

# Cobh Parish



Fatima Centenary Year 1917-2017

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Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

1<sup>st</sup> January 2017

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**Thought for the day:** Happy New Year and **Happy World Day of Peace 2017!** 'What resolution(s) have you made?' we might be asked! As we begin a New Year we are full of hope and confidence that we finally crack that resistance to change and take up that hobby, interest or pastime that has been eluding us - and stick with it! Perhaps diet and exercise as well.

As we begin the New Year on a Sunday on this **WORLD DAY OF PEACE** and celebrate the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, **I would ask you to consider the place of Mary in your life.** This year 2017 marks the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima, Portugal on the 13th of the month from May to October 1917 inclusive culminating in a solar miracle witnessed by 70,000 people. Our Lady asked us to pray the rosary every day for peace in the world. While Our Lady appeared in Portugal in a much different and war-torn Europe 100 years ago - a year that would see the outbreak of the October Russian revolution and the continuation of the First World War (supposedly 'the war to end all wars'), she predicted at Fatima that 'Russia will spread her errors throughout the world.' Consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart to bring about its conversion, as she requested at Fatima, was carried out by Pope John Paul II and the bishops of the world on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1984 which led to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end to communism and the Cold War in Europe.

But we are now threatened by a radical version of Islam and sporadic, unpredictable acts of terrorism as well as the wholesale persecution of Christians in Iraq and Syria, not seen since the first centuries of the Church. Paris, Brussels, Nice and Berlin are now bywords as places that have experienced terrorism attacks. *"Even today, after the second failure of another world war, perhaps one can speak of a third war, one fought piecemeal, with crimes, massacres, destruction,"* Pope Francis has said.

Our Lady can help us if we turn to her intercession. A good 2017 resolution for each of us would be (once more) to take up and adhere to the daily recitation of the rosary. We must amend our lives, do penance, pray and carry out acts of reparation and

consecrate ourselves to Her Immaculate Heart. **'Peace will come', our Lady promised, 'when a sufficient number of people do as I ask.... In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph and an era of peace will be granted to the world.'**

**Deaths:** We pay for the repose of the souls of Michael O Mahony, Philip O Neill's Place, Josie Daly, Connolly St who died this week. May they rest in peace.

**Baptisms:** We welcome into our Christian community Kevin Denehan Mellerick and all who were baptised recently.

Please note that from the end of January 2017 **the 7.00 pm Mass on the last Sunday of each month will be a Monthly Memorial Mass** for all the deceased of the previous five weeks. The first Memorial Mass will be on the **29<sup>th</sup> of January** and the names of the deceased will be called out and a special candle will be lit in honour of the deceased at the Mass. The annual remembrance Mass in November will continue to be celebrated.

**Mass Schedule this week** - Mass takes place once a day only in the Cathedral at 11.00am on weekdays from 2<sup>nd</sup> January to 5<sup>th</sup> January incl. The 6<sup>th</sup> January is a Holy Day (Epiphany of the Lord and a day of special solemnity that no funeral can take place on that day. Please note Mass times in the Cathedral on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> Jan. are 8.30am, 10.00am and 7.30pm.

**Parish Office** - will re-open on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 9.00am.

**Cathedral Shop** - will re-open on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am.

**Mass Goers Association (MGA), January 2017:** The Mission for this period 'We pray to the Holy Family for Peace in our Homes and Peace in the World for this Holy season'. Our next meeting is on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 after 10am Mass in the Parish Centre.

**Blessing of babies:** We would like to invite you to a special ceremony for the Blessing of all babies baptised in 2016. This will take place in St. Colman's Cathedral @ 3.00pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January

**Cloyne Diocesan Pilgrimage** to FATIMA- 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima: 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Departing from Dublin 7 nights. Hotel Cinqcentenario, Cost €874 inclusive, including free coach transfer to and from Dublin Airport. Single room supplement, €25 per night. For further information: Fr McCarthy 021 4815619: Pilgrimages Abroad/Lauri Duffy Travel 69 Upper Oconnell Street Dublin. (01) 635 9300 [Email:info@pilgrimagesabroad.ie](mailto:info@pilgrimagesabroad.ie)

**MASS SCHEDULE:** Fr Jim Moore has now been appointed as Priest in Residence and is no longer available for public Masses at weekends. Very soon, we need to review the Mass schedule at weekends as a result of this change to the weekend rota.

**REVIEW OF 2016: It has been another eventful and busy year in the parish.**

**Parish Pastoral Council Update:** Our Council met formally in the **New Year** for the first time and appointed Peter Daly as Chairperson and Aine Byrne as Secretary. We thank them for taking up these positions for the year.

**Mass Intentions:** In February we began all bookings of Masses in the parish through the Parish Office and this has been very well received. We thank you all for your cooperation and generosity.

