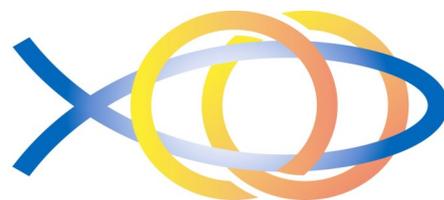




Newsletter

Teams of Our Lady

Irish Region



Equipes Notre-Dame



Pictures from virtual Regional Team Meeting held on 23rd May. Elaine and Jim Keogh, Paddy and Jacinta Quigley, Rosemarie and Brendan Gavin, Billy and Ann Hyland, Des and Mary Briody, Brendan and Moyra Bunting, Ingrid and Pdraig Lewis (Expansion Team), Stephen and Marguerite O'Neill. Liam and Eileen McKinney were in audio contact.

From the Regional Couple

Dear Friends in Teams,

As we continue in Lockdown due to the Covid-19 epidemic, the social distancing is isolating us. But in a strange way, we are experiencing how interconnected we are in our lives, communities and in the world and at least we are blessed to have such beautiful weather with us while we are finding ourselves with more time at home. We are sure many of you have stories/pictures of the positive effects of Covid-19 i.e. cooking, gardening, reading etc so why not send them in to Paddy and Jacinta for the next edition of the Newsletter/website, we would love to see them.



Newsletter Editors: Please note new email address
paddyandjacinta@gmail.com

Summer 2020

Issue 121

Inside

[Regional Chaplain](#)

[Prayer Intentions](#)

[Interview](#)

[Easter Homily:](#)
[Fr. Londoño](#)

[Annual](#)
[Contributions](#)

[Other groups in](#)
[Teams organisation](#)

[Beannacht](#)

[From Bernadette](#)

[Around the Region](#)

Ireland is known for its generosity during difficult times and it's no different during the Coronavirus pandemic. Already we are the most generous country in the world on the online fundraising platform GoFundMe. We have come out in our thousands to support campaigns including providing food for our frontline healthcare workers and donating funds in aid of charity events that were forced to cancel due to the Covid-19 crisis. It is wonderful to see people coming together to do incredible things in the face of this unprecedented situation.

Coronavirus has forced people around the world and in Ireland to change the way they live their lives; new routines and habits are emerging and community spirit has also grown. Unsurprisingly top of the list of things people say are helping them, is staying in touch with friends and family, by phone, social media or video conferencing. The video conferencing tool Zoom has seen a huge rise in its take-up. Recently we held a Regional Meeting on Zoom and it was great to link up with everyone and find out how the sectors are doing during this difficult time. Some Teams are continuing to have their Team meeting virtually on Zoom although they said 'the food was not as good!'

We would encourage all Teams where possible to try and hold Team meetings by Zoom as it is easy to do, all you need is Laptop, Android phone/tablet or an Apple iPhone/pad. A guide explaining how to hold a Zoom Team meeting is available on the Teams of Our Lady Ireland website: www.equipes-notre-dame.ie to download, on the Notice Board.

RC Weekend

Due to Covid-19 this year the usual RC weekend will not take place, instead we will be having a virtual session on Zoom. It is planned to open it up to all couples, not only those who are assuming responsibility of RC. If there are any technical experts available among you to help us organise this, we would be grateful for your assistance please. It is a work in progress so why not try out your own Team meetings on Zoom and you will be 'experts' by the time the RC Day comes around!

Wishing you all renewed gifts of the Holy Spirit and may Our Lady protect and watch over you all.

God Bless

Jim and Elaine



From the Regional Chaplain Fr. Peter Sexton sj

The strong name of the Trinity

The ongoing impact of the world-wide coronavirus has shaken us all up in ways many would be reluctant to admit – but the resulting lack of control over our lives and the uncertainty about the future raises fundamental questions about our origins and our destiny. Hopkins articulates the ultimate statement of the believer in the line: ‘Thee God I come from – to Thee go’. We recently celebrated the Feast of the Holy Trinity, and perhaps it is worth reflecting on this mystery that is the heart of our Christian faith, and the final meaning of our origin and destiny.

Everything we do as Christians we do in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Georges Bernanos wrote that ‘the only sadness is not to be a saint’ - and for a genuine saint the mystery of the Trinitarian God is so real – and for us to grow interiorly, the one way that ultimately matters, means that the same mystery becomes increasingly real for us.

