Jackman (RIP); **Thurs. 10am:** Michael Hickey (RIP); Chris Foley Jackman (RIP); **Fri. 10am:** Tim Boyle (A); Michael O'Connor (A); Lorraine Powell Intentions; **Sat. 10am:** Peggy Enright (RIP); Lucy O'Hallor (RIP).

Baptisms: Welcome into the Christian Community this weekend – Molly O'Reilly, Zachary O'Shaughnessy, Zaraiah Petts



Message from Fr. John:

Dear Parishioners, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you for your kindness and thoughtfulness over the past few months since I was diagnosed with a blood cancer. I must be the most Mass intentioned and prayed for person in the country. Life is indeed incongruous! I was donating my 70th blood donation when its rejection sent me to my wonderful local GP who got on my case and after her attentive and immediate care a process of close observation began. The observation was interrupted somewhat at the beginning of September as I was due a hip replacement and a 3" leg lengthening. The procedure was a wonderful success and I shed an orthopaedic boot I had been wearing since I was a teenager (thankfully not the actual same fashion model!). That was the result of a cliff fall that left me with multiple injuries and absent from secondary school for over two years.

When I recovered from the recent orthopaedic surgery I returned to the monitoring of my blood. The situation had changed drastically. A spinal bone marrow biopsy determined that I would have a few months of chemotherapy followed by the harvesting of my stem cells and a subsequent transplant. Unfortunately, I ended up with endless infections and unexpected side effects. So, there were a few hospital admissions, the most recent being three weeks ago due to a severe reaction to one of the treatments preparing me for the harvesting of my stem cells. One quickly learns that everyone with health issues is unique and individual and there is a certain irrelevance in others relating their cancer stories.

I am fortunate to be a self-donor of my own cells and I am most fortunate that the disease was diagnosed before it damaged my kidneys, again thanks to my outstanding GP. At present I have a few box-ticking medical procedures before the transplant which will take place at the beginning of October. That will be a procedure that requires a month in a germ-free environment. The transplant coordinator has explained the challenges of this procedure but please God it will all go well.

I am truly indebted to all our parish volunteers and Ministry members. A parish only mediates the Gospel when there are those committed enough to facilitate the celebration of the Sacraments. They do this by selflessly giving of their time, talent and resources. But all of that would be somewhat pointless without you, the worshipping community. It has been a source of pride for me to experience first-hand the competence and maturity of the parish as it took responsibility for itself in my absence. Nonetheless I missed not being present for The Sacrament of Confirmation, First Holy Communion and all the school activities. It was so odd after 38 years officiating at Easter Liturgies to be absent. While the sick parishioners were very close to me, I felt the emotion of not ministering in those situations. I know I let people down with whom I had made commitments so thank you for your understanding.

What have I missed the most? **May's** (our energetic sacristan) 80th birthday party. Why did I miss it so much? Well, I could have publicly embarrassed her and got my own back on her for all the times she caught me by surprise with sanctuary birthday wishes.

Fr. Pius and Fr. Joseph who have their own studies to attend to are most generous in giving of their time. The neighbouring parishes in the Lucan unit of parishes are most supportive and generous with their time. Fr. Joseph will be greatly missed as he has been called back to his own diocese in China at the end of the month, but he assures me that you are all welcome to visit (just don't go via Hong Kong)! He will have no problem putting you up after all - what's a few more hundred parishioners among all the indigenous millions. I look forward to returning when I am on the other side of this and who knows it may even be with an afro hairstyle Fr. John