

Maintenance work at St Joseph's Church and the Parish House at Hannahstown

Dear Parishioners,

You may have noticed in recent weeks that scaffolding has been erected at St Joseph's Church. This is the start of six weeks of essential maintenance work that must be done in order to protect the church and the parish house against damp. The seals on several of the double-glazed stained glass windows have broken down and need to be repaired. The concrete coping stones on the gable ends of both church and house are in danger of falling down and urgently need to be secured in order to prevent the possibility of injury or worse. In addition there will be a need in the near future to repaint and refresh the buildings both inside and out. It is estimated that this work will cost the parish in the region of £25,000.

Work done in recent years to extend St Joseph's Cemetery cost in the region of £15,000 and payment for this is outstanding.

The parish currently has a debt of around £190,000 to the Diocesan Solidarity Fund (down from £380,000 in 2006). This money was borrowed to pay for the renovation to St Joseph's Church and for the construction of the new parish houses at Hannahstown and The Rock). In addition we have an on-going obligation to maintain cemeteries and pay staff salaries. At present the parish has sufficient funds for our day-to-day expenses but, looking at the bigger picture, it simply does not have the level of income necessary to meet all our present and future financial obligations.

In recent years letters were sent to all residents in the parish requesting donations. Unfortunately there was little response to this appeal. It is for this reason that, once again, I feel that I have no choice but to appeal to your generosity. Please consider your current level of giving, (either through Envelopes or by Direct Debit) and if possible to make an increase to your Weekly Offerings and to the Parish Building Fund. Every little bit helps. With your help Hannahstown Parish will continue to be financially viable for the future.

Fr David.

Hannahstown Community Festival 29th May – 1st June 2014

Art Exhibition (4 Days)
Bric-A-Brac Sale (4 Days)

Thursday 29th May

Sponsored Walk on Divis Mountain (suitable for all ages and abilities) to raise funds for Hannahstown Community Centre. Starts 6.30pm from Divis Mountain Car Park. Refreshments afterwards in the Long Barn. Registration & Sponsorship Forms available from Hannahstown Centre 028 90 309795. Individual Participants Welcome - £5 Donation Appreciated

Friday 30th May

1pm – 5pm: Senior's T Dance with entertainment by Gerry Coogan - Home baking - Bingo/Ballots

Saturday - 31st May

9.am – 1pm: Hannahstown Breakfast & Open Top Bus Trip of Belfast & Tour of Stormont Castle. Tickets £12.50. Contact the Centre 028 90 309795

2pm – 5pm: Family Fun Day - Craft Fair - Bouncy Castle - Slide - DJ - Ice Cream - Stalls - Bar-B-Que

Sunday 1st June

11.30am: Parish Mass in St Joseph's Church (at Our Lady's Grotto - weather permitting)
Teas/Coffees

PARISH OF HANNAHSTOWN

5th Sunday Of Easter
18th May 2014



Pope Francis News

Are the divorced and remarried permitted to receive Holy Communion at Mass?

The director of the Holy See Press Office, Fr Federico Lombardi, has responded to widespread media reports about an Argentinian woman who says that Pope Francis called to tell her she could take Communion, even though her husband is divorced and they have not been married in church.

News stories recently ran conflicting reports about the woman, Jacqueline Lisbona, who had written to the Pope several months ago after being denied Communion by her parish priest. According to the reports, Fr Bergoglio, as he called himself, picked up the phone to respond to her letter on Monday and told her the Church was in the process of dealing with the issue of Communion for divorced and remarried Catholics.

In his brief remarks on Thursday, Fr Lombardi said such conversations should be seen in the context of the Pope's "personal pastoral relationships" and not as an event that carries "consequences relating to the teaching of the Church".

He said, "That which has been communicated in relation to this matter and the consequent media amplification, cannot be confirmed as reliable, and is a source of misunderstanding and confusion. Therefore, consequences relating to the teaching of the Church are not to be inferred from these occurrences."



CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - WHAT WE BELIEVE

83. What does the "Immaculate Conception of Mary" mean?

The church believes that "the most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin" (Dogma of 1854) [487-492, 508]

Belief in the Immaculate Conception has existed since the beginning of the Church. The expression is misunderstood today. It is saying the God preserved Mary from original sin from the very beginning. It says nothing about the conception of Jesus in Mary's womb. By no means is it a devaluation of sexuality in Christianity, as though a husband and wife would be "stained" if they conceived a child.