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DUBLIN & GLENDALOUGH MAGAZINE

MAY 2020

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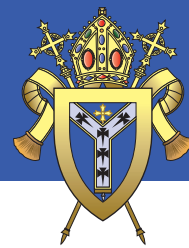
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## CHURCH OF IRELAND UNITED DIOCESES OF DUBLIN AND GLENDALOUGH

The Most Reverend Michael Jackson,  
Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough,  
Primate of Ireland and Metropolitan.



MAY 2020

# Archbishop's Letter

You might have thought, and I might have thought also, that I'd be writing about something other than the coronavirus COVID 19 in the month of May. In light of a global pandemic with an illness driving it that nobody yet really understands and nobody can cure, that was never going to be the case. Social distancing is here to stay for a long time yet. We sustain community by staying apart. Self-reliance is the new gregariousness. Whatever mistakes have been made and continue to be made worldwide by those who themselves make decisions well above our pay grade, as people say, our decision must always and consistently be to stay safe, stay in, stay with God. In this way we can do all the other things we can do – lift the phone, write cards, encourage others in ways we have never needed to before – and fulfil our civic duty and our Christian discipleship. We have long battled in our society between religious expression and the secular state. Interestingly, fewer people today are obsessing about this type of intellectual mud wrestling. Fear for ourselves and fear for others binds us together – while forcing us apart by social distancing – in ways we had never imagined before and may never imagine again. It is all heart-breaking.

For those of you who have a television, I imagine that watching the 9 o'clock News has become something of a ritual. It gives us an overview of the day past from a coronaviral perspective. It also gives us accurate figures, devastating figures, of numbers of those infected and numbers of those who have died from the coronavirus. Occasionally, officialdom gives us an encouragement for complying with regulation about social distancing, washing our hands and staying at home and exercising within a two kilometre radius of our home. Personally, without being in any way naive, I think there could be a bit more encouragement for compliance without in any way facilitating a casual or a careless air. The overwhelming majority of people are complying with the strictnesses of regulation. Our society has not turned to violence. I should like to thank all who have taken to hand and to heart the new era in which we live and also those who have facilitated us to continue to live and to live within the rules. We watch the curve rise; we long for good news of the flattening of the curve; we know that this, in and of itself, will not save lives but it will lose less lives. But we know also that it is a controlled move in the right direction.

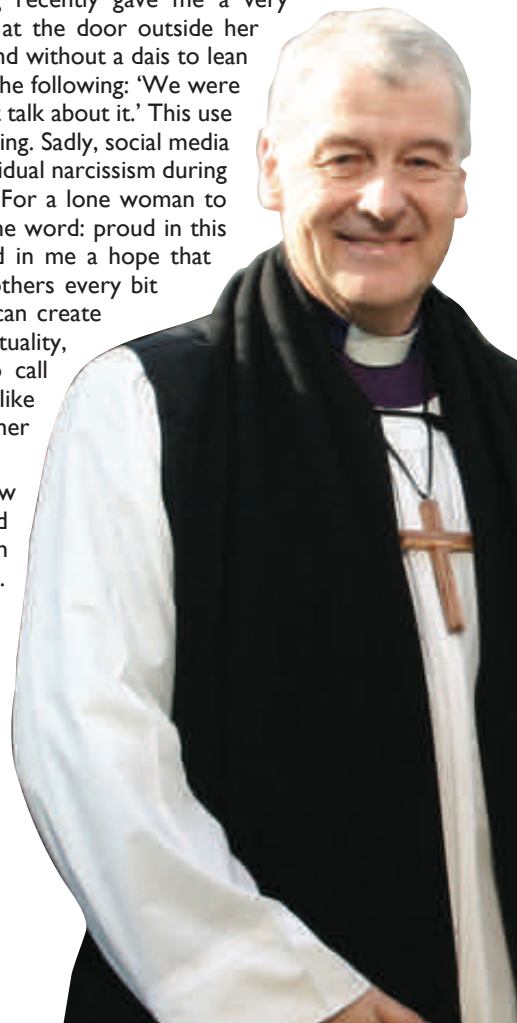
Watching the 9 o'clock News one evening recently gave me a very particular type of hope. A lady aged 82 stood at the door outside her house in County Cavan and, totally unscripted and without a dais to lean upon or a coat of arms to self-identify, she said the following: 'We were a proud generation. We helped others and didn't talk about it.' This use of the word; proud I found fascinating and liberating. Sadly, social media has facilitated too much self-promotion and individual narcissism during these terrible times – a different sort of pride. For a lone woman to re-calibrate our understanding and our use of the word: proud in this way was both refreshing and inspiring. It raised in me a hope that if we can do likewise, do the good things for others every bit as much as for ourselves in these times, if we can create and sustain a community of care in a fog of virtuality, then subsequent generations might be able to call us: proud, in this noble sense. This woman was like Anna, the daughter of Phaniel of the tribe of Asher from St Luke chapter 2.

Every year for the past number of years, Tullow Parish Church in the diocese of Dublin has staged a Beckett play. Beckett worshipped there with his mother as a child and was confirmed there. These performances are truly magnificent. There are lines of Beckett, quoted worldwide and in different contexts time after time, that I sense are for our times:

Fail again  
Fail better  
No matter  
Try again  
Fail again  
Fail better.

† Michael

**COVER: Easter Blooms at a quiet  
All Saints, Raheny Photo/Séamus Puirseil**





# Coronavirus crisis hits world's poorest

**Rich countries have struggled. Poor countries will be devastated. But Christian Aid helped reduce the spread of Ebola and we can slow the spread of coronavirus too. Your gift today will save lives tomorrow.**

Coronavirus is having a huge impact on the rich countries of the world. Our health systems are stretched and struggling. Tens of thousands of lives have been lost and the death toll grows with each passing day. But in the world's poorest countries, perhaps just three weeks behind the UK and Ireland, a catastrophe is unfolding.

The infection has reached every one of the countries in which Christian Aid works, with the highest numbers of reported cases being in Brazil, India and the Dominican Republic. As ever, a lack of testing masks the true scale of the pandemic.

Aid agencies are warning that coronavirus will devastate poor countries, and here's why:

## **Handwashing - without soap and water?**

Three billion people, 40% of the world's population, do not have access to soap and water. In sub-Saharan Africa, home to 645 million people, three-quarters of the population have no facilities at home to wash their hands with soap and water.

## **Physical distancing - in a crowded slum or refugee camp?**

Physical distancing is impossible for the one billion people who live in overcrowded refugee camps, slums and shanty towns. And you can't isolate those with coronavirus symptoms if your entire family live in one room.

## **Poor people = poor health**

Many people living in extreme poverty, in refugee camps, or battling drought, hunger, malaria and HIV, are already in poor health and lack the resilience to withstand a new infection.

## **Fragile health systems**

The world's poorest countries, many dealing with conflict and humanitarian crises, can barely handle their everyday caseloads, let alone a pandemic. Poor countries have few, if any, ventilators or intensive care beds. South Sudan, for example, has no intensive care beds and only two ventilators for a population of 12 million.

## **Love unites, love protects, love never fails. Even in the darkest moments, love brings hope.**

- £27/€31 could help provide food for someone in quarantine, so they don't have to leave their home and risk spreading the virus.
- £50/€57 could help pay for a community toilet and handwashing block.
- £120/€137 could help provide areas within health facilities to isolate anyone with symptoms.

## **Fragile social welfare systems**

The governments of poor countries lack the social welfare systems to help those who lose their jobs due to lockdown. For the newly unemployed in these countries, there will be no government bail-out or guaranteed 80% of their salaries to help ensure they are still able to feed their families. Many people will have no choice but to go to work, spreading the infection. The poorest people work in jobs that are insecure and cash-in-hand, leaving them with just enough money to get by each day. Even a single day of lockdown would cause hardship.

## **But there is hope.**

But there is hope. Working with local partners and faith leaders, Christian Aid helped reduce the spread of the deadly Ebola virus and we are already working to slow the spread of coronavirus.

- In Afghanistan, our local partner has given hygiene kits containing soap to 1,400 people.
- In Afghanistan and Bangladesh, we are sharing vital health information via religious leaders.
- In Bangladesh and Myanmar, we are bringing food and soap to families facing hardship after losing their jobs due to the lockdown.
- In Myanmar, our local partners have given soap to more than 30,000 people and distributed 2,000 surgical masks.
- In the Rohingya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, we are setting up isolation areas in health facilities to treat people with symptoms. There, and in north-east Nigeria, we are working to prevent the spread of fake news.
- In Angola, El Salvador, Gaza and Guatemala we are helping women at risk of domestic violence during lockdown.
- In South Africa, our local partners are campaigning to ban evictions during the pandemic so that shanty town dwellers don't face an even greater risk of infection.

# 150 YEARS of Blackrock Parishioners' Faithful Witness Honoured

April 21 2020 marked the 150th anniversary of the consecration of All Saints' Church, Blackrock. A great array of events had been planned to mark this milestone anniversary but sadly these had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

In a message to the parishioners and their Rector, the Revd Ian Gallagher, Archbishop Michael Jackson noted that they were celebrating the momentous occasion in socially distanced isolation "and from without the church building for which they care year after year". However, he hoped that the celebration could take place at a future time.

The Archbishop said that the art and architecture inside All Saints' Church gave voice to a range of themes and opportunities for the spiritual imagination to savour. "A Scriptural and a missional note are struck and sustained in The East Window which challenges and inspires priest and people to this day through the depiction in beautiful glass of

St Paul preaching in Athens, Christ blessing the children and St Patrick preaching to the people of Ireland. Interestingly, the builders of All Saints' were the firm J and W Beckett. It was to this family that Samuel Beckett, the Nobel Laureate, belonged," he said.

He added: "My hope had been to celebrate this auspicious occasion with the parish. The onset of the coronavirus has rightly changed all of this. My hope and prayer, however, remain that we will convene on another occasion to do justice to this moment of delight and happiness for everyone".

The Revd Ian Gallagher said that the parishioners of All Saints' had put a great deal of effort into the 150th anniversary celebrations and were very much looking forward to the wonderful schedule of events planned.

**"...continue to pass this faith on to generations to come."**

"When I was thinking about what we are facing today and what former parishioners faced - two World Wars, the Easter Rising, The War of Independence, the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic and much more, through all of this we are reminded of their faithfulness and through all the former parishioners we have been given a great crowd of witnesses. The parishioners of All Saints' remain faithful and they continue to pass this faith on to generations to come," he commented.



"I would like to thank the All Saints' Anniversary Committee for all the terrific work they did preparing for the celebrations and everyone who had kindly agreed to participate in the planned events. I congratulate all our All Saints' Parishioners on their 150th Anniversary and I am looking forward to the day that we can all celebrate it together," he added.



## Journey of the Cross tradition continues in Stillorgan

*- in a socially distant way*

Good Friday 2020 was starkly different from any other in living memory. As mass gatherings were prohibited as part of measures to stem the spread of Covid-19, services and events became virtual rather than actual. However, the traditional Journey of the Cross between St Brigid's Church in Stillorgan and the Church of St Thérèse in Mount Merrion took place on Good Friday, although in a very pared back way.

Usually members of both parishes join their clergy for the ecumenical walk of witness on Good Friday. But this year Fr Joe Mullan and the Revd Ian Gallagher kept up the tradition alone and socially distanced.

For many years there has been a connection between St Brigid's and St Laurence's in Kilmacud and that connection continued with the Church of St Thérèse following their amalgamation. In 2012 the parish celebrated the 300th anniversary of St Brigid's Church and Fr Tony Coote gave the parish a beautiful stone from the parish of St Laurence O'Toole.

"We felt it was important to walk together on Good Friday," explained the Revd Ian Gallagher, Rector of St Brigid's. He and Fr Joe set out from St Brigid's alone carrying the cross together. But it wasn't long before their journey caught the attention of others.

"People came out of their homes along the route and Fr Joe knew people in one of the houses and they read one of the stations. The Revd Robert Marshall lives on the route and he read a station. A woman pulled up in a car and accompanied us at a distance. Others stopped to watch," Ian said. "We did it on our own but we did it with others at a distance. It was very moving. We are from two different Christian traditions who have a tradition of not getting on on this island and we walked together." Ian is originally from Derry and Fr Joe is from Newcastle in County Down.



# An Easter Like No Other –

## ARCHBISHOP JACKSON PRESIDES BEFORE VIRTUAL CONGREGATION

**Archbishop Michael Jackson, presided at a very different Easter Day Eucharist in Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday April 12, 2020. Joined by Dean Dermot Dunne and the Revd Abigail Sines but with no choir or congregation, the service was broadcast live on the cathedral's webcam.**

Throughout the dioceses people tuned in to services online from their own homes. Many clergy either streamed services live or prerecorded them to be broadcast online on Easter Morning as mass gathering continued to be prohibited to curb the spread of Covid-19.

