

Update April 2009

www.saoirsedublin.com

Hi there! Hope that you are well. It has been some months since we had a proper *Saoirse* newsletter (apologies for the silence). Much has been happening, lots to be thankful for and so lots to bring you up to date on.

Since Christmas, our emphasis has increasingly been shifting towards bringing more public awareness that we exist. Since last May, we have been gathering any who feel they want to be part of the *Saoirse* family (between 25 and 30 adults and around 20 children) to discover who we are and what God has asked us to be. This phase has been really important and full of genuine fun and excitement as we have got to know one another and got to know God better. The metaphor we have been using is of a seed being sown and in the beginning all of the important activity happening underground where it is not seen.

Now we want to break above the surface and produce fruit! Our objective for this season is simply to let people know we exist by serving the local community. As a group we felt strongly that God was leading us to not move into the city centre for now, but to focus ourselves around the Castleknock area and the communities that we live in. Also, we have felt from the beginning that our identity as a community must be primarily about the quality of our relationships with Jesus. If we get this right then everything else, in terms of our 'doing' and 'activity', will flow naturally. This is why we haven't gone for big public launch meetings. Instead, if we can love and serve a few within our local community from the deposit that Jesus has loved and served us with, then we will be excited, contented and free from burnout!

Read on to find out more about some of the things that have been happening during this phase:

Much love, Chris

St Patrick's Children's Party



On Sunday 15th March, we invited the local community to a St Patrick's party at the hotel where we meet. With a green theme running throughout the afternoon, it was 2 hours packed with fun, messy games,

loads of energy and excitement. We saw about 15 guests and their parents join in, some of them staying for coffee (and the very brave ones even joining in!) Thanks to Malini and Clare who led the afternoon; we couldn't have done it without you! Check out the [website](#) for photos and incriminating evidence!!

St Patrick's Day assault on Sugar Loaf Mountain

On St Patrick's Day we thought it would be a good idea to climb the Sugar Loaf! (the one outside Dublin not in the USA!). You'll see from the pictures that we had great weather, fantastic views



from the top and a special atmosphere. Everyone came away saying what a great day, can we do it again? It was great having friends and guests (some from the children's party) with us. Again, check out the [website](#) for photos.

Bread

Church is the word we use to describe people who are primarily, 'gathered to Jesus', in the way they have chosen to live their lives. In this sense, church is not about a building or about a meeting. However, we do believe it is important to gather together regularly. What is vital is that this does not become the notion of what church is. Our gatherings, meetings and buildings flow out of the fact that we are already church together. (The acid test is, if you took away the buildings or public meetings, would there still be community and church?).

Our regular gatherings are on Sunday afternoons at 3pm, at the Castleknock Hotel. We call it *Bread* after a very specific prophetic word that directed us to meet in the first place. We've been meeting every week since February, and have continued to know a tangible sense of God amongst us every time we gather.

Good Friday Treasure Hunt

If you've seen the film 'National Treasure' and fancy yourself as a Nicholas Cage or even an Indiana Jones wannabe, then don't miss our treasure hunt on Friday 10th April. It is going to be a car-based treasure hunt for all the family, starting from the visitor centre. Please sign up on the website to enter your car, and even if you

Children's Group

Bernadette van Wyk reports:

"What an exciting day Sunday 8th March was for our children, and for the rest of us! It was the first time that our new group for children aged 5-10 gathered.

We had double the number of children we expected and 'improvise' was the key word for the day. It reminded me of the proverb: "In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps". It's exciting to see the *Saoirse* family growing as we step into new areas of ministry.



We had a lot of fun with the children and we would love to get feedback from the parents. At the moment all children within this age range are in one group but the plan is to

multiply them into a junior and senior group soon. We want to encourage you to talk to your children about the times together and to encourage them to apply it in their lives.

We will be sending out newsletters throughout the course of the year, to keep parents up to date on what is happening within these times. We will be explaining upcoming events, focus of the lessons and special activities.

Heads up: The main focus for the next few weeks will be the Easter theme (Jesus' death, resurrection and pouring out of the Holy Spirit). We are then planning on spending some weeks discovering the love that God has for us.

Thank you to everyone who made this first time so special."

don't have wheels, you can still join in. We have booked out the upper floor at the visitor's centre tea shop for afterwards, where we will announce the winners and award prizes from our art competition. See [website](#) for info.

Easter Day Launch

We are looking forward to Easter Sunday afternoon as the line that we draw in the 'spiritual sand' to say, "We are here! God bless us and stay with us as we step into everything you have lined up for us". We would love to see you if you are able to join us at 3pm, at the Castleknock Hotel. Tea and coffee served at 3pm and afterwards.

Ceilidh 25th April

Calling everyone; from those with dancing feet and a sense of rhythm, to those who are challenged in the dancing and music department but are in need of a good time with friends!

We are having a Ceilidh on 25th April with a guest band and caller, so bring your friends. Time and venue will be confirmed soon, so keep an eye on the website.

Art Competition

We want to see your creative side!

We are running an art competition for anyone who wants to present to us what Easter or St Patrick means to you. You can choose any medium you like but entries do need to be in soon. All the details are on our [website](#). Prizes will be awarded at our treasure hunt on Good Friday, 10th April

Prayer points

You may be receiving this newsletter as someone who is not part of the *Saoirse* family but who wants to support us from afar. Please pray for us. Don't just say you will but do it. It has impact! Ask God for:

- **Presence.** His continued presence & power amongst us & for ears to hear Him & follow.
- **Community.** Continued unity & sense of community amongst the emerging *Saoirse* family.
- **Discipleship.** Honesty and growth in us as individuals so we become more like Jesus.
- **Mission.** That this life in us, would show, like light or salt or yeast!

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