But the first thing that surely must be said about God is that God is mystery, the Trinity is mystery. And mystery is not a puzzle that can ultimately be solved, like the solution to Covid19 or even cancer, but a reality that is absolutely beyond our grasp and yet a reality that we are invited to enter into. And so, in reflecting on the meaning and significance of this fundamental mystery of our lives we human beings can only give hints and images - the human grasp is so limited faced with the inexhaustible mystery of the Triune God. As Hopkins says elsewhere: ‘Past all grasp God, throned behind Death with a sovereignty that heeds but hides, bodes but abides.’ And yet we have to attempt to put some feeble words on who and what we believe in.

But how can we ever genuinely know God or even know about God? Only if God tells us – and that we call Revelation: the only authentic source is God Himself, revealed in the Word made flesh – in Christ Jesus – and He speaks of the Father and of the Spirit and of the indwelling destiny of each one of us.

The Church has a marvellous prayer in addressing a person about to leave this life, who is dying : ‘In the name of God the Almighty Father who created you; in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who suffered for you; in the name of the Holy Spirit, who was poured out upon you, go forth, faithful Christian.’

And this rich prayer reminds us how crucial is our image of God, how we think of God – how limiting and how dangerous even it can be when our thinking of and feeling about God is reduced to human terms of God as judge or policeman or even parent. *Deus semper maior* – God is always greater, infinitely greater, than any of our limited human images – and the key revelation in John’s gospel is ‘God is love’.

The name of God as revealed in Scripture and the rich Tradition of Christianity is Trinity – and this revelation is unique to Christianity. No other major religious faith – Judaism, Islam, Hinduism – identifies God in this wonderful way. And Trinity means relationship – the mysterious life of the Trinity is revealed by Jesus as Loving Relationship – God is love, but of course it is immeasurably beyond our grasp what God’s love is. And the mind-boggling Good News of the Gospel is that we, each one and all of us, is invited to share that life of the Trinity – “If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him.” (John 14, 23)

St Ignatius Loyola in the Spiritual Exercises has a striking contemplation of the Three Divine Persons looking down with compassion upon the whole expanse of the earth filled with human beings in total chaos, and decreeing in Their eternity that the Second Person should become man to save the human race.

And in sequence to the uniqueness of the Trinity to Christian faith, the Incarnation, the mystery of God becoming man, is the equally and thrillingly, beyond description, Good News peculiar to Christianity.

Some years ago, I visited the only Carthusian monastery in these islands in West Sussex – and I asked an elderly monk had he any advice to give me in preaching. He replied that if he were preaching, he would only use 4 words. I was rather taken aback as I had never even managed an introduction in 4 words. What are they? I asked. “Pray in not up”, he replied. When I asked him to unpack that a little, he said, full of delight: “Dwelling within you is the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, right within you. God is not up there at a distance, but within you, and you and so many others walk around as if that were not true!” As Pope St Leo famously said: ‘Remember your dignity, O Christian.’

So maybe we might slow down the next time we make the Sign of the Cross, and ponder the words of St Patrick’s Breastplate : ‘I bind unto myself today The strong name of the Trinity; By invocation of the same, The Three in One and One in Three; Of whom all nature hath creation, Eternal Father, Spirit, Word; Praise to the Lord of my salvation- Salvation is of Christ the Lord!

Suggestions for scripture readings:

June **John 14:1-23**
July **Galatians 5:16-25**
August **Ephesians 3:14-21**

Prayer Intentions

For those who have died:

The mother of Fr. John Egan, chaplain, team in piloting
Fr. Philip O’Driscoll, Blackrock, former Teams chaplain
Mary Murphy, mother of Jeanette O’Carroll, team 34
Pat Clenaghan, brother of Michael, Belfast
Pauline Cassidy, sister of Fr. Gerry, Belfast
Bro. Augustine, Camillian Community, Mullingar

For those who are ill:

Lynn Jordan, Belfast
Two nieces and a sister of Michael Flanagan, Belfast
Eddie Lloyd, Galway

International Interview

Ilaria Furlan continues her series of interviews with teams couples in other countries



We are Luisa (30) and Tiago(33). We were born in Porto, where we lived until moving to Lisbon for professional reasons. We met because our sisters attended the same college and became friends and conspired for us to meet! We both graduated in management/economics studies. We got married in 2014 and we have two girls Maria do Carmo and Teresa (2).

