



*The Miscarriage Association*

OF IRELAND

Carmichael Centre, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.

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Registered Charity Number CHY9738



WINTER 2007/08

# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome

*On behalf of the Committee of the Miscarriage Association of Ireland, I would like to welcome you all to our winter edition, especially those of you, who are reading our newsletter for the very first time.*

*This time of year can be very difficult. November is the time when we remember those who have gone before us. This is hard for anyone who has lost a loved one or family member but it is particularly hard if you are grieving the loss of your baby.*

*Miscarriage is a silent loss for so many, almost a family secret. Future hopes and dreams are smashed. It is at times like this that we can get lost in a sense of hopelessness. The Miscarriage Association exists to fulfill a need. With 50 miscarriages a day in Ireland, there is a huge need for support. Remember that there is help available and a listening ear at the other end of the telephone. Our website is invaluable and will give you information about latest news and events.*

*We are all volunteers who have a common bond and have come together because of a common need.*

*Our committee is a dedicated team, supporting each other through the good and bad times.*

*Lasting friendships have developed and there is a mutual feeling of trust and respect.*

*During October, on Monday 15th we acknowledged International Baby Loss Awareness Day with an Information Evening with Medical Professionals. We hope this was a source of comfort and support.*

*In November, on Sunday 11th, we will be holding our Annual Service of Remembrance and would like to extend a warm welcome to you all. I wish you peace, comfort and strength at this time.*

*Remember, "You are not alone".*

**June O'Toole, Chairperson**

**Winter 2007/8**

## Service of Remembrance

**Date:** Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2007

**Time:** 3pm

**Location:** St Theresa's Church,  
Donore Avenue,  
South Circular Road,  
Dublin 8

*Our Annual Service of Remembrance is a non-denominational service. All are very welcome to attend whether parents, children, grandparents, families or friends. This is always a very special and meaningful day and a big event in our annual calendar. The Service is a time for remembering the precious babies that we have lost.*

## Holles Street Service of Remembrance – Sunday, 2nd September 2007

*Angela Grace and I were among several hundred people who attended the above Service of Remembrance held in the Church of St. Andrew, Westland Row. It was a very moving and meaningful service and it was an honour and a privilege to be present. The beautiful music added to the mood. Although sad, it allowed us share special moments with our babies who were a definite part of our lives, even for a short time.*

*A Service like this can help us on our journey towards healing. I don't believe we ever "get over" the loss of a child but in time, we learn how to cope and come to terms with our loss.*

*Great admiration must go to the staff of Holles Street Hospital for being so caring and for organising such a beautiful Service.*

*We must remember that we are not alone, whatever our problem, burden or loss.*

**June O'Toole**  
September 2007.

## *Baby Loss Awareness Day – 15 October 2007*

*On Monday the 15th October, we commemorated Baby Loss Awareness Day with a public meeting with eminent medical professionals. The event took place in Wynn's Hotel, Lower Abbey Street in Dublin.*

*We had a super attendance, almost a hundred in total. The room was nearly full but still comfortable. Some of our visitors had travelled a long way and we are grateful for their effort and support. There was a good mix of medical staff and concerned parents in the audience. At 7 o'clock we lit 100 candles, which we had brought along to be a part of the "wave of light" sweeping around the globe. We began the evening with refreshments to get people relaxed and comfortable.*

*After a brief introduction, we were treated to a wealth of information on the medical aspects of Miscarriage. Dr. Michael Geary, Master of the Rotunda Hospital gave a comprehensive treatment on the subject of Early Miscarriage. He was followed by Dr. Mary Anglim of the Coombe and St. James's Hospital, who dealt with Ectopic Pregnancy. The third speaker was Dr. Mary Wingfield of the National Maternity Hospital, who explored Recurrent Miscarriage. Finally, Dr. Shane Higgins of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda gave a great insight into the subject of Late Miscarriage.*