In his sermon in the cathedral, the Archbishop urged the virtual congregation to take their bearings, in this time of Covid-19, from Mary and Jesus during their encounter early on Easter morning. The Risen Jesus meets Mary in her grief and calls her by her name.

“We have the opportunity together – to keep forming a new community of response to a danger that faces everyone and confronts the vulnerable and the forgotten, those who can all too easily disappear from our personal landscape as our discourse becomes more aggressive in an environment of terror. Whoever we are, we can take our bearings from the encounter of Mary and Jesus: recognizing other people, remembering their names, not brushing them aside, treating them as we should like to be treated, going the extra mile for and with people who are totally lost in this new-look society,” he said.



The Archbishop continued: “Let us commit ourselves to bringing and holding together common courtesies and bare necessities. Let us share a gladness of life at its most personal; living at its simplest and at its most direct in a time when self-isolation has had to become the new gregariousness, when living together has had to become living apart. Let us also remember the words towards the end of St Matthew’s Gospel:

... when I was hungry, you gave me food; when I was a stranger, you took me into your home; when naked, you clothed me; when I was ill, you came to my help; when in prison you visited me. (St Matthew 25.35, 36)

Are not these the hallmarks of the COVID 19 family on Easter Day 2020?”

On Easter Eve the Easter Vigil took place in Christ Church Cathedral, again with no congregation. The Archbishop presided and the service included Dean Dermot Dunne, the Revd Abigail Sines and Archdeacon David Pierpoint. The paschal candle was lit during the service.

## NOTICE: DIOCESAN OFFICE – COVID-19

Due to current government guidance the diocesan office is adhering to the restrictions in place and staff are working remotely. It would appear that offices will remain closed for “many months more” and working from home to remain in place “for the foreseeable future”.

Should any parish need to address a matter that requires a recommendation or approval from the Dioceses please forward a written request by email to [secretary@dublin.anglican.org](mailto:secretary@dublin.anglican.org).

[anglican.org](http://anglican.org). You can be assured that all matters arising will be processed in the normal way.

You can also ring the office mobile on: 087 4344083

Many thanks for your co-operation during this time.

Sylvia Heggie

Vicki Hastie

# Amach Le Dia – A Place Where LGBT Christians can Exercise Their Gifts for God



By Kris McCaffrey

**Amach Le Dia is an ecumenical, non-denominational group based in Dublin and we seek to provide a safe space for all LGBT people.**

It all started last September when a friend of mine, Steven Foster, contacted me and asked would I be interested in creating an LGBT group for Dublin and the wider areas. He and another one of our planning committee, Alison Finch, had been to some of the Spectrum meetings in Belfast. They recognised the need for this in Dublin and had a vision of recreating something similar. Six of us met mid-September in the Chapter House at Christ Church Cathedral to plan a way forward. One thing was for sure, there was great enthusiasm and passion for whatever this would be. The net was cast wide asking people we could think of from all denominations, LGBT and allies, to be part of a planning group to shape and organise our events. A committee was formed consisting of Steven Foster, Alison Finch, Niamh Kenny, Susan Eccleston, Teagan Caeoimhghin and myself (Kris McCaffrey).

We agreed our first meeting should be in December – allowing us enough time to plan and we would have a Christmas theme. However, we had yet to find a venue. We reached out to many clergy and suitable spaces we could think of and were a little disheartened at the lack of response. Though God answered prayer when Canon Mark

Gardiner presented us with the option of using his parish church, St Catherine and St James on Donore Avenue, an ideal venue because of its proximity to the city centre. We had a lovely meeting in December where we enjoyed worship, fellowship, prayer, sharing and making new friends. The feedback was amazing and God's love could really be felt among us. Despite the difficulty of finding a suitable venue, we have experienced so many positives with people coming forward and volunteering to lead worship, read and help set-up and the many clergy who have supported us so far. We have a speaker for each meeting and only ask that their talk consist of LGBT and Christian themes. I have even had my own rector, the Revd Lesley Robinson, speak at our March gathering.

What is the purpose of this group? Some of you might think, "Is there really a need for this?". I must answer with a resounding YES!! So many of us have experienced hurt, rejection and isolation from our clergy and churches, which has led to the LGBT community having a difficult relationship with Christianity. For some even the mention of church has very negative connotations. Amach le Dia is a place where anyone on the LGBT spectrum and allies can come and just be themselves. They will receive a warm welcome, make new friends, worship God authentically in an informal setting and know that they are made in God's image and loved because of this, not despite it. We want to express our faith in the context of a setting where our identity is valued, affirmed and celebrated as fully loved by God. We aim to provide an opportunity for LGBT Christians to exercise their gifts and talents in the service of God and others. We hope that through these gatherings each of us will be reinvigorated to go back to our own churches, showing that LGBT people do have a part to play in the role of our parishes.

## So, what can you do?

1. Pray! Pray that doors will continue to open for us. Pray for those who would love to come along but have yet to find the courage to do so. And finally pray that we can present a positive, affirming, and loving view of Christianity.
2. Spread the word – perhaps you know someone who would really benefit from this group, you could encourage them to come along.
3. Maybe you would love to part of this and offer your talents or just come to support us. If so, please do reach out to us as we would love to hear from you.
4. Clergy – we would love your support, both prayerfully and practically. You might consider including our meetings on your parish newsletter and encourage people to come along and to come along yourself or even volunteer to speak!

We meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 4pm in St Catherine and St James Church, Donore Ave. Currently, because of Covid-19 we are meeting on Zoom. And if you follow us on any of the social media platforms below, you will be kept up to date on anything we have planned. There is also a monthly newsletter and if you would like to subscribe, please email us and we'll add you to the list.

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# From the Romans to Calatrava

## VALENCIA BLOSSOMS IN THE SUN

Patrick Comerford



Oranges ripening under blue skies in Valencia

**Some weeks before the outbreak of Covid-19 or the Corona Virus pandemic, before Italy and Spain went into 'lockdown' and virtual isolation, I spent a few carefree days in Valencia, on the east coast of Spain.**

I was conscious that week that back in Ireland there was snow, ice and freezing temperatures. But in Valencia, the oranges were ripening on the trees, the skies were blue, and the temperatures are in the high teens.

Valencia is Spain's third city, but for tourists and travellers it is almost as if Valencia lives in the shadows of Barcelona. Both Valencia and Barcelona are Catalan-speaking cities, and Valencian is the Catalan dialect spoken throughout the ethnically Catalan Valencia region, just south of Catalonia.

The similarities with Barcelona, which I visited four years ago, are striking. Both Mediterranean ports have large harbours full of cruise ships, pretty beachfront promenades, atmospheric Gothic cores, picturesque central markets, and attractive, futuristic architecture.

Barcelona has long had the tourism edge over other cities with Gaudí's distinctive architecture, cheap flights and a better soccer team. But lately Valencia has come into its own as a destination for things not seen farther north, and as a less suffocating, more tranquil alternative.

The port city of Valencia is on Spain's south-east Orange Blossom Coast, where the Turia River meets the Mediterranean Sea. There are several beaches as well as Albufera park, a wetlands reserve with a lake and walking trails.

### Roman and 'Modernista' architecture

Valencia was founded as a Roman colony in 138 BCE. Its historic centre is one of the largest in Spain, covering about 169 hectares. The city has a relatively dry subtropical Mediterranean climate with very mild winters and long warm to hot summers. In recent years, more people

are discovering this friendly haven and the sites that make Valencia special and one of Spain's most popular tourist destinations.

The heart of Valencia is its Barrio Carmen, a labyrinth of mediaeval lanes full of dusty Art Nouveau pharmacies, crumbling castle walls, Gothic archways, airy plazas full of café tables, and bubbling fountains.

The architectural sites in the heart of the city include the cathedral, which is the centrepiece of the old town and which claims the original Holy Grail among its treasures; La Lonja, the 15th century Gothic silk and commodities' exchange; the Mercado Central or central market; and the 100-year-old Estación del Norde, the city's beautiful Modernista train station.

One of the first places I visited in the city was Valencia Cathedral, which is almost 800 years old. It is said to have been consecrated in 1238 by Archbishop Pere d'Albalat of Tarragona after the Reconquista or Christian conquest of Valencia, and was dedicated to Saint Mary on the orders of James I the Conqueror.

However, this was a site of religious worship from many centuries earlier. At first, a Roman temple stood here, later the Visigoths built a cathedral here, and this was converted into a mosque by the Moors.

There is evidence that some decades after the Christian conquest of Valencia, the mosque-cathedral remained standing, even with Quranic inscriptions on the walls, until 1262. Hypothetically, the mosque corresponded to the current transepts of the cathedral, the 'Apostles' Gate' would be the entrance to the mosque, and the Almoína ('alms') gate the mihrab.

Most of Valencia Cathedral was built between the 13th century and the 15th century. Pope Alexander VI was born Rodrigo de Borja near Valencia and he was still a cardinal when he petitioned the Pope to make the Bishop of Valencia an archbishop. Pope Innocent VIII granted the request in 1492, shortly before Rodrigo de Borja became Pope. The cathedral

was burned during the Spanish Civil War and many of its decorative features were lost.

### Holy grail or pious tale?

The cathedral's greatest treasure is a chalice said to be the true Holy Grail. This chalice with Arabic inscriptions was given to the cathedral by king Alfonso V of Aragon in 1436. This chalice is held in the Chapel of the Holy Grail, where it continues to attract pilgrims.

It is most likely that it was produced in a Palestinian or Egyptian workshop between the 4th century BC and the 1st century AD. However, an inventory said to date from AD 262, says the chalice was used by early Popes in Rome and that during one state-sponsored Roman persecution of Christians, the church divided its treasury to hide it with its members, and the chalice was given to the deacon Saint Lawrence.

A later inventory, dated 1134, describes the chalice as the one in which 'Christ Our Lord consecrated his blood.'

The chalice has been used during visits to Valencia by both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

In the heart of Valencia, Santos Juanes is a Roman Catholic church in the Mercat neighbourhood. The church is also known as the Church of the two Saint Johns, or Saint John of the Market, because it is beside the Central Market and faces the Llotja de la Seda or Silk Exchange.

The two Saint Johns named in the dedication are Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist.

A church was first built here on the site of a former mosque in 1240, two years after the conquest of Valencia by King James and his Christian armies. This follows a pattern found throughout the city, and the church is one of the so-called 'foundational parishes' in Valencia.



## The 'Sistine Chapel' of Valencia

But the 'Baroque Jewel' of Valencia must be the Church of San Nicolás de Bari and San Pedro Mártir, which has been called the 'Sistine Chapel' of Valencia. Pope Callixtus III (1455-1458), also known as Alfonso de Borja, was the Rector of the Church of San Nicolás from 1418 and Bishop of Valencia from 1429 before becoming Pope in 1455.

The church is tucked away quietly in the streets of the old town, and is almost hidden from view in a laneway off Calle Caballeros, adding to the surprise awaiting visitors. Inside, it is one of the finest examples of a Gothic church with baroque decorations. Frescoes and plasterwork cover the entire interior, from small pilasters in chapels, to the walls, apse and vaulted ceiling, creating a visual and colour spectacle.

The frescoes were designed by Antonio Palomino in 1694 and completed ten years later by his pupil Dionis Vidal in 1704.

## Markets and railway stations

The Central Market or Mercado Central is an imposing modernist building built in 1928 on the site of one of Spain's oldest food markets. It may be the most beautiful covered food market I have ever visited. The vast Modernista structure of iron and glass is brilliantly ornamented with luminous ceramic tiles.

Vividly coloured glass windows and cupolas house hundreds of vendors and stalls selling over extraordinary fruits, vegetables, spices, nuts, candy, bread, wine and cheeses, making the market a riot of colour, sounds and smells.

Beside the Mercado Central, La Lonja or the Silk Market is an imposing late Gothic Monument to the mercantile power of Valencia. This splendid building is a Unesco World Heritage site and is one of Spain's finest examples of a civil Gothic building.

La Lonja was built as the city's silk and commodities exchange and was designed by the architect Pere Compte. It was built in the late 15th century, when Valencia was booming.

The main entrance was the Puerta de las Pecados or the 'door of sin,' is decorated with tendrils and figures on both sides. The name was a warning merchants about the dangers of sharp business practices.

The Estació del Nord or North Station is the main railway station in Valencia. The entrance is on Calle de Xàtiva in the city centre next to the city's bullring, just a 200-metre walk from the city hall.

The station was designed by the Valencian architect Demetrio Ribes Marco, and was built in 1906-1917. It is one of the main works of Valencian Art Nouveau and walking into the entrance hall is like stepping back in time. This is a grandiose, Modernista-style building and it is a visual feast of colours, with ceramic mosaics and vegetable, flower, orange tree

and orange blossom motifs decorating every square metre.

The Plaza de Toros, beside the Estación del Norte, is Valencia's bullring, built in 1850-1859. It was designed in the neoclassical style by the Valencian architect Sebastián Monleón Estellés, who was inspired by the Colosseum in Rome and the Arena of Nîmes in France.

