

ST. GABRIEL'S NOTES

15th May 2016

New Growth, New Hope

What devastation we all felt last year when our beautiful Weeping Willow was blown down and looked like it could never survive. We were assured it was still alive but that seemed like a dream more in hope than reality. How great today to see all the new shoots, assuring us that our tree will return to its former glory.



How appropriate too that all this should happen for today's great feast of Pentecost, often referred to as the Birthday of the Church.

The disciples must have been wondering how it had all gone so wrong, sheltering now away from the mob and facing certain imprisonment, even death, and for what?

They had followed Jesus for years, heard him preach and watched him bring peace and joy to all who followed him. His triumphant entry into Jerusalem had been a great moment, but all that changed when he was so cruelly put to death.

He had risen from the dead and had been seen by the apostles and others. But last week he had left them, said he was going to his Father in Heaven, that he would send another who would stay with them forever.

But after a week in hiding, their despair must have been palpable. Were they even talking to each other or just bickering? Did they have any food or were they too afraid to go out? What was going to become of them?

Then in a rush of wind the Holy Spirit came upon them and entered their hearts and minds. As Jesus had promised, they instantly knew it had all been true and that the Holy Spirit would remain with them, and the whole church, for all time. Filled with a new confidence they rushed out to proclaim the good news.

Just as the new shoots on our tree have restored our confidence that it will survive, the story of Pentecost gives us new hope in the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us and lead his Church into the future.



Clontarf Camino

this Sunday from 2.30 pm

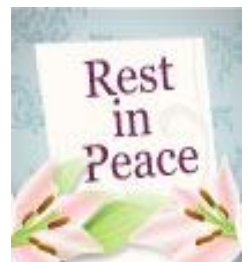
We hope to see you on our Camino this Sunday afternoon as we unite with the other Christian Churches in Clontarf to walk in a spirit of Mercy, Peace and Prayer on our third Clontarf Camino.

Start with a visit to Clontarf & Scots Presbyterian Church at 2.30pm and collect your passport. This will be stamped as you visit each of our six Churches - St. Anthony's, Clontarf Methodist, St. John the Baptist Church of Ireland Seafield Road, St. John's Catholic Church Clontarf Road, and finally St. Gabriel's. A suggested Prayer for each church is included on your passport.

Not Walking? You can still be a part of it. Come to St. Gabriel's and help to meet and greet the pilgrims, serve refreshments or stamp passports. It would be great to see you there!

Rest in Peace

We offer our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Margaret Corrigan**, Dollymount Park, whose funeral took place here on Thursday. May she rest in peace.



The confidential phone no. for the St. Vincent de Paul society is **087 2733961**