*Each of the doctors presented a vast amount of information. It was clear that the medical profession is taking miscarriage seriously but it is also clear that there is still a lot to learn. We are very grateful for their sharing of knowledge and giving us more insight into the different areas of miscarriage. A bit later than planned, we opened up the session for questions from the audience. Quite a number were submitted in writing. Unfortunately, time did not permit to answer all the questions. Niamh Ryan, our Secretary brought proceedings to an end a little after 10 pm*

*The feedback from those who attended was that it was a very informative and worthwhile evening. Thanks and praise must go to our dedicated committee for their superb organization. If you were there and would like to submit a comment or a suggestion for future events we'd love to hear from you. You can send in your comments by post or email to [info@miscarriage.ie](mailto:info@miscarriage.ie).*

*Thanks to all for making Baby Loss Awareness Day a memorable and meaningful occasion.*

*Angela Grace  
October 2007*

## *Christmas Cards/Greetings*

*Our Christmas cards will be available shortly. They are in packs of 12 with four different designs per pack.*

*We have a selection of four different packs. Prices are listed below:*

<i>1 pack =</i>	<i>€7</i>
<i>2 packs =</i>	<i>€14</i>
<i>3 packs =</i>	<i>€21</i>
<i>4 packs =</i>	<i>€24</i>

*Price includes postage & packing  
You can have a look at our selection of cards on our website [www.miscarriage.ie](http://www.miscarriage.ie). Cards can be ordered by emailing [info@miscarriage.ie](mailto:info@miscarriage.ie) or by post to The Miscarriage Association of Ireland, Carmichael Centre, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7  
Thanks in advance for your support.*

*FLORA WOMEN'S MINI MARATHON  
The FLORA WOMEN'S MINI MARATHON took place in Dublin on Monday 4th June 2007 (Bank Holiday Monday). Members and friends of The Miscarriage Association of Ireland participated to raise funds. Great fun was had and plenty of chat while we went around the course. Thanks to everyone who participated on our behalf. We are very grateful for your generous giving of time, skill and sponsorship, especially those who traveled long distances to participate. Thanks also to those who couldn't be with us on the day but generously gave through sponsorship. A total of €1,340 was raised in sponsorship*

## *AERLINGUS CABIN CREW BLACK TIE BALL*

*– 29 NOVEMBER 2007*

*This year the Aer Lingus Cabin Crew Black Tie Ball is being held on behalf of the Miscarriage Association of Ireland. Many thanks to Ciara Power and her committee for choosing us as their charity this year. I am sure the night will be a great success and we would like to extend our thanks to all who support this ball.*

## POETRY

### Baby Kayla

10th June 2007

A life inside me, a love so strong.  
She died inside me, but the love lives on.  
It broke my heart for her to go.  
I love her, I need her like she'll never know.  
I never held her, or heard her cry,  
And I wasn't ready to say goodbye.  
Your loving memory will live in my heart.

Love from Mammy & Daddy

### Aingeal

13th December 2001

We are connected, my child and I  
by an invisible cord not seen by the eye.  
It's not like the cord that  
connected us 'til birth.  
This cord can't be seen  
by anyone on earth.

This cord does its work  
right from the start.  
It bonds us together attached at the heart.  
I know that's it's there  
though no one can see...  
the invisible cord from my child to me.

The strength of this cord  
it's hard to describe.  
It can't be destroyed. It can't be denied.  
It's stronger than  
any cord man could create.  
It withstands the test,  
can hold any weight.

And though you are gone,  
though you're not here with me.  
The cord is still there, but no one can see.  
It pulls at my heart  
but this cord is my lifeline, as never before.  
I am thankful that we are  
connected this way.  
Parents and a child,  
death can't take it away.

You will always be loved  
and be precious to us

Michele & Joe

## ANNIVERSARY

In remembrance of Jessie Hurst-Dowling whose first anniversary occurs on 23rd October 2007. Jessie, we miss and love you so much.

You were born an angel and although we never got to meet you, you will be in our hearts and thoughts forever.