I have been a pacifist and a vegetarian all my adult life, so I have no fondness for or interest in bullrings. Indeed, the only bullrings I have enjoyed visiting are small squares in Wexford and Drogheda. But the Plaza de Toros in Valencia is an eye-catching building, formed by a 48-sided polygon, with 384 external arches, and a capacity for around 10,500 people.

## Calatrava's extravaganza

The Alameda is a green riverbed that that snakes through the ancient city but has been drained and is full of lawns and gardens.

At the height of a property boom in the early 2000s, Valencia decided it wanted to raise its profile through the kind of hyper-ambitious, grandiose architectural project that would attract a new kind of tourism.

One of the results is the Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias, the City of Arts and Sciences, designed by the Valencian-born architect, Santiago Calatrava, and Felix Candela. They have produced a cultural complex of glittering glass structures that soars above the waterfront, and it covers 350,000 square metres on the former riverbed of the River Turia.

This is one of the best-known works by Calatrava. Although it has not been without its controversies, it has become the most important modern tourist destination in Valencia and is one of the '12 Treasures of Spain,' alongside the Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba, Seville Cathedral, the Alhambra in Granada, the Cathedral of Santiago Compostela and Gaudí's Sagrada Familia in Barcelona.

Close by is Calatrava's opera house, which has attracted Plácido Domingo, world-famous conductors, and a dance series with features from flamenco to zarzuela.

The whole complex was originally budgeted at €300 million, but it has cost nearly three times the initial expected cost, and many people in Valencia complain about both the costs and the many design flaws that have involved continuous, major repairs.

Despite the critics, this is a fascinating and captivating work of art, architecture and engineering. It is not one building, but a collection of buildings and facilities.

Yet, one of the real architectural pleasures of Valencia is the collection of narrow, cobbled streets and small squares, lined with small shops, cafés, restaurants and colourful buildings. It is truly worth taking time to sit down and simply watch life passing by.

**(Canon) Patrick Comerford blogs at [www.patrickcomerford.com](http://www.patrickcomerford.com)**

*Photographs: Patrick Comerford, 2020*



A fountain in the area where Valencia was founded as a Roman colony in 138 BCE



The colourful apse in Valencia Cathedral



Valencia Cathedral was first built in the 13th century but stands on the site of a Roman temple, a Visigoth cathedral and a mosque



The shrine of the Holy Grail in the chapter house of Valencia Cathedral



The façade of the Church of the two Saint Johns with 'the blind eye of Saint John' where the rose window was never opened



The Church of San Nicolás de Bari and San Pedro Mártir has been called the 'Sistine Chapel' of Valencia



The City of Arts and Sciences, designed by Santiago Calatrava and Félix Candela, is one of the '12 Treasures of Spain'



The interior of the Church of San Nicolás de Bari was completed between 1690 and 1693



The Estació del Nord or North Station, designed by Demetrio Ribes Marco



The landscaped walk at the top of L'Umbracle in the City of Arts and Sciences



The dome in the Valencia's Central Market, the Mercado Central



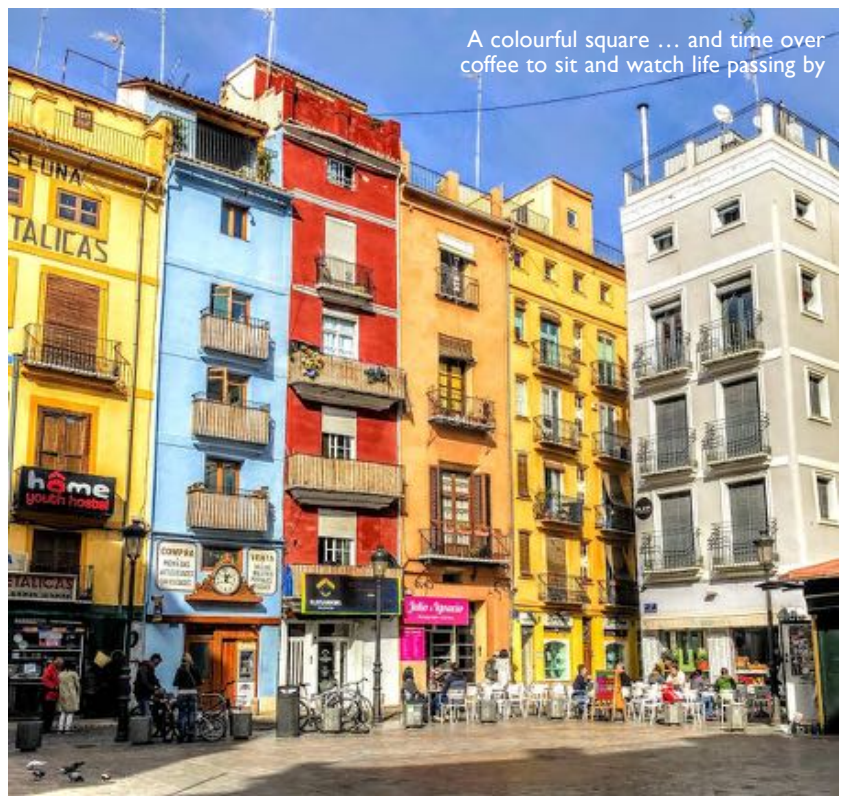
The Plaza de Toros, built in 1850-1859 was modelled on the Colosseum in Rome



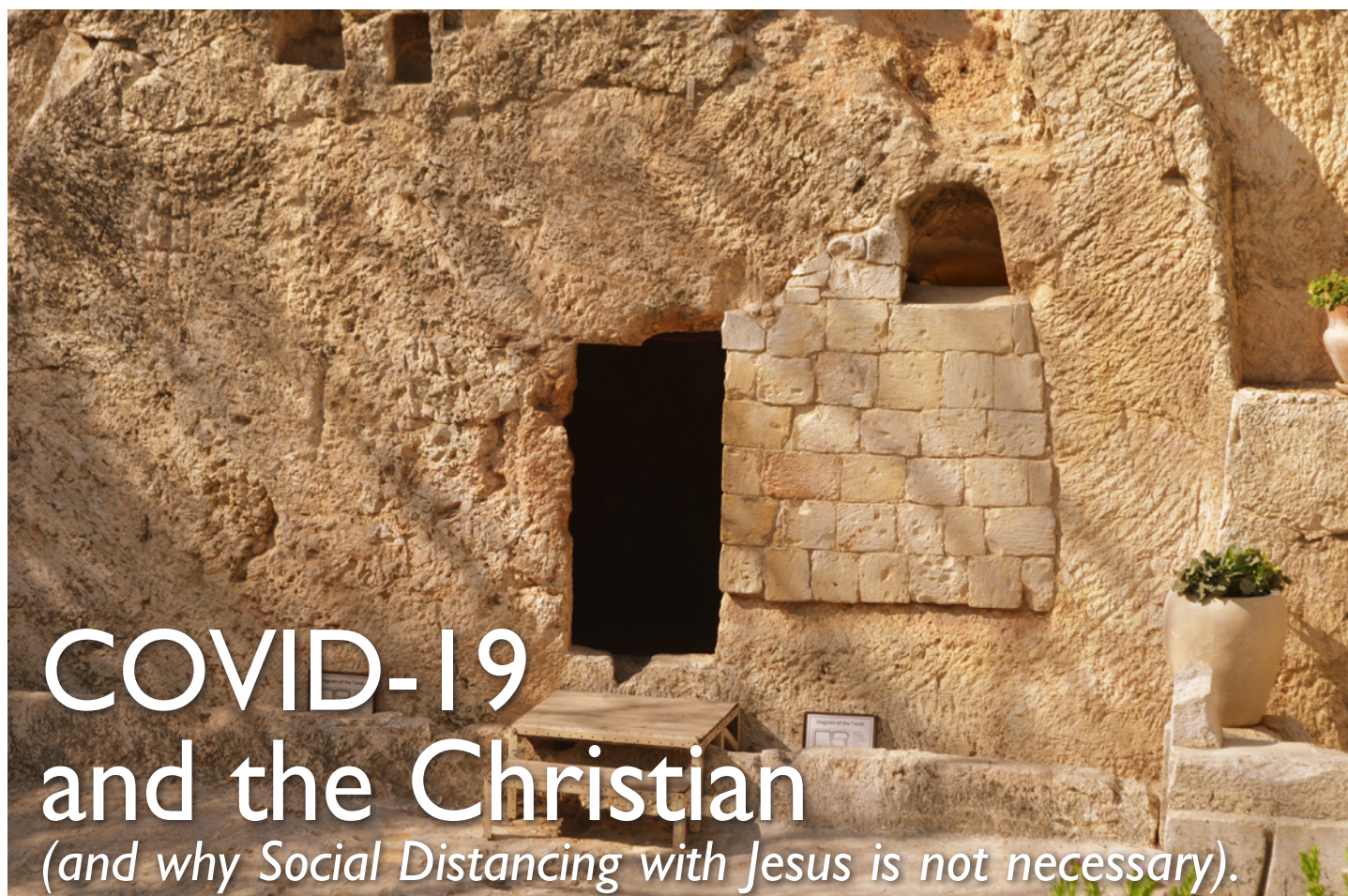
Dame Kathleen Lonsdale (1903-1971), the Irish-born scientist, celebrated in an exhibition in Valencia



The courtyard in La Lonja, the former Silk Exchange



A colourful square ... and time over coffee to sit and watch life passing by



# COVID-19 and the Christian

*(and why Social Distancing with Jesus is not necessary).*

**I have had many weeks to get used to a new way of living, but the restrictions placed on me and my family due to COVID-19 still seem surreal. I keep expecting to wake up and reflect on my dreams, moving on with life as it was. But this is no dream – it is reality.**

My diary has become redundant and irrelevant, teasing me with events, meetings, concerts, synods and talks that were all written with confidence at a time when the notion of cocooning was confined in our imaginations to butterflies or moths.

We have missed several family events that are now postponed, including a grandson's christening and a son's wedding, as well as Easter gatherings where we were looking forward to enjoying fellowship and laughter around a festive table.

There are more prosaic events of course of which we are also bereft – walking more than two kms from our home, a restaurant meal, popping into the supermarket without feeling like you are a hardened and mischievous criminal ("Honestly, your honour - I did need some milk and bread!").

Most importantly, I miss face to face conversations with people - as Christians, we are born to fellowship. The word 'fellowship' comes from the Greek word, KOINONIA, which means "to share in common", and expresses the idea that we are drawn together for mutual benefit – encouragement, spiritual growth and learning (and fun too!). We need our words to be heard, to share our joy and to receive empathy in our pain and despair.

We are of course living in a time where technology can play an important role in communicating with our loved ones and my recent encounter with ZOOM has been both successful and comforting, facilitating as it does, family chats, often from several parts of the globe. Then we have, Facebook, WhatsApp etc, all helping us to avoid a sense of isolation.

Isolation – a scary word for most of us as we break from routine. Separation, seclusion, segregation, loneliness, quarantine – all forms of grief in a way. As a person who revels in the company of others these words send a shiver down my spine – I need connection and reciprocal relationships, not to mention a hug or two.

It is not long since we celebrated Easter, many of us viewing our services on YouTube, looking through the window of our suspended lives and contemplating once again the incomprehensible sacrifice that was made for us by a loving Father.

Our reluctant embrace of this temporary isolation does not suit us, despite the imaginative and creative ways we have of keeping in touch. Yet, while we ponder on this inconvenience, we cannot even contemplate the isolation and the separation experienced by Jesus from his Father as he took on our sin in that glorious moment of substitutionary atonement. That was loneliness, that was isolation but above all – that was love.

In due course this situation will end but what will we have learned? Hopefully to value all we have. Our sense of gratitude, appreciation, joy, love and wonder will be heightened as we contemplate the variety and diversity of and in our world.

And perhaps in our quieter moments we might also reflect on, and appreciate more than ever, the sacrifice that was made for us on the cross, an embrace of grace from a Heavenly Father who wants no part of Social Distancing with his children.

## **Geoff Scargill**

*Geoff is a Trustee of St. James' Church, Crinken, Co. Dublin (Dublin & Glendalough)*



**Dr Mark Zimmerman** and his wife **Deirdre**, (who is from Dublin, formerly Deirdre Lloyd) are missionaries assigned to Nepal by Global Ministries, the missionary organisation of the United Methodist Church-USA. They are associate missionaries with CMS Ireland.

Mark is assigned as an internal medicine doctor and clinical professor at Patan Hospital, the teaching hospital of Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS). Deirdre is assigned as consultant dietitian to Patan Hospital and nutrition advisor to a nutrition NGO (NPCS).



“Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you”

I Peter 5.7

## Letter from Kathmandu

APRIL 2020

His name meant “Little King” and he was his mother’s only child, five years old. His family name identified Saniraj as coming from one of the most socio-economically marginalised groups in the country, literally untouchable to some. When I met him on the children’s ward, he sat cross-legged on his bed, withdrawn and unmoved by my best attempts to engage him or light a flicker in his eyes. His huge, swollen abdomen sat heavily on his thin, crossed legs, with other signs of malnutrition evident in his wasted arms and sparse hair. His mother explained they were brick-makers, one of the most menial jobs available to migrant workers from the poorest rural districts. Brick factories provide free accommodation: their workers live in huts constructed of unbaked bricks on the raw mud floor of the land that has been scraped clear of its fertile soil to make the bricks. There is usually no piped water, no toilets, no sanitation. Families move from site to site with the brick kiln that is constructed in new sets of fields; children rarely attend school.

Throughout Saniraj’s time in the hospital, I never saw his father, whether he was too uneasy to visit, or whether the brick factory owners required him to keep working. Mother and son were receiving free meals from the hospital, and I was asked to review his nutrition status. His young mother was shy but assured me that until just a few months ago Saniraj had been a lively child who ate with gusto. Now he so completely lacked appetite that my first step was to cancel his free meals which were thrown out untouched one after the other. Saniraj spent three weeks on the ward, fevers persisting, his liver enlarged, fluid collecting in his abdomen, and his mental status deteriorating. Medical tests were limited by the family’s need

for charity, but gradually blood cancer, sepsis, and meningitis were ruled out. The remaining differential diagnosis was tuberculosis, but the medical team was reluctant to start treatment without confirmation. Saniraj didn’t swallow a mouthful of food in that time, and I pressed the doctors to place a nasogastric tube (via his nose, into his stomach) so we could start feeding him some fortified milk.

Tuberculosis spreads from the mucus of those with lung infection, via their coughs, sneezes, spit and speech. Good hygiene is essential to its prevention and control, as are screening for high risk cases, early detection and treatment, and contact-tracing ... sound familiar? Despite some drug-resistant strains, tuberculosis is curable and preventable. In Nepal alone, 20 people die of tuberculosis every day. 33 million people in the world died of the disease in the fifteen years of 2000-2015, and tuberculosis accounts for an annual loss of income of \$1.2 billion amongst the poorest people in the world.

The only time I saw Saniraj responsive was when he was fighting the nurses as they forced the nasogastric tube into his nose. He wailed miserably for his mother as they held his hands down until the tube could be secured with tape. A previous attempt to feed him by tube on the ward had led to vomiting, and when his level of consciousness had slipped further he was admitted to the intensive care unit. Now the tube was being repositioned in an attempt to take a sample from his stomach that might show TB of the abdomen. The procedure had been delayed because there were no functioning “GeneXpert” diagnostic machines in the city and the doctors were waiting for one to be fixed. Out in the gloomy anteroom, his mother looked totally lost as the doctor told her she should prepare herself for the worst. Illiterate, she was unable to sign the paper to say she had been informed that there was little hope for her child’s recovery. The last I saw of her, she was perched like a mother eagle in a squatting position on the edge of the high ICU bed. Rising up over him in her wrap-around lungi skirt, she carefully stepped her bare feet over Saniraj’s limp body as she tried to rearrange his bedclothes. The next



day Saniraj died and his mother returned to the brick factory, where children would continue to play in the same unsanitary environment that she had had to raise her child in.

Nepal identified its first case of COVID-19 in early January, in a Nepali student returning from China. The young man spent a few days with mild illness at the tropical medicine hospital and made a full recovery. And then... nothing. No cases amongst the 150 Nepali students on an evacuation flight from Wuhan, no cases arising from the thousands of Chinese and Korean visitors to Nepal throughout the months of January and February, no significant increase in the number of cases of severe pneumonia appearing in hospitals. Nevertheless, as new 'hot spots' and spiralling statistics emerged from around the world, a mixed sense of both anxiety and disbelief began to swell as the Nepali population watched and waited for the disease to strike. The weeks continued without a second case and different theories about a possible protective factor began to do the rounds: an innate genetic mutation (but what about the foreigners living here?), herd immunity acquired from frequent short outbreaks of bird flu (then why not in China?), the high consumption of garlic (don't the Italians do the same?), our tropical climate (isn't Thailand warmer?). Still, the tension led to a brief run on cooking gas and a scarcity of face masks, only mildly relieved when security forces found 2 million masks in the space of one week being hoarded by various black marketeers.

Nevertheless, in the last three weeks, as for the rest of the world, life here has changed dramatically. The schools closed first, leaving our boys studying at home on-line and all national and international exams

**“life has changed dramatically”**

cancelled. We are so grateful that, unlike many students, Zachary's college plans are secure irrespective of the lack of final exams, but nevertheless he will miss the closure of his schooling and many friendships, losing the usual round of graduation ceremonies and other farewells. Both international and internal travel restrictions increased as the second and then third cases of Corona were identified (in Nepalis returning from France and the Middle East); and then suddenly, without any notice or chance to prepare, the government announced a nation-wide full lock-down. The streets became silent and empty in a way we had not seen before, even for curfews during the civil war and general strikes during political unrest.

**“53% of health facilities across the country lack a handwashing facility with soap and water”**

Of course, Nepal is incredibly vulnerable to a disaster like Coronavirus. If the wealthiest nations in the world struggle to contain death rates, we can only imagine what it will look like in a country where a UNICEF survey found that 53% of health facilities across the country lack a handwashing facility with soap and water (questions about numbers of ventilators are likely superfluous). The lockdown brings with it very mixed emotions. We feel like we are bracing for the arrival of a hurricane, even as preparations are completed at Patan Hospital for a COVID unit and 18 critical care beds with ventilators, completely separated from the main wards which are now emptied of all but the most serious cases. Non-essential surgeries have been cancelled, outpatient clinics are almost empty, and staff are working on light rotations in this seeming 'calm before the storm'; however, anxiety levels have led to incidences of panic in the handling of ordinary patients. Meanwhile, spring has arrived with its welcome warmth and birdsong; the smog and dust across the city have completely dissipated with the lack of traffic and we are enjoying glorious views of the Himalayas, framed by

blossoming bougainvillea and azalea. It truly seems like nature is rejoicing at the break from man's polluting activities. While needing to ration a few luxuries like cheese and frozen meat, at home the boys and I enjoy leisurely lunches in the sunshine on our roof, watching our neighbours tend their gardens and spring clean. Zachary engages with classmates through Zoom, while Benjamin sneaks out to a nearby Catholic school to do basketball drills alone on their huge campus until Mark arrives to 'rebound' the ball for him. In our home it is peaceful, but if I turn on BBC radio or open my newsfeed, stories flood in of overwhelming levels of death and illness in Western countries and we remember with concern older family members and friends, near and far.

From the apparent security of our quiet middle-class neighbourhood, with Nepal's confirmed cases still below ten, we worry about how the many less privileged are faring, and I think of Saniraj's mother. Social distancing is an unattainable luxury if you are part of a community squeezed into a few shared rooms. What do you do as a day labourer, living hand to mouth, when you have no possibility to go out and work? Brick factory owners are not known for their charity and unlike in the US, Europe or even India, the government here has remained silent on the possibility of help for the vulnerable to survive the devastating economic impact of the travel restrictions and lockdown (let alone the illness itself). Perhaps Saniraj's parents will join the other groups of migrant workers leaving the city under cover of darkness to walk the many-day journeys back to their villages as they run out of money and food. Small business owners with their stock sitting in shuttered rooms that still need to have the rent paid; porters, cooks, waiters and cleaners in the collapsed tourist industry; there are many here without any social net to catch them. And what about the pregnant and the sick now unable or afraid to seek medical care, the many other 'Sanirajs' who will not receive timely treatment for life-threatening but treatable illness?

**“we are grateful to be able to turn it all over to the One who cares”**

Wondering what the days ahead hold, we are grateful to be able to turn it all over to the One who cares, who cared enough to join us on this earth and walk with us all the way to death, and beyond it, into life. We join you in prayer as we watch for Easter.

Sincerely,  
**Deirdre, Mark, Zachary & Benjamin.**

# Pentatonix Star Joins Discovery Gospel Choir Rehearsal



**One of the world's most famous beatboxers and a founding member of the Grammy-award winning acapella group, Kevin Olusola from Pentatonix, joined Discovery Gospel Choir for a surprise appearance during their online rehearsal during the coronavirus lockdown.**

Speaking from his base in Texas in United States, Kevin said that, "I've heard so much about the amazing work you're doing in Dublin, so kudos to you all".

He noted however that, "This is a crucial time in the world when music gets to be utilised as a tool for peace, for love, for joy".

Drawing on his own deep Christian faith, Kevin Olusola pointed choir members to "David in the Bible [who] used music to soothe Saul. In addition, as King he came to write songs that would help so many people, which still help us today".

Pentatonix (abbreviated PTX) are one of most watched music groups in the world with 4.5 billion views online, including 500 million views for their version of Hallelujah and 230 million views for their version of Mary, Did You Know?.

They have also recorded and performed with musical luminaries such as Jennifer Hudson, Whitney Houston, Stevie Wonder, Smokey

Robinson, Miley Cyrus, the Backstreet Boys and Dolly Parton.

Kevin Olusola is particularly noted for developing the art of "celloboxing", which combines cello playing and beatboxing at the same time.

Since the introduction of preventative measures for coronavirus, Discovery Gospel Choir, who normally rehearse in St George and St Thomas' Church in Dublin 1, have continued to meet weekly through the online platform Zoom.

## HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

In common with other aspects of the Church's Ministry, Hospital Chaplaincy has been impacted by the current health emergency occasioned by the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. In most cases chaplains no longer have access to patients in hospital wards – except in exceptional circumstances including "end of life" situations. Instead, Chaplains have developed a system whereby new admissions receive a card (delivered via the hospital's internal mail system) containing a message from the Chaplain and giving a number whereby the patient or a family member may contact the chaplain to discuss any issues or concerns. All of our contracted Chaplains have been issued with "guidelines" to assist them in the execution of their work and ministry, to ensure their safety and the safety of the patients and other members of the hospital staff with whom they interact. Indeed, a large part of their work is now ministering to the frontline staff many of whom are exposed to infection and who are fearful for themselves, their families and colleagues. Please do pray for all healthcare workers including our Chaplains.

There have been a couple of changes to our team of accredited Chaplains in recent times. The Rev. Terry Lilburn (due to his age and who is currently "cocooning"!) has been stood down from active chaplaincy for his own protection. We look forward to welcoming him back as a valued member of the team once this emergency has passed.

Ms. Olwen Lynch tendered her resignation to the Archbishop in March. Olwen has been providing chaplaincy service on behalf of the Church of Ireland in Beaumont Hospital and Connolly Hospital over the past three years. She has now taken up a chaplaincy post with the St. Francis Hospice Foundation. We wish her well in her new position and thank her for her years of service to the Diocese.



**HILDA PLANT**  
St. Vincent's University Hospital  
St. Vincent's Private Hospital  
Beaumont Hospital  
Connolly Hospital



**PATRICK RYAN**  
Tallaght University Hospital  
St. James's University Hospital  
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital



**JOHN TANNER**  
National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH)  
Leopardstown Park Hospital  
St. Columille's Hospital, Loughlinstown

These two changes have necessitated a reorganisation of the chaplaincy provision to the acute teaching hospitals in the Dublin area. For the present Ms. Hilda Plant, Mr. Patrick Ryan and The Rev. John Tanner will provide chaplaincy as follows:

The Chaplains wish to assure patients, their family members and their Clergy that they are always available to discuss concerns. Indeed, they would welcome being informed when family members or parishioners are admitted to hospital, as the religious denomination of patients is not always recorded on admission, especially in this time of heightened stress surrounding the admissions process.

They can be contacted through their designated mobile phone number 087-449 8432

**Robert Warren**

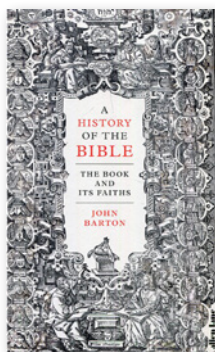
*Chairman, Diocesan Chaplaincy Oversight Committee*

*April 2020*

# What are you reading now?

**I am not sure that the clergy read at all. As editor of the Church Review (and also book review editor) I used to give books to my clergy colleagues to review. In most instances the result was threefold: I never saw the books again, never got the reviews and my colleagues would avoid me at clerical gatherings for several months.**

**However, in this lockdown situation, I thought I would ask the clergy what they are currently reading now.**



**Revd John Marchant,  
Vicar of Irishtown and Donnybrook**

*“A History of the Bible - the Book and its Faiths”, by John Barton, Allen Lane/Penguin Random House UK; first published 2019.*

In one volume, this book covers “The Old Testament”, “The New Testament”, “the Bible and its texts, and “The Meanings of the Bible”, both the canonical and non-canonical books, and a simple, measured treatment of the manuscripts of the Bible.