**Departure of Sisters of Mercy from Whitepoint.** February saw the departure of the Sisters of Mercy, from their residence at Whitepoint Avenue. We were sorry to say our farewells to Sr Dolores who has gone to Boherbue, to Sr Margaret who has joined the community at St Marie's of the Isle, Cork, and to Sr Regina who joined the community in Charleville. Sr Ann Marie continues to reside and work in Cobh. We thank each sister for their witness and ministry down through the years in the parish and beyond. We were sorry to see them leave and we ask God's blessing on each of them as they begin a new chapter in their religious calling.

**Cathedral Pipe Organ Restoration:** Bishop William Crean officially launched the financial appeal for the Pipe Organ Restoration Fund at 7.00 pm Mass on **Divine Mercy Sunday in April**. Visiting clergy and choirs were in attendance at the Mass. There were refreshments served afterwards. **The Pipe Organ Restoration Fund** continued in earnest through the year with visiting choirs from the USA on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> raising €1015, the Nocturne concert on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November raised €1460 and the Carol Service on December 21<sup>st</sup> raised €1175 - all contributing to the Fund. For more information - and if you would like to personally contribute to the Cathedral Pipe Organ Restoration Fund - please contact Fr. McCarthy.

**YEAR OF MERCY: November** saw the successful conclusion to the **Jubilee Year of Mercy** and the closing of the Holy Door with over 800 people in attendance as well as many confessions heard that weekend. **The Cobh Parish Pastoral Council** oversaw the logistical organization of the closing ceremonies of the Year of Mercy. 20,000 bookmarks featuring three of the stained glass windows representing the Lord's mercy were accepted by visitors from all over the world throughout the Year. Thousands of people availed of the Jubilee Year indulgence through the Holy Door.

**The Cobh Parish Child Safeguarding Committee** meets quarterly in the Parish Office with Frank Donovan as Chairperson and Rose Clancy as Secretary. We thank the Committee for their ongoing work in keeping our church and parish buildings child-friendly and safe in adhering to Diocesan Safeguarding guidelines. A training day in the revised guidelines took place in May in the Parish Centre.

**New Parish Youth Choir: Sunday, 24th April** saw the launch of the new parish Youth Choir. The choir sang at the 10.00am mass that day and continues to do so for the **Monthly Family Mass**. The choir also participated in the Carol Service and at 6.00 pm Christmas Eve Mass. Thanks to Dominic Finn and to all the families involved.

**Visit of icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help - On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of April** there was a unique event - the visit of the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help - which is over 150 years old, which was on tour of all the 26 cathedrals in Ireland over a 6 week period. It arrived at 7 pm on Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> and the cathedral was open for Adoration all night. There were petition forms available to fill in intentions and those of loved ones. Confessions were heard until midnight on Thursday. There was special emphasis on Confession and veneration for the Confirmation children of the parish and the Icon also visited the Park Road Centre in a moving ceremony.

**Permanent Diaconate** – Rev Eric Cooney, a permanent deacon based in Monkstown, Dublin spoke at all Masses on the **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> of May** about the permanent diaconate.

**SUMMER CARILLON RECITALS:** Cathedral Carillonneur, Adrian Gebruers, started off the 89<sup>th</sup> Season of recitals on the Carillon of St Colman's Cathedral at 4.30 p.m. on Sunday, 1st May. Inaugurated by his father in the 1920s, this long-running musical event has become a hallmark of the harbour town unique throughout Ireland. As always, a number of guest recitalists were featured this year coming from Belgium, China, Australia, Japan and the Netherlands. The recitals are presented by the Cobh Carillon Committee and grant aided by the Cork County Council and other sponsors.

**The annual CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION** took place on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May** in the grounds of St. Joseph's National School, followed by the Corpus Christi Procession to the Cathedral. This as very well attended and we thank all involved.

**Legion Of Mary Mission** - A Mini Mission took place on Monday & Tuesday, **27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June**. Home-to-home visitations and discussion took place each night in Parish Centre from 8.30pm to 10.00pm. Topics included Mass, confession, etc. we thank the 35 volunteers who took part in the Mission

**In September** we had three visiting missionary speakers from **Aid to the Church in Need**. Parishioners donated €4,916.72 to be used towards their ongoing projects. In a follow up letter, they stated: 'Thanks for the love you are showing towards the suffering and persecuted Church around the world'.

**Tax Rebate Form:** Thank you to everyone who has returned the Tax Rebate Form to date. Any outstanding forms can be handed into the Parish Office.

**MASSES CELEBRATED IN 2016:** There are 9 public Masses on Sundays, and 3 regular daily Masses, and a weekly Mass in the hospital on Thursdays. This schedule excludes the Benedictine Priory on weekdays and the Hospital on Sundays both of which Fr Moore celebrates. The priests also offer Mass for the religious communities once a month for 10 months of the year. There were an additional **22 Wedding Masses and 62 funeral Masses** celebrated by the 4 priests of the parish at times other than scheduled Sunday or daily Masses. Some house Masses, anniversary and Month Masses were also celebrated on occasion.