How did you meet Teams?

Both of us grew in Catholic families and had Catholic friends, and although we did not have direct contact with the Teams we sort of grew up with the knowledge that Catholic Couples had the possibility to join a movement that would help them in their joint spiritual and family life.

A few months before getting married, a work friend of Luisa's said he was joining a team and challenged us to go along, once we got married. We were fortunate to have a team destined for us before we got married! We know that many couples that join the Equipes de Notre Dame were part of the "young people" part of the movement - "Equipes Jeunes de Notre Dame" when they were younger (late teens and early twenties). It is a great way of being introduced to the movement and also having an adult example of a couple that belongs to the Teams.

How long have you been in Teams?

We got married in August 2014 and our first team meeting was in September 2014. In early 2016 we had our joint "commitment" to the Movement.

How are new teams formed in Portugal?

Usually a couple interested in joining reaches out to the Secretariat that compiles all the people interested in starting a team, and creates groups that tend to be homogenous in terms of location and age bracket. Many parish priests also recommend to their young or recent couples to think about joining a Team, and as such are directed by the Parish to the Movement organisation, or, in case the Parish has a lot of people in the same situation, there are new teams being created from a single Parish.

How is a meeting structured? What is the role of the priest/couples? How do you choose your study topic?

We are aware that many teams follow different structures in their meeting but we tended to follow the initial proposal that was designed by the movement: we start with a dinner, then move to the meeting itself
1) initial prayer, meditation of the gospel or another theme-linked text
2) Discussing and sharing our reflections on the topic
3) Sharing our "Endeavours"
4) Sharing our personal updates since the last meeting
5) Final prayers.

We have a yearly vote to either follow the study topic of the year proposed by END or develop our own (and list out the different sessions we will have along the year). We rotate the couple responsible to organise each session (in each turn, the couple offers dinner and prepares the topic, sending questions and reflections in advance), that takes place once a month in a weekday at 20h30 (weekends are more difficult to schedule because there's always someone travelling or with family plans).

There is a couple each year that oversees the organisation of the sessions and the priest is always consulted in each session preparation. The priest is essential to keep a more "prayer-oriented mood" in the session and also to serve a more theological view on the topics being reflected. He is our "compass" in the discussions and always has an insightful contribution to our sometimes very worldly views.

The meeting starts at 20h30 for dinner and usually ends at around midnight.

Can you tell us about your experience in Teams? What do you think is unique in Teams? What are your struggles as team-members?

Our experience has been great because it combines the deepening of our faith as a couple with getting to know families that have similar struggles and challenges. It is not a "self-help group" because it roots in something deeper, something that can make families endure even under the most adverse circumstances. It is unique in the sense that it brings married life to the center of the reflection on how we live our faith. In regards to changes, we as a group always joke that we are the ones that are always needing to improve and dedicate more to this joint path, but our busy days combining work, child rearing, home chores etc. sometimes leaves little time to pray, reflect and be together as a team.

Is Team helping your faith journey as individuals and couples? How has being part of Teams changed your married life?

Our married life has fortunately coincided with belonging with a Team, but it has helped greatly in knowing when to stop and talk or pray together to solve our issues and attritions, that naturally occur in a relationship but which could otherwise damage our marriage over the long term if left unattended. It has given us the important perception that a marriage is a very strong and important bond but that needs to be carefully tended to as the most delicate flower. As Catholics that grew believing in the permanency of Matrimony, we could fall in the temptation of thinking that "marriage is for life no matter what, so it is not important how I treat it and how I treat the other" which could not be farther from the truth and from what Christ wants us to.

How does being part of Teams have an impact on your monthly lives? What do you do between meetings as a couple and with the other couples?

The fact that we have monthly meetings, with topics that we need to prepare and that challenge us to reflect, has a profound impact on our daily lives, which would go on in the "regular pace of the mundane" forever if not challenged.

Moreover, the daily "endeavours" despite sometimes not entirely fulfilled, are also a great way of having Christ more present in our lives.

As a team, we also find other ways of connecting and being together. We have a WhatsApp group where we exchange ideas and sometimes just talk, and we many times attend each other's festivities (birthdays, baptisms, etc.)

How does your base team connect to the sector/regional team? What are your connections of your Team to the wider Movement (regional/international)? And are you involved in other Christian groups or in the Parish, either as Teams members or as individuals?