It is an approachable but erudite read, which I feel will always be to my hand for the rest of my life. I recommend it to anyone wishing to

explore the central repository of our faith. My fellow clerics would, I believe, find this to be a valuable resource, but also one which could form an occasional retreat into the fundamental history of what we believe.



**Revd Ruth Noble, Rector of Crumlin and Chapelized parishes**

*A series featuring Don Camillo (eg Don Camillo meet Hell's Angels) written by Giovanni Guareschi, published by Penguin.*

These are books of short stories around the rivalry (and friendship) between a Roman Catholic Priest and a Communist small town mayor in Northern Italy in the years after WW2. They had served together in the resistance and now appear to be on opposite sides. These stories are a light, gentle read that always ends well with a nice smile

on your face.

I find that my concentration isn't great in these times and these are a lovely easy read, so for anyone who wants to be entertained and sometimes to be left with a thought as well as a smile.



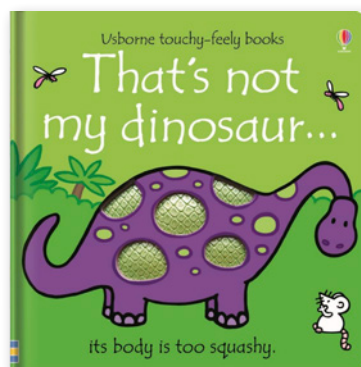
**Revd Stephen Farrell, Rector of Zion**

*The Nebuly Coat by John Meade Falkner. Published by HardPress 2016. First published 1903*

At the centre of this novel is a Minster Church in the provincial English town of Cullerne. The Church was glorious but the building and the music have both declined. A young architect called Westray arrives to survey the tower. At one level the story is simply his time in the town, learning about the history of the place, finding digs, attending Evensong and getting to know the local characters. There is the Vicar who is all faded promise, the equally

jaded organist who was once up at Oxford with the bishop but is now

an alcoholic. There is an impecunious parish, a dusting of aristocracy and a pleasing amount of ecclesiastical architectural detail. But beyond that there is a razor sharp critique of the decline of the English parish at the end of the nineteenth century.

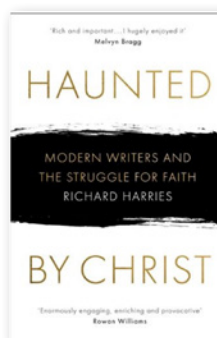


**Revd Stephen Farrell,  
Rector of Zion**

*That's not my dinosaur by Fiona Watt. Published by Usborne.*

This charming tale takes the reader on a gripping search for 'my dinosaur'. Each page introduces a new dinosaur, all in some way different to the dinosaur sought, and are therefore to be rejected. These differences are all physical and can be appreciated by the reader through rubbing the page. The

pages are made of thick card and withstand chewing admirably. One criticism would be that we never really get to know any of the rejected dinosaurs and there is little or no character development. That said, the book is a quick paced read and lends itself to frequent re-reading, ideally 25 to 30 times a day. Blatantly it is an allegory of the futility of our constant searching for happiness as a future event or something 'out there'. A book for our times.



**Revd Nigel Waugh,  
Rector of Christ Church Delgany**

I usually have three or four books on the go at the same time. This probably indicates a short attention span. My 'heavier' reading at the moment is:

*'Haunted by Christ', by Richard Harries, SPCK.*

Harries, former of Bishop of Oxford, takes a number of modern writers and examines their life and work in the context of their Christian faith. He is an excellent commentator and he knows his subjects well. His approach suits me

as each chapter gives me just as much information on each writer as I need. I enjoy Manley Hopkins, whose work I know quite well. I learnt much about TS Eliot and discovered that I never particularly want to read Samuel Beckett. I am particularly looking forward to the chapter on RS Thomas, one of my favourite poets, and the chapter on Catholic novelists including my namesake, Evelyn Waugh.

# St. Patrick's Cathedral

**The Dean:** *The Very Revd Dr William Morton (453 9472)*

**Precentor:** *The Revd Canon Peter Campion (453 9472)*

**Dean's Vicar:** *The Revd Canon Charles Mullen (453 9472)*

**Administrator:** *Mr Gavan Woods (453 9472)*

**Cathedral Manager & Dean's Verger:** *Mr Louis Parminter*

**Cathedral Assistant Manager & Safety Officer:** *Mr Kenneth Hartnett*

**Cathedral Office:** *Dean's Secretary & Office Manager: Mrs Rowena Janota*

**Tour Bookings:** *Ms Sinead Merrigan*

**Master of the Music:** *Mr Stuart Nicholson*

**Organist and Assistant Master of the Music:** *Mr David Leigh*

**Office numbers:** *Telephone: 453 9472*

**Email:** *info@stpatrikscathedral.ie*

**Website:** *www.stpatrickscathedral.ie*

**Twitter:** *http://www.twitter.com/stpatsdub*

## Services & Organ Recitals:

At the time of going to press the Cathedral is temporarily closed for services, and to visitors. Please refer to the cathedral website for recorded services.

In addition, there are organ recitals which are available on live stream on Mondays and Fridays at 1 o'clock. The aim of the series, during the closure of the Cathedral to worshippers and visitors, is not only to provide some music for listeners' enjoyment, but also that, through the music, God's Presence and Peace may be found, and one's spiritual life uplifted and enhanced.

## A Message From The Dean:

A myriad of words, and expressions, has been trawled from the infrequently trodden recesses of language to describe the pandemic with which we have been grappling. 'Surreal', 'bizarre', 'like a sci-fi movie', are among the ones which I have heard more than a few times.

In our public worship in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, which continued with the ever willing co-operation of Stuart and David, and the lay vicars, until travel restrictions precluded it – and they were unanimously keen to do so, observing all the recommendations – we prayed on a daily basis for those who had contracted the virus, for those who had been bereaved by the death of loved ones, for those waiting for the test, or its result, and very importantly as well, for those who meet this unseen enemy head-on, in front line health care in our hospitals, and also in the community.

Some of those services were recorded, and are available on the Saint Patrick's web-site, [www.stpatrickscathedral.ie](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie), under 'Live Stream,' 'Recordings', and members of the congregation have been accessing them, and, in their private devotions, using the prayers for all so dreadfully affected by this virus. In addition, I am most grateful to Stuart and David for their initiative behind the organ recitals which were live streamed on Mondays and Fridays at 1 o'clock, and which David continues to provide personally through living on site. It is our hope that, through the music, those who listen may find God's Presence and Peace.

It is in Christian hope that we look forward to an end to this pandemic. I think that, if there is one positive outcome of the crisis, it will be this: we will more deeply appreciate what we so often take for granted. What will bring us more joy in the better days which lie ahead than to join with friends and visitors in the worship of God in our beloved, and dear old Cathedral?

Amid the stress and the fear of these days, I wish you the joy, hope, and blessings of the Easter season.

## The Administrator Writes:

Under the new Government restrictions, the roof works have been temporarily suspended. Though the Cathedral has been closed to visitors since the 13th March, the roof project works had continued past this date. In fact, the restrictions on our visitor operations had enabled the roof project to increase in tempo as tasks which of necessity had been scheduled to occur at night could safely take place during the normal working day.

However, all work has now ceased. When it can recommence is still uncertain but we have been given the next date of May 5 before there will be any change.

Key operatives including scaffolders and stained glass craft persons had been travelling from the UK to work on the project. This became a concern as travel restrictions were enforced. Happily this issue had been circumvented through the sourcing by the contractors of excellent local operatives to undertake the work instead. When the restrictions on non-essential construction work are eased Clancy are in an excellent position to resume where they left off. It is important that they do. The very reason the work was undertaken, the perilous condition of the roof, remains a pressing concern. In addition, the nave has been felted and battened, with much of the lead and stone repairs completed and now only awaits the installation of the new slates procured for it to be secure. Thankfully the temporary roof will protect the Cathedral in the meantime.

These have been challenging times for all members of the Cathedral community, including our staff and volunteers. I am delighted to report that intensive planning has occurred to safeguard both the organisation and the building during this enforced period of downtime. In addition, we are working hard to put the Cathedral in the best possible position to resume our operations and continue to further our mission when conditions allow. I would like to thank all of my colleagues for their fortitude, hard work and support over the last few weeks and for continuing to undertake their many tasks under these challenging conditions.

GHW

## SAVE OUR ROOF: Sponsor A Slate

The Cathedral's roof is currently being repaired. We need to raise €9 million to facilitate this work. Can you help us? You can become a part of the living history of Saint Patrick's Cathedral by sponsoring a slate for the roof.

### BRONZE €50

Sponsor quarter of a slate and receive:

A mention on social media on our weekly sponsors post.

### SILVER €250

Sponsor a slate for the roof and receive:

A mention on social media on our weekly sponsors post.

A name in our "book of thanks" (displayed in the Cathedral)

A certificate of thanks.

### GOLD €1,000+

Become a "keystone" of the roof works!

If you are interested in supporting this historic project then please make contact with the Cathedral's Administrator, Gavan Woods.



# MUSIC AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL - HIGHLIGHTS 2020

Friday 12 June at 6:15pm

## CHORAL FOUNDATION CONCERT

Join us for our annual summer concert packed full of great music sung by the Cathedral Choir. Admission free with a retiring collection in aid of the Choir Tour Fund.

Saturday 4 July at 6.15pm

## THE WONDROUS MACHINE at the movies

This year's Independence Day concert given by organists of Saint Patrick's takes us back to a little 1980's movies nostalgia. Admission free with a retiring collection in aid of STEWARTS CARE. (Promoting meaningful and fulfilling lives for people with intellectual disabilities). <https://www.stewartscare.ie/>

Saturday 31 October at 6.15pm

## THE WONDROUS MACHINE after Dark

This year's ever popular All Hallows' Eve concert includes Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor, Saint-Saens' Danse Macarabe and Dukas' Sorcerer's Apprentice. Admission Free with a retiring collection in aid of the IRISH CANCER SOCIETY.

Friday 18 December at 7.30pm

## HANDEL by CANDLE

Following its success last Christmas, the Cathedral Choir will be giving another performance of part one of Handel's Messiah (alongside other seasonal offerings) in aid of the Cathedral Roof. Tickets €30-€50 available shortly from [www.stpatrickscathedral.ie](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie)

## Canons In Residence:

May 3	The Revd T. C. Kinahan	Prebendary of Monmohenock
May 10	The Revd D. W. Oxley	Prebendary of St Audoen's
May 17	The Revd P. R.	Campion Precentor
May 24	The Revd A. H. N. McKinley	Treasurer
May 31	The Very Revd N. J. Sloane	Chancellor

## Services:

### Sunday

09.15	The Holy Eucharist (said in the Lady Chapel)
11.15	Sung Eucharist / Choral Matins
15.15	Choral Evensong

### Monday to Friday

11.05	The Holy Eucharist (said in the Lady Chapel on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saints' Days and Festivals)
17.30	Choral Evensong (except Wednesdays)

### Saturday

11.05	The Holy Eucharist (said in the Lady Chapel)
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## CHORISTERS AT SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

We are currently holding Chorister auditions for boys and girls aged 7/8. So if you'd like your child to have the chance to perform daily with a world renowned choir; to work with some of the finest musicians in Ireland; to receive generous bursaries for instrumental tuition available as well as free in-house vocal, aural and theory tuition with our visiting team of tutors, a first class school education offered in Ireland's only Choir School alongside unique performance opportunities including regular concerts and recitals, tours, CD recordings, TV and Radio broadcasts and the like.....then do get in touch!



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CATHEDRAL  
CHOIR SCHOOL

Email: [music@stpatrickscathedral.ie](mailto:music@stpatrickscathedral.ie)  
Website: [www.stpatrickscathedral.ie](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie)

*"...confidence, independent learning, listening, discipline, motivation and a dedication to high standards are qualities which become second nature, and stay with Choristers for life"*

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# Charting Disestablishment 12

## ASSEMBLING THE CONVENTION: (I) THE CLERICAL SYNOD

**A** lay and clerical church conference had been held in Dublin while the disestablishment bill was progressing through parliament. After the bill had received the royal assent in July 1869 initial steps were taken to commence the reorganization of the act necessitated. The essentials had to be agreed and ready for disestablishment day, 1 January, 1871 which was barely seventeen months away.

The act provided limited guidance. In a general way, Section 19 mandated the holding of a national convention and facilitated this by removing all restrictions precluding the church from holding assemblies, synods or conventions. The act scrupulously avoided use of the term convocation, an official crown convened clerical parliament. The section prescribed no method for electing the members of the convention, simply providing that both clerical and lay representatives were involved. How this was to be done was left to the church to resolve. As one commentator wrote, the act set 'the synods free of the state': but, they had to learn to walk.

Two strands quickly emerged. The bishops reactivated the synodical processes prompting the laity to organise their own meeting in the Molesworth Hall at the end of August 1869. This meeting petitioned the archbishops for permission to meet as a lay conference.