We want to send you lots of love, hugs and kisses to heaven.

Love always

Mammy and Daddy

## SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

### Miscarriage Association of Ireland – Dublin Meeting

Date: The first Thursday of every month (except July and August)

Time: 8pm

Venue: Buswells Hotel, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.

The next meeting is on Thursday 1st November 2007.

You are very welcome to attend, if you have been affected by loss through miscarriage. Please come along, you might also be in a position to offer advice as to how we could improve on the support we offer.

### Support group meetings in Cork

All are welcome to attend the Support Group which has set up in Cork this year. The location for the meetings is Bru Columbanus (beside Wilton Shopping Centre & St Josephs SMA Church).

Tuesday 6th November 2007, 7.30pm

Tuesday 4th December 2007, 7.30pm

Tuesday 8th January 2008, 7.30pm

Tuesday 5th February 2008, 7.30pm

Each meeting aims to support those who attend, in an understanding and relaxed atmosphere. All those who have been affected by loss through miscarriage are very welcome to attend. The meetings are Free of Charge.

### OYLGATE FUN RUN

A total of €173 was raised in the Oylgate Fun Run in Wexford which was held on Monday 4th June 2007. Thanks to those who participated on behalf of the Miscarriage Association.

## Membership Renewal

Just a little reminder - your membership may be due for renewal. Our annual membership is ?15.

We would also ask members not to send cash in the post – cheque or postal orders please.

## We need your help!

As you can imagine, there is a great need for support following the loss of a Baby through miscarriage. We do the best we can but would love to be in a position to do more. With your help, maybe this is possible. If you feel you might be in a position to help, we would love to hear from you. Nobody is asked to take on more than they can handle. Every bit of support, no matter how small makes a huge difference. You can contact us online or by telephone or by letter.

## Fundraising

If you are interested in fundraising for our Association, we would welcome your ideas.



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## PUBLICITY

3 July 2007 – **Evening Herald** – article on miscarriage by Claire Coughlan included comments from committee members June O’Toole and Irene Roche as well as other members of the Miscarriage Association

10 October 2007 – **Lorcan O’Toole** spoke from a male perspective on the impact of miscarriage on the Ryan Turbidy radio show. There was a huge response to his interview resulting in the listening time being extended to forty minutes. Many thanks to Lorcan, I am sure his comments were welcomed by a large number of men who have suffered the trauma of miscarriage. His interview is available to listen to from the RTE website.

**Gerry Ryan Show** – Siobhan and David White spoke on their experience of miscarriage and their recently published book “We lost our baby”.

23 October 2007 – **The Afternoon Show** – June and Lorcan O’Toole spoke on the trauma of miscarriage.

## Opinion Page

Articles are welcome for our Opinion Page. This page is used for people to state their opinions regarding miscarriage. This could mean:

- Treatment in hospital
- Aftercare
- Infertility problems
- Future pregnancies
- News that you wish to share with us about your miscarriage

## Note

Our newsletter is circulated to members, hospitals and other interested parties and is available on the internet. The opinions in this newsletter are those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of the Miscarriage Association of Ireland.

## Closing Date for Next Newsletter

Please let us have your stories, poetry, articles, coming events, sad farewells, welcome babies, anniversaries and anything you feel will help those who read our newsletter. Please mark all envelopes “Newsletter”. Please include name address and a contact phone number. Your name does not have to be included in the article if you wish to remain anonymous.

Just a note: Sometimes, for whatever reason it is not always possible to publish or acknowledge everybody’s correspondence. This does not mean it is not important so please keep forwarding your items of news for sharing.

**Closing date for entries for next newsletter is 30 April 2008**

## MISCARRIAGE ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND COMMITTEE

June O’Toole, Chairperson. Angela Grace, Treasurer. Niamh Ryan, Secretary.

Mary Lawson, Committee member. Irene Roche, Committee member. Denise Shaw, Committee member.

Yvonne Shiels, Committee member. Marie McManus, Committee member.