We are not currently involved in other Christian groups or in the Parish. For many years before starting our professional lives, each one of us individually was involved in several other groups and movements, namely Opus Dei's activities for young people, that we first attended as young boy and girl and later as instructors to the youngsters. As a matter of example, Tiago was a church school instructor for several years and Luísa used to volunteer in summer camps for kids in disadvantaged rural villages in Portugal.

In respect to a personalised connection between our team and the sector/regional team, it should happen a couple of times per year. We do receive regular communications from those teams though, either inviting for the sector or regional level activities or sharing any kind of news and updates about the movement/region/sector.

Which kind of activities are organised at sector level during the year (Mass / Retreat / Outing)? Any interesting idea to share?

Our sector usually organises events on the main Catholic festivities throughout the year: advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter (usually lectures, meditations, rosary and confessions). There is also a sector's mass every first Saturday of the month and several retreats during the year. Every May for the last three years (at least that we remember) our sector organised a serenade to Our Lady at a beautiful public park in Lisbon. Teams families get together in the park and play and sing several songs to Our Lady. Choosing a public place to do so helps us as families and as a movement to open ourselves and share our Faith with whoever is passing by and enjoying the park.

How is Teams in Portugal? Are there young couples? How are families with children supported to participate to Teams?

According to some statistics we found at Team's Portuguese chapter website, by the end of 2017 there were in Portugal 178 new teams (made up of 1207 couples) going through their piloting stage and 268 teams (1776 couples) with less than 5 years of existence. New teams are usually made up of young couples so we believe these figures show that there is a relatively good share of young couples in Teams Portugal. The fact that there is a very strong Youth Teams of Our Lady movement in Portugal is thought to be an important driver.

Teams' national and regional events usually provide baby-sitting services. In respect to the monthly team meetings we believe each team has its own dynamics and rules, but the common understanding would be that children don't go to the monthly meetings so that couples can focus and take full advantage of the meeting.



Easter Homily

Fr. Ricardo Londoño

On Easter Sunday, Fr. Ricardo Londoño, Spiritual Counsellor to the International Leading Team (ERI) celebrated mass at his home in Bogota, Colombia. It was broadcast on YouTube . We give below the translation of his homily.

The Lord Jesus is risen. Hallelujah! Today is a day of joy and celebration.

It seems difficult to proclaim this expression. It is complex to shout today about the joy of the Risen One. The world appears to be confused, anguished, despairing. And yet, we believers say today, Happy Easter! We speak of joy and happiness; we speak of light and hope, we say we believe in Life.

It is true that there are fears, there are apprehensions, there are anxieties. It is true that sickness surrounds us and death knocks at the door near us. And, in spite of that, we still believe, we still trust, we still hope.

What does it mean for us today to celebrate the triumph of Jesus over death? What value can the good news of the resurrection have at this point in time? What meaning can we give to what humanity is living today? Already last Friday, Father Cantalamessa offered us a beautiful and profound meditation and a path of response. How good it is that we are going again to that beautiful text. It should be a paschal meditation for all of us.

We have lived a holy week different from all those we have experienced in the course of our lives. It is true that we have not been physically close to other people. Nevertheless, there is a general feeling that rarely have we lived so intensely our times of prayer, reflection, meditation and contemplation of the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection.

We have shared innumerable texts, images, videos, moments of prayer, meetings and common prayers. We have united, in front of our screens, with countless believers from all parts of the world to join what appeared to be the solitary celebrations of Pope Francis. We were moved by the austerity, the silence and the indescribable and sublime beauty of these profound ceremonies.

It has been a time of Grace and Mercy. We have been able, in the calm and tranquillity of our homes, to give meaning to these few days that have allowed us to live and celebrate our faith in Christ

in another environment and under other conditions.

Together with all that has happened and all that reaches us through the wonderful and blessed means of communication, through technology and applied knowledge, we have also been able to admire the intense sense of solidarity and service of so many people. We think especially of those in health centres, hospitals and clinics, who dedicate themselves in solidarity to accompany the sick, console the suffering, and give the best possible service, in the midst of chaos and confusion, helplessness, and a massive demand for attention. Health care workers have become the compassionate and merciful presence of God to those who need it.

And, together with them, there are also the silent servants: the farmers who harvest and allow the food to reach the tables; the transporters, the intermediaries – not always so supportive, it is true – but who allow us to still have the means of sustenance and nutrition, and many other things that we require in these times.