The clergy met first. The Archbishop of Dublin summoned his provincial synod to St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin on 14 September and both archbishops convened a lay meeting in the Ancient Concert Rooms on Great Brunswick (Pearse Street), Dublin on 12 October.

The purpose of both meetings was to determine how representatives of their respective orders to attend the convention should be chosen.

### The Opening of the Clerical Synod

The Dublin provincial synod opened when Dean West met the Archbishop of Dublin and his suffragan bishops at the great west door of the cathedral. They processed in their robes to the Choir along with other members of the synod wearing the robe and hood of their academic degree. As they processed to their stalls the organ played "a grand processional march".

When the litany had been read, the members of the Synod moved to the Royal Chapter House (now more familiarly known as the Lady Chapel) where the Archbishop's invitation to the Northern Synod to join them was ratified. A royal mandate was no longer required and although it had not met since 1715, Archbishop Trench and the Chancellor of Armagh considered the meeting to be Convocation.

The Primate and the members of the Provincial Synod of Armagh having taken their places, the clergy proceeded to elect Dean West of Dublin as prolocutor- the then technical name for their chairman or speaker. The prolocutor would be the sole channel of communication with the upper house of bishops who withdrew to the robing room of the cathedral. The meetings of the bishops were private but those of the clergy reported in the press.

### The Bishops' Proposal

The bishops sent down a message to the clergy. It again protested at disestablishment but, recognising the *fait accompli*, recited that the church was now required to originate a constitution for the church and that the involvement of the laity was desirable. The clergy



Reverend George Salmon Regius Professor of Divinity, University of Dublin - Image © and courtesy Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral



St Patrick's Cathedral venue for the Clerical Synod

were asked to consider a proposal for the election of clerical members of the convention. This was to be done in diocesan synods which were to elect a specified number of clerics as their representatives. Dublin and Kildare would have the largest number of representatives of any diocese. The proposal intended to replicate the provincial synods with a dean and archdeacon being *ex officio* representatives of each united diocese.

Immediately difficulties emerged. Archdeacon Lee of Dublin sought to introduce a preamble to the proposal. He also raised the question of lay involvement. After lengthy discussion the meeting adjourned to the following morning on the suggestion of Dr Reichel, proctor for and a future bishop of Meath. Other key figures in the discussions were Archdeacon Stopford; Dr Salmon, Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Dublin; Rev Alfred Lee, Proctor for Connor; the Hon and Rev W. C. Plunket, Proctor for Dublin who would be the first archbishop of Dublin elected after disestablishment.

Although punctiliously observing ecclesiastical protocol, all was not well. The meeting opened next morning with a complaint from the registrar of several members speaking at once and proposing resolutions on top of resolutions making the keeping of minutes questionable. With a lack of clarity as to how to proceed, the somewhat tetchy atmosphere was cleared by Dr Salmon proposing that they proceed point by point and defer consideration of any preamble until the other matters had been resolved. A proposal by the prolocutor to appoint Rt. Hon. Dr. Ball Q.C. to act as his assessor was agreed. Dr Ball was newly elected Member of Parliament for Dublin University and a future Lord Chancellor of Ireland. His involvement brought greater efficiency to the meeting. In advising the prolocutor and guiding the meeting's procedures he had the advantage of being a layman and towards the close of the synod tribute was paid to the sagacity and courtesy of his advice.

The bishop's proposal that a dean and archdeacon from each united diocese be *ex officio* members of the convention was rejected by 107 votes to 29. The clergy decided instead that the clergy of each diocese should be represented by one presbyter for every 10 serving in a diocese.



The Royal Chapter House of St Patrick's Cathedral in which the house of clergy met

While this was almost revolutionary, it preserved the practice of clergy electing their own order to synods without lay involvement.

### The Clergy Reply

On the third day of the Synod, a committee appointed the previous day presented a resume of the proceedings which was adopted and brought to the house of bishops by the prolocutor. The length of his absence suggests that time was taken by the bishops to explore with him the views of the lower house. The bishops' deliberations were private. After a period of over two hours they replied with a message noting agreement between the two houses on all material points. They insisted upon clerical representatives being presbyters of five years standing and that clergy of Trinity College should have two representatives at the convention, distinct from representatives of the archdiocese of Dublin.

The lower house of clergy discussed the involvement of the laity in the forthcoming convention and agreed this was appropriate but future tensions were foreshadowed by Archdeacon Lee's high church

view that the laity should have no role in matters of doctrine or clerical discipline. There was also a view that lay synodsmen should be communicant members of the church. As the bishops sent no message to the lower house addressing these matters, no resolution could be adopted.

### The Synod Concludes

The bishops' concluding message to the lower house expressed their judgement that the synod when reformed must necessarily meet representatives of the laity in committee or otherwise before proceeding to arrange the mode and manner of future action in common. The bishops gave no mandate for the election of such committee members and stated that no answer to their message was necessary.

The synod concluded by the two houses assembling in the choir of the cathedral where the primate adjourned it to 30 September, members to attend only if they received a summons.

# Charting Disestablishment 13

## ASSEMBLING THE CONVENTION: (2) THE LAY CONFERENCE



*Ancient Concert Rooms, Pearse Street, Dublin venue for the Lay Conference*

**A lay meeting on 31 August 1869 in the Molesworth Hall chaired by the Earl of Meath, resolved to request the archbishops for permission to meet in a lay conference. The archbishops acceded to this request and elections were arranged in the dioceses to select diocesan representatives to the conference. The archbishops presided at the opening meeting of 417 laymen in the Ancient Concert Rooms on 12 October, four weeks after the clerical synod in St Patrick's cathedral first met.**

After the names of all delegates had been called, Archbishop Beresford addressed the meeting as to their momentous purpose to determine the membership of the laity in the future synod of the Church of Ireland. He informed them that the clergy had decided to be represented by about 220 of their number in the future national synod. Significantly, equal membership would reduce the number of lay representatives to half the number of those present at the conference. The turkeys were being asked to vote for Christmas.

### Voting by Orders

The first motion was moved by the Duke of Abercorn, a former Lord Lieutenant who was received with rapturous applause. He moved

'that..... the clerical and lay representatives should sit and discuss all questions together in the general synod with the right to vote by orders if demanded by three of either order present at the meeting.'

On the one hand, this motion rejected the high church position of Archdeacon Lee, as it extended beyond fiscal matters to include matters of doctrine and discipline. On the other, the Duke urged that voting by orders would avoid rash unprepared majorities carrying issues later found to be highly inconvenient and contrary to the wishes of the convention. The Duke explained that voting by orders meant that no vote would be carried that was not the concurrent vote of the three orders together. This would follow the example of the American and colonial churches and bore the analogy of King, Lords and Commons.

Master Brooke, a senior official in the Chancery court and who would be a major evangelical figure in the convention, seconded the motion. His rousing speech pointed out that, save in one case, voting by orders was the norm 'in every off shoot of the Anglican Episcopal Church in the world.' He then digressed to cite the example in the Presbyterian Church of Scotland where anticipating the difficulty of lay attendance two deputies were appointed for each clerical one. Raising the temperature and in a clear allusion to high church practices, Brooke feared that 'some desperate contagious malady'



The Duke of Abercorn, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland 1866-8 and 1874-6

such as had infected the clergy in England over the previous 40 years might one day affect the clergy of Ireland. This remark must have been particularly offensive to Archbishop Trench the former dean of Westminster.

When the animated debate concluded the Duke's motion was passed almost unanimously. His prestige and the evangelical credentials of Brooke were crucial to the motion passing.

### The clerical and lay balance

Sir Joseph Napier, a former Lord Chancellor of Ireland, proposed that the number of clerical and lay representatives should be as nearly equal as possible. He cited the constitution of the

branch of the United Church of England and Ireland in the Colony of New Zealand where the three orders were recognised. Its synod met every three years, where the clergy and laity were equally represented.

William Johnston MP for Belfast, objected proposing that the ratio should be two laymen to each clergyman which the Earl of Enniskillen pointed out was not material having agreed to voting by orders. The Earl of Clancarty felt procuring attendance of the laity could be difficult.

As in the clerical synod, there was discussion over procedure and the timing of votes. Should all motions be proposed debated and voted on together or taken individually? Eyre Chatterton the vice-Chancellor pointed out that under the Irish Church Act the meeting could only decide upon lay representation at the convention and could take no decisions for the future.

Who called the speakers is unclear but the temper of the meeting cannot have been a pleasant experience for the two archbishops. After what was reported as a lengthy and very clamorous discussion, the Johnston amendment fixing the lay representation at twice that of the clergy was adopted and the meeting adjourned.

Next morning the Archbishop of Armagh announced that neither he nor Archbishop Trench would continue in the chair. He insisted they be replaced by another chairman. The popular Duke of Abercorn was chosen to chair the remainder of the conference. A committee was then established to make recommendations as to the allocation of representatives between the dioceses. This committee included four earls from the southern province, and two majors and a fellow of Trinity College Dublin but no peers from the northern province.

### The limited remit of the conference

While the committee was deliberating, some confusion emerged within the conference as to its remit. An example was how meetings in parishes and dioceses should be called. There was mistrust of clergy being willing to do so. Lord Mountcashel opposed placing slips in pews as when people went into the pews to pray they should not be reading advertisements. Sir Joseph Napier clarified that it was for the convention to lay down the law, not the conference. Their function he opined was to consider how the lay portion of the convention was to be constituted. On the proposal of Loftus Tottenham, the conference resolved not to dictate to the diocesan synods.

A further example was the proposal by H L Puxley of Cork that the members of the lay conference constitute themselves as the members of the convention. On this Battersby QC Chancellor of the Diocese of Dublin found himself in a minority against two senior judges and three Queens Counsel, one judge stating that the suggestion was 'illegal, unconstitutional and a most monstrous proceeding'.

### The allocation of representation

When the Committee returned they reported having applied the principle of two lay representatives for each clerical member avoiding classifying the dioceses by province. Forty per cent of the 446 delegates were allocated between Down (71), Armagh (72) and Dublin (59) while 21% were divided between Tuam (19) Meath (23), Killaloe (19), Limerick (19) and Cashel (20). The allocation was based partly on population and partly on the parish system.

While the total number of lay representatives was twice that of the Clergy, this principle was not applied at diocesan level, some being represented by an uneven number. After a lengthy discussion the proposal was adopted.

### The conference concludes

Before adjourning, the conference decided to request the bishops to arrange the requisite parochial meetings to elect synodsmen to meet by 15 November 1869 and choose their diocesan representatives to the convention. Finally on the motion of RM Wade seconded by Master Brooke, recommendations were made for the formation of an organising committee to prepare the business of the convention. This picked up positively on the concluding message of the bishops to the clergy at the clerical synod.

The Lord Primate who had been asked to be chaplain to the meeting was present in that clerical capacity and following prayer, pronounced the Benediction. The meeting then adjourned sine die with authority to the Duke of Abercorn to reassemble the conference if necessary.



Sir Joseph Napier, Lord Chancellor of Ireland 1858-9

## ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES IN DUBLIN & GLENDALOUGH

*Throughout the Covid-19 crisis*

Find information on worship online at

[www.dublin.anglican.org](http://www.dublin.anglican.org)

# TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR TEENS THROUGH THE CRISIS

By Susie Keegan

Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator

**I've been really encouraged to see how youth workers have been doing youth work during this time. When all this arose, the first question was 'How do we do youth work if we can't gather with our young people?' Well not only was that question asked, it was also answered! Youth workers have adapted and responded so well. There have been quizzes, youth groups and Bible studies happening on Zoom. There still needs to be the pastoral response for our young people and many if not all of the youth workers, along with parents are checking in with young people on a weekly basis. If you have a teenager in secondary school who is looking for a group to connect with there are numerous groups meeting online throughout Dublin & Glendalough. Please feel free to email or call Susie and she can put you in touch with the specific youth leaders (dgyc.office@gmail.com)**

Instagram has proved to be a hot bed of resources and connection. The Dublin & Glendalough Youth Council recently set up an Instagram page to be a space where we share what is going on, not only in Dublin, but all over the Island. Youth workers have empowered their young people to do daily Bible readings and have them on Instagram. Young people are really owning this and it has been so encouraging to see and hear. Instagram is also a place where networking can happen. This is so important, now more than ever.

## Let's talk mental health.

Young people are at home with their families. It's important that we don't just talk about young people's mental health but the mental health of the whole family. Parents at this time are working from home, parenting, teaching as well as everything else. That is a strain on them. Taking time, even 5 minutes, to check in on how you're doing can be very beneficial. You could do this as a family or individually! This could be time that everyone learns how each other processes. Is it writing, drawing, playing sports, walking. Learning how we process can help how we interact with one another and not get frustrated with each other. Remember, you need to be well first.

