

BALLINA

CENTRE OF MISSION

April 2019



Emma Rodrigues and Marian Edwards

Hi everyone...

As Church Army states in its vision... *"We are catalysts, strengthening lives and communities, we do not shy from the gospel because we believe it changes lives"*

3 years- The centre of mission is 3 years old since the 1st of April. We have a lot to thank God for in this time.

The Bus- Every weekend the Bus is parked, in Tesco's car park on Saturday and Sunday nights. As there is not much for teenagers to do at the weekends, many young people come to the bus for chat and hot chocolate. We also have several older men, who visit. They are farmers, single men and live alone. They come for tea, coffee, chat and prayer and we have built up friendships with them over time.

The Bus also visits various housing estates in the town, Mill View Estate and Greenhills where we run Kid's Clubs. This involves Bible stories, songs, prayer and games. We have also visited Tirawley Park, to connect with people in that housing estate.

The Bus has also been part of several community events in Ballina. We recently took part in a St Patricks day event and we will be involved in an Easter event this weekend. We hope to be involved in the Ballina Salmon festival in July. These events are centred in the heart of the town and we engage with families, through face-painting, arts, crafts and conversation.

CLUB AT ST. PATRICK'S ESTATE - We recently started a 'tweenies' youth club, along with Fr. Liam and a local man from the community. At present, we are running a pool tournament and plan to expand the activities in the future (futsal/soccer, trips etc.)

The NUA Course- We have just concluded this course. Through this series, we explored questions of faith, acknowledged doubts and offered a fresh perspective on the Christian faith. In a relaxed space, the group engaged with questions about faith through the film series and at time lively discussion. In the forthcoming weeks, we plan to continue our journey and explore more

through Church Army's free on-line resource - Why On Earth? One of the most important aspects of the group meeting, is that it creates a sense of community and belonging for those who gather.

Alpha Course- We are organising an alpha course, starting in September. This will be open to all the churches and the local community.

Prayer and Bible studies- We run a Bible study on Tuesdays for those who want to go deeper and learn about the Bible and we run a prayer group most Friday evenings.

Irish Bishops drugs initiative: We recently invited the Co ordinator of the Irish Bishops drugs initiative to give a seminar on the challenges facing our young people in relation to drugs and the misuse of alcohol. He will also be doing classes with TY students and training us in how to deliver seminars in the local primary schools.

Syrian refugees- We are helping several Syrian refugees in Ballina through English classes and helping them integrate into the local community.

Church Army training: Both Marian and I are continuing our training in Church Army I(Emma) will finish this July 2019. Marian is almost finished her 2nd year and has another two years of training.

Prayers

Please pray for...

- For continued vision and how we should use the Bus
- For more volunteers and drivers
- For continued protection for all of us.
- God's direction and wisdom as we develop this project more.

Financial Support

If you would like to make a regular or one-off gift to support this work please complete and return the form below or visit churcharmy.org/donate

We don't take your support for granted, so thank you so much for standing with us. We want to pray for you so please let us know how we can, by emailing emma.rodriques@churcharmy.org

Thank you!

Emma and Marian



Patron
HM The Queen
President
The Rt Revd & Rt Hon
Lord Williams of Oystermouth
Chief Executive
Canon Mark Russell

Registered office: Wilson Carlile Centre, 50 Cavendish Street, Sheffield S3 7RZ.
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