Communication workers also deserve recognition. We have never been more informed – at times, perhaps, too informed – and we have never been exposed to such a multitude of images, that enable us to share the pains and worries of others. All this, in the midst of our faith celebrations.

Therefore, as we share now this Easter Eucharist, let us allow the Lord to enlighten, encourage and help us in our lives and our circumstances.

We have heard the Word of God, written and proclaimed, to nourish our spirit and illuminate the path we are walking. Jesus, who being of divine nature, took on the condition of mankind. He was despised, humiliated and martyred. He has shared in pain and death. He has been buried and has now reached the reality of that destiny which has little appeal to the living on earth. But God has led him to the fullness of existence and has shown, by resurrecting him, that this life lived in love, solidarity and service is a life full of meaning.

At the beginning of the apostolic preaching of the good news, as it moved from the original Judaism towards new realities and contexts, Peter does not hesitate to affirm the certainty that Jesus, the Christ, is alive and risen. This is their first and fundamental proclamation: that God has raised Jesus and that he, the Risen One, is alive and active. Our faith is born there and from there our hope is nourished. Mankind reaches his definitive vocation and destiny: he has become totally like God. He participates in the same eternal existence.

We could continue to meditate, but I prefer to invite you to continue, in the days that follow, with reflection and contemplation. So that it may be the Risen Lord who will inspire new ways of living and relating, of sharing and of looking at what is truly worthwhile.

Let us not lose hope. The Risen One is with us and is on our side. Amen

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

As you know we are encouraged to give, where possible, one day's pay or whatever you can afford.

Contributions this year may be sent to us at:

19 Rockhill Avenue, Salthill, Galway. (091 528409)

If you wish to pay directly to the Teams Bank Account, the details are:

IBAN: IE94 AIBK 9334 5710 2411 80

BIC: AIBKIE2D

BRANCH ADDRESS: 9 Terenure Rd., Rathgar, Dublin 6.

Please include narrative identifying yourself and your team.

Please do not send cash in the post.

God bless,

Billy and Ann Hyland

Other Groups within the Teams of Our Lady organisation

John Healy Team 34

Did you know there is a lot more to teams than we have seen here in Ireland, married couples meeting, sharing and praying together? We are all familiar with our teams and the organisation behind us in Ireland and across the world. As well as the traditional teams there are a number of other groups under the Equipes Notre-Dame banner. These are Youth Teams of Our Lady (YTOL), Tandem and Reliance Teams. These three groups are aimed at people in different stages of life. Let me expand a bit on each of these and what they each offer. The Dublin sector is looking at each of these to see if there is a role for these groups in Ireland.

Youth Teams of Our Lady (YTOL)

Founded in 1976 Youth Teams of Our Lady is a Catholic youth movement. Young single people between the ages of 18 and 30, can get together to pray and deepen their faith. The group organises team meetings and retreats.

A YTOL team is made up of 5 to 12 young people accompanied by a spiritual advisor and an accompanying couple. The team is a place of sharing and listening in mutual trust, it is a way to discover the Love of God and to live in the Church. It is a community where everyone is committed and becomes responsible for its progression. The members of YTOL can be a diverse group with different spiritual experience and levels of faith, different backgrounds and interests. Because of their age and their single status, they are at a time in their life when important directions are to be taken. YTOL helps and supports them in this journey. As the organisation stems from Equipes-Notre Dame YTOL uses the methods and spirituality developed by Fr. Caffarel to allow people to respond to the call to holiness.

Tandem

Started around 2005 Tandem is aimed at recently married couples, engaged couples and couples living together outside marriage. It is for Catholic couples, other faiths and those of no faith but is given in a Christian light. Tandem is a course of monthly meetings held over two years.

The first years of a relationship is a vital and delicate period during which couples become more aware of the challenges and the meaning of marriage. The tandem course helps couples to navigate this time alongside others in a similar situation and guided by a more experienced couple.

The course covers 22 topics including:

- listening
- money
- in-laws
- religion and me
- tenderness and sexuality
- forgiveness in couples
- my work, yours..and us?

It is a journey that brings together young couples who want to reflect, with others, on the various aspects of their daily life and on the meaning of their life, in the desire to reconnect with a life of faith and further commitment.

