



ST. GABRIEL'S NOTES

2nd June 2019



What a Wonderful Celebration!

There are just not sufficient words to express my sincere gratitude for my 50th jubilee celebrations last weekend. It was both heart-warming and humbling to see so many crowding into the church, and later the hall and marquee, to celebrate with me. It was also great to see so many of my family and friends, and people with whom I had worked in various locations over 50 years.

The parishioners from St. Gabriel's were there in force to present me with a cheque for a staggering €13,295 along with a beautiful piece of Dublin Crystal with the inscription

"from the Parishioners of St. Gabriel's"
which I will cherish always.

As I said on Sunday, I intend to use this money to help projects in areas where I have worked. Fr. Tony Coote who replaced me in Mount Merrion has raised thousands for Motor Neurone research since his diagnosis with the disease last year, and I will be glad to help him with that.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul are always very active in Ballymun, my first parish, and I would like to help them by financing some project, perhaps to help young people in the area.

I spent eleven happy years as Chaplain in DCU and would love to be able to support a student who might otherwise be unable to access a third level education,

My years of travelling to Lourdes as chaplain to children with special needs is probably one reason why I now feel such a close bond with those who are coping with illness, infirmity or any mental or physical disability, I hope to be able to do something that will ease someone's burdens.

I have everything I need in life, and a lot more besides. I am deeply grateful for your expression of love, not just for me, but for the wonderful parish that we have in St. Gabriel's and the community spirit we all share.

Through your generosity you have given me a 'Golden' opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people who are not so fortunate, through the organisations that are best placed to help them, and I am very grateful for that opportunity.

I have literally hundreds of letters, cards, Mass cards and gifts. I deeply appreciate every one of them, and I want to personally acknowledge each one, but it is going to take a very long time. Be assured, I am most grateful and constantly remember each one of you in my prayers. I look forward to journeying with you in the years ahead, with God's help, conscious of our Parish Motto:

"With God nothing is impossible"

God bless, Fr. Pat

Presentations made to Fr. Pat on Sunday were only from the Parish, and Belgrove Boys schools, where Fr. Pat is Chaplain. Other groups, e.g. Seniors Club and Belgrove Girls are making presentations in their own time and premises.