

SAINT PHILOMENA'S PARISH

PALMERSTOWN DUBLIN 20

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2 February 2018

RE: PALMERSTOWN PARISH CENTRE IN CRISIS

Dear Parishioners

It is with a heavy heart that I have to announce that our Parish Centre is in crisis and will have to close in the coming weeks.

It is a very busy Parish Centre. The daily users of the Parish Centre are :-

- Day Care Centre - the Day Care provides meals for elderly people within our community. It offers clients the option to come into the Dining Room of the Parish Centre to have their meals or a "Meals on Wheels" delivery service (approximately 400 meals a week).
- Palmerstown Active Retirement Association conduct activities five days a week for the retired members of our community – ballroom dancing, indoor bowls, exercise classes, a choir and art classes.
- Naíonra Thír na nÓg – Irish pre-school.
- Yvonne's Montessori School - English pre-school.

Other groups include Palmerstown Boxing Youth Club, AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), Palmerstown Camera Club, Shauna Walshe Fitness Class, Waterstown Warriors Walking Club and Paw Perfection – Dog Grooming Classes.

Given the age and condition of the building, maintenance has been an ongoing problem. Following inspection by Tusla of the Montessori and Naíonra schools, Consultants engaged by the Archdiocese have reported that the Fire Alarm System, Emergency Lighting and fire safety in general does not meet the required standards for a building used by the public.

The cost of bringing the premises up to the required standards is beyond the resources of the parish. In the absence of available funds, there is no option but to close as remaining open breaches the law governing Fire Regulations and Health & Safety.

The only way to avoid permanent closure is to find the necessary funding, which is quite substantial, in the near future. We are appealing for your assistance and input.

A public meeting has been arranged for Thursday, 8 February 2018, at 7.30pm in St Philomena's Church and we look forward to seeing you there. Please note representatives from the Archdiocese will also be in attendance.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Reilly', written in a cursive style.

Canon Tony Reilly PP