Before the meeting, each couple is invited to reflect, individually and then as a couple, on the chosen theme, using the framework offered by the course. The meeting then is an opportunity for discussion and sharing between the couples of the team on the chosen theme. In a climate of trust, team members enrich each other in both their human and spiritual lives.

Each Tandem team is made up of 3 to 4 couples married or not, practicing or not, who want to build their couple relationship over time and want to think about how to work together. They are accompanied by a more experienced Christian couple and, if possible, a chaplain.

To quote one couple who took part “The Tandem journey allowed us to get to know each other better, to talk about subjects that we dared not approach for fear of hurting the other, to learn from the experiences of others and to feel less alone.”

Reliance

Reliance Teams are teams of divorced-remarried Christian couples who want to live and grow in their faith in Christ, as a couple and as a team.

In Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris Consortio*, n.84 Pope John Paul II said “*I earnestly call upon pastors and the whole community of the faithful to help the divorced, and with solicitous care to make sure that they do not consider themselves as separated from the Church, for as baptised persons they can, and indeed must, share in her life.*” Based on this and other teachings of the Pope, Reliance Teams was founded and sponsored by Equipes Notre-Dame.

Many “divorced-remarried” couples suffer from a real or perceived separation from the Church. They may not know of the proposals which are addressed to them. Reliance Teams is a concrete way for these couples to be welcomed in the Church.

Reliance Teams follow the same structure as Teams of Our Lady, 4-5 couples with a chaplain. In addition there is an accompanying couple, who are members of Teams of Our Lady. The accompanying couple provides a link to Equipes Notre-Dame. The accompanying couple are a part of the team in the same way as the other couples.

Reliance Teams offer an approach to living a new union in faith after divorce. The goal is to provide mutual support and growth in a Christian life, while taking into account the specifics of their situation and the absence of a sacramental dimension in their new union.

Beannacht / Blessing

John O'Donoghue

Transworld Publishing 2010

On those days when
the weight deadens
on your shoulders
and you stumble
may the clay dance to balance you.

And when your eyes
freeze behind
the grey window
and the ghost of loss
gets into you,
may a flock of colours
indigo, red, green
and azure blue
come to awaken in you
a meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays
in the currach of thought
and a stain of ocean
blackens beneath you
may there come across the waters
a path of yellow moonlight
to bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours
may the fluency of the ocean be yours
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow
wind work these words
of love around you
an invisible cloak
to mind your life.

From Bernadette Blayney

John always had a deep personal faith, and love of God.

After a retreat a French priest, Father de Lavalette s.j. told us about Equipes Notre-Dame. We were very interested to deepen our faith in our married life; the discipline of the Teams appealed to us and helped us to grow very close to each other and to God. John used to joke “I wish I could pray as well as I play tennis”.

We never failed in all his last years to say the Magnificat and a rosary – so grateful for our love.

Thank you Teams and all the members.

Mass was celebrated for the second anniversary of John’s death, 17th June, at Glenstal church. It was streamed on the church webcam.

Around the Region

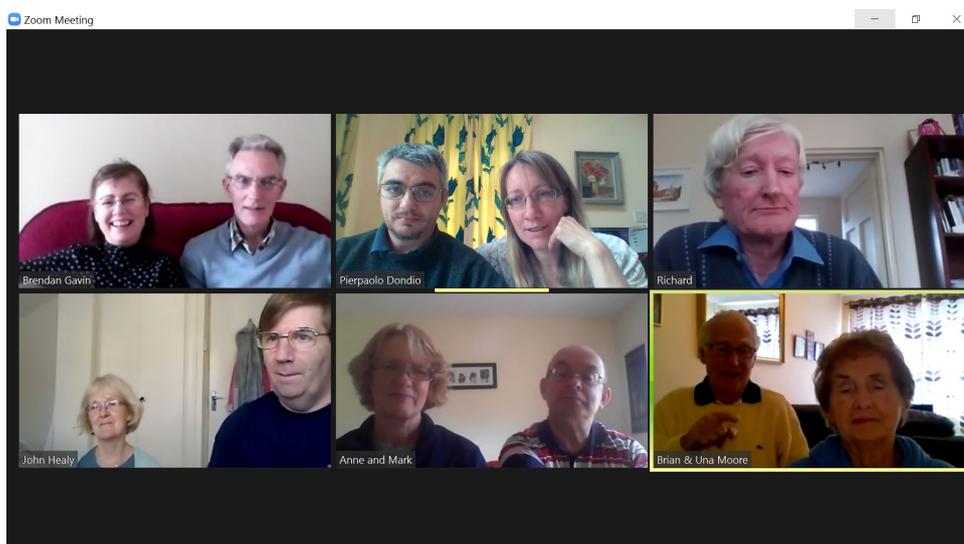
Dublin

We have been meeting on Zoom like lots of you. It was lovely to hear through liaising with you how many teams have managed to keep meeting on Zoom or other methods. We have not got much to share with you as everything had to be cancelled due to Covid 19.

