

**A Word from Fr Jim**

What an amazing and unexpected moment we had at Sunday Mass when poet

 John F. Deane arrived unexpectedly and recited his new anti-war poem

 “The Longest Night” an unforgettable experience.

 This weekend on behalf of Balally Parish Council, Pasquale will propose a new

 Ministry, “Friends of Simpson Hospital”. Could the Lord be calling you to befriend somebody?

 in Simpsons Nursing Home, Dundrum. Nursing Homes can be lovely places and also

 places of deep encounter and friendship. I will never forget over 20 years of weekly visits

 (every Wednesday) with our 20 young people to St Mary’s Hospital, Phoenix Park.

 Beautiful, unforgettable moments.

Our Parish Mission invites us to Build Hope through Meditation and Service. Service is an

 integral part of our life together and we have a lot going on.

 Years of loving care by the Society of St Vincent de Paul in Balally.

The ongoing work of BEG for environmental justice and care of the earth

 The collection of gifts for Ukraine organised by Pasquale in Advent ‘22.

 The collection of gifts, in conjunction with Taney Parish for the homeless and refugees in Advent 23’.

 The Charlie Bird walk in Ballawley Park to raise funds with Charlie for MS and Pieta.

 Participation in “Darkness into Light” Marley Park for Pieta, May ‘23.

Working with Taney Parish and the Dundrum Partnership for funds to help rebuild

 Children’s hospital in Gaza.

 We supported the weekly Lunch for Gaza in Holy Cross Dundrum this raised over 5k.

 Children from Queen of Angels and some adults sang in Simpsons before Christmas ‘23 and

 St Olaf’s 6th Class sang Carols around the streets.

 Friends of Simpson’s will build on these initiatives. You will get more possibilities in the near

 future like, letter writing to prisoners, Darkness into Light again, a welcome letter to our friends behind the walls of the old asylum in Dundrum and a homeless pilgrimage. It’s good to raise money, better to make friends. We can build hope through a good meditation, a meditation which leads to service, just like Jesus who washes feet and is risen, Alleluia.

   **With my Love & Blessing**

 **Fr Jim.**