**Creating spaces** for everyone in the family is important as everyone processes differently. Some might like a walk around the garden, some might just like sitting down at the kitchen table staring into space or doodling. When you establish these spaces, it says, 'I just need a bit of time, so please respect my space'.

This next suggestion would be for young people who are not really talking or are unsure of how or what to talk about. Establish a space that is solely dedicated to 'I need/want to talk'. Let them know if they want to talk about something, they can go to that space and someone will come and talk with them. It offers them the choice. By them sitting in that particular spot they are saying they want to try and articulate what they're feeling.

If they are really into computer games, ask them what games they like and why. You could also ask if there is a game they could teach you to play. There could be games that help with communication, team building or just a bit of fun. Again, it could be another opportunity to see how your child is and another way for them to open up.

**Make a worry jar.** Label it and whoever needs it can write one thing that is worrying them on a piece of paper and put it in the jar, seal it and put it away. The physical act of writing is really good as it takes it from the brain to the hand to the page. Make sure they can see you put it away. Also let them know that they can take that worry out at anytime and talk it through with you.

**Cut down on how much negative news everyone is watching.** Find positive pages and people to follow and make sure to talk about the positives at home with everyone. There is an increase in anxiety in young people and at a much younger age because they are absorbing so much.

**Exercise as a family!** Joe Wicks aka The Body Coach has been doing PE classes every morning with a dress up theme on Fridays. Linked below!

You do not have to do everything or anything that is written above. These are just suggestions. Know that it's important that everyone is taking care of each other. **Each person is important.**

## Helpful Links:

- <https://www.instagram.com/mindcharity/>  
They have a great post on helping your teen and their mental health.
- <https://youtu.be/youUcOwDskXo>  
<https://www.instagram.com/whyminddotie/>  
Tom Tate has been doing daily videos on mental health.
- <https://www.instagram.com/youthscape/>  
Youthscape in the UK has been ahead of the game and constantly sending out articles and resources for youth workers.
- <https://www.facebook.com/ymcadublin/photos/a.277076458982068/2954900557866298/?type=3&theater>
- [https://www.instagram.com/ymca\\_dublin/](https://www.instagram.com/ymca_dublin/)  
YMCA have a mentoring programme called Plus One. They are offering one off mentoring slots if you feel like your child would benefit from it. You can also follow them on Instagram as they are always putting up quizzes for young people!
- <https://www.instagram.com/thehappynewspaper/>  
I personally love this! Just reminding us of the positive things in the world!
- [https://www.instagram.com/the\\_happy\\_broadcast/](https://www.instagram.com/the_happy_broadcast/)  
Another great page to follow that shares positive news.
- <https://youtu.be/4hdR8Mlib3M>  
The Body Coach daily PE Classes
- <https://www.instagram.com/d.g.y.c/>  
Follow us on Instagram where myself and Ste are putting up daily posts of scripture and quotes and also sharing what others are doing



Stephen Byford



Susie Keegan

# THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

## The Solution is to be Found in Getting the Balance Right

By Alan Cox

Principal of Temple Carrig School, Greystones

**Someone commented recently that the use of the word 'unprecedented' was currently at an unprecedented level. And certainly, from an educational point of view, the remarkable circumstances in which we faced the Covid-19 shutdown this term have been like nothing and else in any existing teacher's career.**

However, schools and their communities all experience seismic and memorable moments from time to time and they thrive on the challenges that are thrown up by crises. I suspect a great many *Church Review* readers have been known to wax nostalgic upon meeting former schoolmates, and to regale them with tales that invariably begin with the words, "Do you remember the time when..." Lately, I was reading the 1919 edition of a school magazine and it talked about the provisions that they were having to make to deal with the Spanish Flu - one day the school shutdown of 2020 will be a similar memory and a challenge schools will have survived.

It HAS been an interesting challenge for schools. Remote teaching and learning, even with all the new technology that most schools are accessing, is novel to us and we're having to learn as we go. In the first week of the school closure, our teachers, in a fit of well-meaning diligence, churned out far too much work, which left students reeling and the teachers themselves up all night marking. Online live lessons via platforms such as Zoom, Teams, Google Hangouts, etc, seemed an obvious replacement for real school, but we soon found that this idea militated against the many students who were now left minding younger siblings while parents were still out at work. The solution is to be found in getting the balance right and every school principal to whom I've spoken accepts that we're only feeling our way in the dark at the moment. But we're getting there. As I write, the new Summer Term has just started and we're getting ready to go again, hopefully at the right pace and in the right manner.

...the sterling way in which its teenage population has supported social distancing measures.

The tributes paid to the country's heroic frontline workers are well-justified and well-documented. For me, it's the extraordinary bravery they have shown in knowingly going in to a perilous situation every day that stands out. However, I think it's important that Ireland at some stage

also pays tribute to the sterling way in which its teenage population has supported social distancing measures. Naturally, there were one or two high-profile cases of gross idiocy, but, in general, younger people have been absolutely terrific in acceding to the instructions to stay at home. They hate it; they're just at the stage in their lives when it is innate in them to want to get out into the world and explore it, but in Temple Carrig we challenged our students that this was the most patriotic thing they'd ever been asked to do and they deserve credit for how well they have supported the lockdown.

I must also pay tribute to the stoic attitude of our Sixth Year students as they approach the Leaving Cert exams. Written off so often as snowflakes, this generation has been calm, strong and resilient during the crisis. The Leaving Cert, which, let's face it, feels especially life-changing when you're actually doing it, IS stressful to go through, there's no doubt about it. So to have it moved around, prolonged and no certainty that it mightn't be changed further is hard luck. Moreover, there is a degree of inequity in the (albeit unavoidable) changes that have been made. However, most students have been remarkably public-spirited and understand that the disruption to their lives is minor compared to the tragedy that the virus has inflicted upon countless other families or to the contribution that frontline workers and others have had to put in. So there has been remarkably little whinging and self-pity and a fantastic resilience and willingness to keep going regardless of whatever happens.

It has also been a challenge to schools to support their students pastorally as much as academically. In Temple Carrig, we have an unusual Chaplaincy arrangement - rather than one Chaplain, we have a team of young people who come in to support our students. This "Chaplaincy Team", as we call it, is always available to our students for counselling and support throughout the year and they have simply switched over to working online at the moment, with face-to-face meetings proving rather successful as a means of checking in with people.

There is the need for the school to maintain a sense of team spirit and togetherness too, of course, so for this reason, we have held an End of Week Assembly on Zoom at 3.20pm every Friday, the time when the school week would normally be coming to a close. Again, the Chaplaincy Team and other staff have been wonderfully creative in driving these short, prayerful services and you may have seen one particular project we did where students and staff sang an alternative version of the Lou Reed song, *Perfect Day*, when it was posted on the Diocesan Facebook page recently.

Finally, alongside the academics and the pastoral, we issued a significant challenge to our student body. There were a lot of other people who were famously stuck at home. Isaac Newton had to self-isolate to avoid the bubonic plague and while he did he discovered Calculus and the Theory of Gravity. When St Paul was under house arrest, he wrote encouraging letters to other new Christian communities, letters (or epistles) which form much of the New Testament. William Shakespeare had to stay at home, again to avoid a plague, and while there he wrote the play *King Lear* (I do appreciate that many Temple Carrig Fifth Years probably wish he hadn't...). Meanwhile, Anne Frank wrote a journal of her enforced and lengthy time in hiding that is now the second most widely read non-fiction book in the world ever (behind the Bible)

So we challenged our students that for the many weeks they were likely to be facing this new style of living they could mope about and throw tantrums about how unfair it all was that they were stuck at home or they could challenge themselves to do something truly incredible like those guys did. They have risen to this with aplomb - we hear of people

- Writing a novels, plays, short stories
- Learning a new musical instrument
- Targeting a language and aiming to become completely fluent in that language by using all the online resources that are available
- Learning to cook
- Getting fit (helped by our PE teacher who is issuing daily workout instructions and (motivating?) photographs of teachers getting fit too!)
- Setting up a charity

- Lobbying for a skate-park
- Building mechanical projects in their garden
- Creating a new website company

As an incentive, a new series of prizes are going to be given in Prize Day this year – the Temple Carrig 2020 Challenge. The person who (in the opinion of the Board of Management) manages the most remarkable achievement between now and August 31st will win the Temple Carrig Challenge Cup and a €200 cash prize. There will be three runners-up prizes of €100 each and TEN third-tier prizes of €50 each. As we said to our students, not only can they do something incredible while they're stuck at home, we're actually going to find the funds to let them turn their achievement into cold, hard cash!

Parents, staff and friends have also been invited to join in by challenging themselves too (although only TCG students can win the prizes listed above). So, at a time when *Church Review* readers are starting to go demented with boredom, why not take on this challenge to find something that appeals to YOU and really go for it?



Alan Cox



Screenshot from Temple Carrig School's Easter Greetings

## THE PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: It's School Kids...But Not as we Know it

By Ann Creaner

*Principal of St Columba's National School, North Strand*

**A**t St Columba's NS North Strand, we got very lucky the day of the closure of schools. The teachers had been planning how they might manage to provide work for about a week before, but it was our secretary who was quickest off the mark. When the announcement was made, she quickly alerted the teachers and sent messages to parents making them aware of the situation. During breaktime, she collected any photocopying which teachers needed to send home. After break the children were brought up to speed. They responded so well with some very sensible questions, which teachers answered as honestly as possible. Then there was the mammoth task of loading textbooks into their bags as we had no concept of how long the closure would last. Off they went, like little pack horses into a whole new world.

Our school uses Aladdin for communication and teachers have access to email addresses for their students as well as class group mails. What followed for the three weeks before Easter were emails

from teachers sending out suggested work based on what would have been in the teachers plans for that period. Children were invited to send completed work for correction by email. For the senior children this was not a strange idea, as they often engage in project work involving home research which they send to school. What we quickly realised was, more important than any academic work we might provide, the element of life which the school provides is social interaction. To that end, we have a thrice weekly newsletter to the whole school community featuring photographs and news from the children themselves. This has probably been the most popular initiative. We have explored a number of the interactive platforms such as Zoom and See-saw but we have a number of concerns regarding security and more importantly disparity of access. Over the Easter break we carried out a survey to find out how families are getting on and it would seem that while they are sometimes finding it tough, they are also being creative in finding ways to entertain and educate their children.

The most difficult aspect for teachers, apart from missing the children, is pitching the level and amount of work we send home. If we could get parents to understand one thing it would be to realise that getting through academic work is not the most important thing. Communication is key and the teachers are very happy to answer questions and offer suggestions when they are asked. We know that this is very difficult for parents trying to work and engage their children at the same time. We know that access to resources varies from home to home, so our advice would be KISS (Keep It Simple Sweetheart) and keep in contact with your class teacher.



Ann Creaner with pupils from St Columba's National School

# Greystones Principal Swaps Classroom for Kitchen

**While her pupils and their parents have been getting to grips with homeschooling, the principal of St Patrick's National School in Greystones, Rachel Harper, has been brushing up on her culinary skills. She is volunteering in the kitchen at the Light House Homeless Centre on Pearse Street and St Patrick's parish and school are uniting to support the centre by collecting donations towards to food packs which are given out at the centre daily.**

In 'normal' times Dublin's busy streets provide something bordering on sufficiency for people who are homeless. While in a situation that many of us find unimaginable and intolerable, people living rough at least have the opportunity to seek the charity of passers-by for contributions towards food and sometimes a bed for the night and, as importantly, exchange a few words to affirm their mutual humanity. But now the city's streets are deserted due to the Covid-19 lockdown and many charities that support homeless people have been forced to close temporarily.

The Light House Homeless Centre, run by Dublin Christian Mission, is still open and it has experienced a huge surge in demand for its services. Rachel said she is in awe of the work people do at the centre which now serves 300 hot meals a day.

"During this worldwide lockdown resulting from Covid 19, I have been trying to do my bit by volunteering with The Light House Homeless Centre," she commented. "What has really struck a chord with me is they cook and distribute 300 hot, nutritious and very tasty meals a day for the homeless. They also put together a well thought out food bag containing the hot dinner, a cold drink, piece of fruit, pastry/bread and a chocolate bar (as a pick-me-up). For many this is the only food parcel they may receive for the day, as I am sure you are aware, a lot of the drop-in centres have had to close during these current times."

The centre is in dire need of supplies to fill the food packs which are distributed every day, seven days a week. This is where the school and parish community is rowing in to help. They are being asked to donate fruit and vegetables, juice cartons or small water bottles, snack sized chocolate bars, crisps and packs of underwear and socks.

St Patrick's Rector, Canon David Mungavin, has offered the use of the church car park as a drop off station for people's contributions. There is a pink box at the bottom of the steps up to the church (on the Rectory side) for donations which is checked regularly.

"At a time when we are all severely restricted yet reflecting on the call to faith we have found many people feel a sense purpose by supporting this area of acute need. Since the start of the lockdown the Light House



Rachel Harper at work in the kitchen of the Light House Homeless Centre

Homeless Centre has experienced a stampede for meals and provisions. Offering 300 cooked meals a day, the centre is also a beacon of hope for many who are on the streets," he explained.