Rosemarie and Brendan have been in contact with other organisations who support marriage, Marriage Encounter, Accord and Retrovaille with a view to finding out how we can help each other. This contact is ongoing through Zoom.

We are keeping you all in our prayers and looking forward to meeting you at our next gathering, hopefully sooner rather than later.

Brian and Una Moore



Dublin Sector team on Zoom, Brendan and Rosemarie Gavin, Pierpaolo Dondio and Ilaria Furlan, Fr. Richard Sheehy, Bernie and John Healy, Anne and Mark O’Leary, Brian and Una Moore

Belfast

Like everyone, teams members are on lockdown at present and are keeping a low profile.

Belfast 1 have had two meetings on Skype. The other two teams keep in touch with each other but have not had any meetings since March.

Lynn Jordan of Belfast 2 had kidney transplant surgery and is recovering well. We ask for prayers for a full recovery.

Prayers are asked for two sisters and a niece of Michael Flanagan, who are ill.

Michael Clenaghan's brother, Pat died in February.

Fr. Gerry Cassidy's sister, Pauline Cassidy died of Covid 19. Again we ask for prayers.

God bless,

Liam and Eileen McKinney

Mullingar

We in Team 3 had a get-together via Zoom (very strange) but we all enjoyed seeing each other on screen at least in these weird times. It was really nice to pray together and to thank God for keeping us all safe and well.

Our thanks to Elaine and Jim, Mary and Des for keeping us all united in tuning into the various Masses offered with Teams in mind, and indeed our thanks to our own chaplain Fr. Frank for thinking of us all while celebrating daily Mass at St Camillus Nursing Centre.

Our heartfelt sympathy to Fr Frank and the Camillian Community on the death of Bro. Augustine, may his gentle soul rest in peace.

Congratulations to Bishop Emeritus Michael Smith who recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

Pauline and Richard Sheridan

Galway

Greetings from Galway. Our couples have been cocooning, which means no Team Meetings. However, we have been meeting informally as the law provides. We were very impressed by the Mass on 7th June from Portlaoise Parish. This was the Feast of the Holy Trinity and there was a special mention of the Teams of Our Lady by the celebrant priest. The Priest, as he told us, had recently become involved in our movement. In attempting to explain the Trinity he mentioned that the mutual love between the Father and the Son was key. The Holy Spirit, he mentioned, is the energy of this relationship. What was of interest to us married couples was the parallel he made between the love of husband and wife and the Trinity. In our case the energy of our love can extend to family and the wider community. We are thankful for this reminder from the Portlaoise mass.

One of the graces of our lockdown was that we had time to listen to daily mass on RTENews Now or on EWTN network. One of the interesting matters from the Mass was the readings from the Acts of the Apostles. This was the scripture reading for a number of weeks. It was interesting to hear the struggles, the success and difficulties of the early church communities. In particular it was good to hear the role a married couple (Priscilla and Aquila) had in helping St Paul to spread the Good News.

A new word in our vocabulary is “Zoom”. This is a great invention which enables us to stay in touch with family and friends especially in this time of lockdown. Croi Nua (a retreat centre in Galway) have organised a weekly reflection on scripture. Anne & Peter Costello of Team 2 have reported enthusiastically on this initiative.

Zoom again was organised by Team 1 to have an actual Team Meeting using this facility. The Team couples gathered around their respective computers and prayed, had a scripture reading and sharing. So the Holy Spirit is alive and inventive in Galway!!

Please continue to pray for Eddie Lloyd who is in a Nursing Home.

Jack and Anne Hutchinson

Newsletter Editors: Paddy and Jacinta Quigley

paddyandjacinta@gmail.com

Please note new email address

We would like to receive contributions for the Autumn Newsletter by 1st September