If your parish or school community would like to support the Light House Homeless Centre you can contact them to discuss what arrangements could be made to transport donations: [office@dcmlive.ie](mailto:office@dcmlive.ie) or 087-9701063. Further information on the centre and Dublin Christian Mission is available at [www.dcmlive.ie](http://www.dcmlive.ie) where financial donations can also be made.

Is your parish or school already involved in an initiative during the Covid-19 crisis? If so we want to share your story. Please email Lynn at [dco@dublin.anglican.org](mailto:dco@dublin.anglican.org).

## ONLINE RESOURCES DURING THE CURRENT HEALTH EMERGENCY

By the Revd Ken Rue

**Since the Government advised against mass gatherings, many different initiatives have been taken by the United Dioceses and individual parishes.**

The Diocesan website, [www.dublin.anglican.org](http://www.dublin.anglican.org), is making available resources for each Sunday and was supplying these on a daily basis during Holy Week. These have included various types of services: Morning Prayer 1 and 2, Morning Prayer for use on Sundays, Services of the Word and services as Gaeilge (Urnaí na Maidine a Dó agus Seiribhis an Bhriathair). Most services include the lectionary readings as well as hymns and prayers. Links to online readings and hymns are provided. One innovative example was a Maundy Thursday Devotional and Fellowship Meal composed by Revd Abigail Sines. Links are given to Canon Patrick Comerford's and Fr Kieran O'Mahony's commentaries on the lectionary readings.

With the knowledgeable involvement of Scott Evans, weekly sermon podcasts from a range of clergy have been uploaded to [www.dublinandglendaloughsermons.com](http://www.dublinandglendaloughsermons.com) On Easter Day,

Archbishop Jackson delivered an English language sermon and Bishop Burrows an Irish language sermon.

Lynn Glanville has been collating and publishing databases of the various means adopted by the cathedrals and parishes in delivering online services. These include live services broadcast via webcam, livestreaming via Facebook, video conferencing via Zoom and uploading recorded services via YouTube.

Currently the Diocesan website has material which can be used for weekday services and private devotions during the Easter season. All the weekday offices are covered – Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Compline and A Late Evening Office - together with resources for the Festivals in the 2020 Easter Season.

Updated details of online services as well as links to worship resources can be found on the Diocesan website here: [www.dublin.anglican.org/news/category/events](http://www.dublin.anglican.org/news/category/events)





# Rural Church in a Global Pandemic

**How do you do church during a lockdown when going online is not an option? When almost all your fellow clergy are becoming YouTubers or streaming services on Facebook Live but you and your parishioners are largely confined to a broadband blackspot, how do you preach the Gospel and let it be heard during a global pandemic? It's back to basics for the Archdeacon of Glendalough, the Ven Neal O'Raw, who now finds that socially distant conversations with parishioners across their gates are the only way forward.**

Neal is the Rector of Donoughmore and Donard with Dunlavin. Located on the west side of the Wicklow Mountains, the parish is among the most rural in the Diocese of Glendalough. The Rector and many of the parishioners have access to creaky internet at best and even mobile phone coverage is far from guaranteed. The tranquil rural idyll is located far from the internet superhighway.

"My answer to the fact that the phones and internet are so bad here has been to meet people face to face," Neal explains. "I drive up to a parishioner's gate and ring them. They come out and we have a chat across their gate." The visits are all conducted in an appropriately socially distant manner and clergy have a dispensation to move beyond their two kilometre radius to carry on their work.

When the lockdown was announced, the churches in Donard and Donoughmore, while devoid of services, remained open as they do normally during the week. A parishioner suggested that copies of the weekly parish leaflet, the Hallelujah Times, be left in the porches for

those visiting the churches. This has proved popular, as the copies are taken by those who find solace in the empty churches during the week, and can keep abreast of happenings in the parishes through the newsletter. While talking to his post person at the gate, who also happens to be a parishioner, Neal had a lightbulb moment: "Why not call to parishioners' houses, park at their gates, phone them to say I'm outside, so they can come out in the fine weather we are enjoying at the moment, maintain the required social distancing and have a chat. Could this form of visitation help to maintain a connection with isolated parishioners?"

"On a normal pre-Covid Sunday I might see two or three dozen people. It's a rural area and there is quite a small Church of Ireland population. I started limited visiting, focusing on those who are particularly isolated. I had been calling people but I don't like the phone and as a former long distance lorry driver, I like to be out and about. This helps keep up the Sunday connection and maintains the sanity of the Rector," he says.

He continues his 'walk and talk' philosophy when he is in Dunlavin and Donard and stops for socially distant conversations with parishioners and members of the wider community he meets along the way. He is as busy in lockdown as he has been for months and urges parishioners who he has not managed to meet yet to get in touch if they would appreciate a chat.

*Neal O'Raw*

It's  
back to  
basics...

THE ARCHBISHOP:

# An Easter Like No Other

By Archbishop Michael Jackson

**If ever we were to become aware of the full implications of globalization, it was going to be when it affected our health and our wellbeing. The world may indeed be a very big place, but there is no way out of it and there is no way off it when a global pandemic strikes.**

Whatever the real cause of the coronavirus COVID 19, it is wrong to give it a moral or a theological cause and to seek to blame others for it. The skills of healthcare, medicine, science and research now combine with the devotion to duty of a myriad of people, many of them members of these united dioceses, who form the front line. Currently, the coronavirus has neither science nor vaccination. I have described it as a race against time within time itself. We have been given no option but to live with it in order to live beyond it. Our needs change as our options lessen. I am not sure that we ever before appreciated sufficiently the words in the hymn: "... a servant with this clause makes drudgery divine ..." People such as those to whom I have alluded above, whom we have never noticed before, whatever their role in our society, whatever their drudgery, are the real heroes and heroines. And their sense of personal worth is under an intolerable strain.

In the past number of weeks, I have found that countless people fall into this category of: exceptional ordinary hero. I marvel at their motivation and their continuation in doing things for others ahead of doing things for themselves, everyday things that are now dangerous things. I sense that, in parts of church life, a range of entitled antagonisms and old scores has been set aside if only for the present. And I pray that they will continue to be set aside. We need compassion and collaboration for the longer haul. Indulging in assumptive negativity will do us no end of harm as, paradoxically, the evenings lengthen and the days darken. We need not only to conserve the best of life with God inside the church; we need also to find life in its fullness outside the church - in the community to which we belong and to whose pain and suffering God is calling us to contribute what is the best of life itself in these days. It is not without reason that I spoke recently in my Easter Day Sermon in Christ Church Cathedral of St Matthew 25.35, 36 as being the rallying cry of the COVID 19 family in 2020.

Throughout most of Lent and in Holy Week and over Easter, churches were not open for public worship. This had never happened before in my lifetime. Thanks to the dedication to service of relevant clergy, worship continued undaunted by totally different means. Through the devotion to duty of clergy and the diocesan administration and communications team in The Diocesan Office, three things have continued unabated. All of these people have not been off work. For this all of us ought to be unfeignedly thankful. This continues to mean that members of these united dioceses have not been disadvantaged any more than have other members of the population in the things that matter most immediately to them as God's people. Isolation is imposed on all of us. The continuing gifts of grace are: pastoral care, liturgical worship and regulated administration. The diocesan cathedral, along with St Patrick's Cathedral, has played an exceptional part also in what the Prayer Book calls: patient continuance in well doing.

We have no idea how long the social isolation will continue. We have no idea, either, how long a country where people cannot go to work or to school and where an economy barely functions can continue in its present mode. We have no idea how our hospitals and residential care centres for the elderly and the disabled can continue either. We have no idea of the toll in terms of psychological atrophy that these experiences will have on a Western world geared to spending as the way of survival. We have no idea yet of the devastation being visited on our Mission Partners in various parts of the world which had become our missional neighbourhood.

Easter Day most of all, in the interchange between The Risen Lord and Mary, offers us personal recognition, in radically altered circumstances, as the living hope of the new creation. It takes a whole lifetime for the Easter story to unfold and we, in our time, are part of that positive unfolding. And every other World Faith has its story to tell in these days. Kindness and friendship will take us further than we might imagine. Social media, which can be our enemy every bit as much as it can be our friend, offered the following aphorism recently: 'I'm with the helpers, not with the haters.' I suggest that, in this extraordinary Easter Season, this is the right place to be. Prayer is our gift to ourselves and to others. So also is gladness. Let us, therefore, rejoice in it.

St John 20.19, 20: The Risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, Peace be with you. Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

## CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL:

# In Lockdown the Cathedral Continues to be a Beacon for the Dioceses

By the Very Revd Dermot Dunne

Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

**As I write this article I am conscious of all who are affected by the current pandemic and how lives are totally changed by the virus known as Covid-19. Our prayers and thoughts go to all who are in hospital and all who are sick at home and those who are cocooning and are in necessary isolation. Our prayers also go to all involved in caring for those who are sick at this time.**

So what about the cathedral and what is it up to, you might say. Like everyone else this situation has hit us like a ton of bricks and we were far from prepared for the effect it has brought to the life of the cathedral. We welcome nearly three hundred thousand people every year and our main season of welcome begins in March and continues until October. You can appreciate that we were all geared to begin a busy season. The cathedral has just gone through a lean period when our visitor income is low and we rely on reserves to carry us through until the new season begins. This is not to be this year. We are forecasting that visitors from abroad will not begin to travel until 2021 and we will need to 'cut our cloth according to measure' until the situation turns around.

What is important for me in all this is that such a scenario does not affect the worship life in the cathedral. In other words the cathedral needs to operate, as it is constitutionally obliged, as the mother church of the diocese and the seat of our archbishop. I feel that it is important during this pandemic that the cathedral continues to offer prayer and worship every day on behalf of and for the people of Dublin and Glendalough, the nation and the world. It is my belief that we continue to be a spiritual presence in the heart of Dublin.

The cathedral is nearly one thousand years old and during that time it has had a turbulent history. It has survived the ravages of time including the Henry VIII suppression of monasteries act, the roof collapse of 1562, Cromwellian devastation and so on. Christ Church continued to be a witness in Dublin and continued to be its spiritual heart. The last great cathedral closure was between 1871 and c1878 when Henry Roe sponsored the architect George Edmund Street to restore and reorder

Above: An empty Christ Church Cathedral on Easter Day 2020 (Photo Dan Sheridan).

Dean Dermot Dunne in Christ Church Cathedral, Easter 2020. (Photo Dan Sheridan)

the cathedral to its present state. Since then the cathedral has rarely closed for long periods. In modern times the cathedral is open three hundred and sixty-four days of the year.

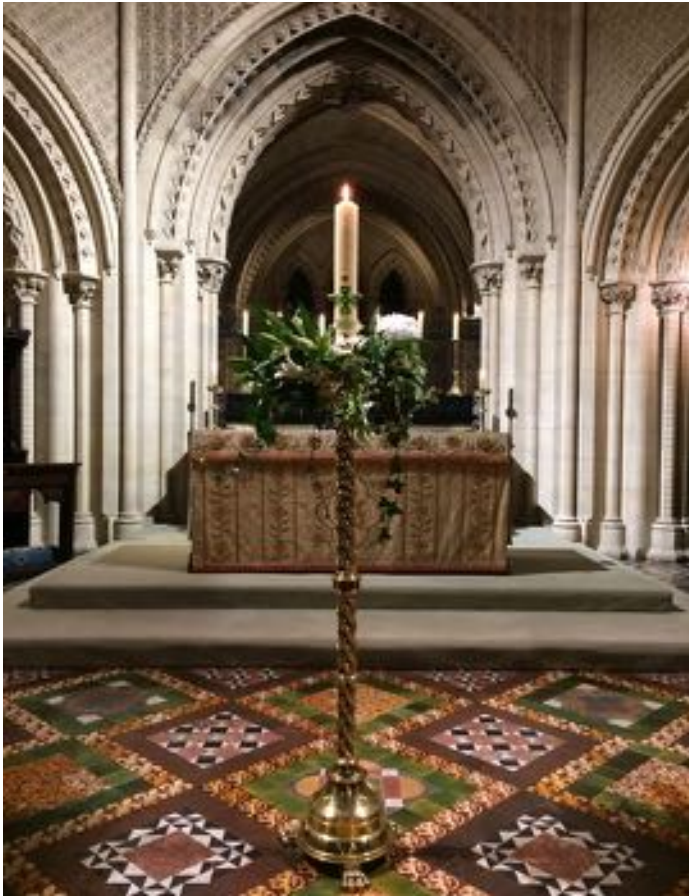
I was devastated when the lockdown was announced by the Government on Friday 27 March. I thought that was it and I wouldn't be able to get into the cathedral. It wasn't until the following Monday when the list of those exempted from the lockdown was published that I noticed the inclusion of religious personnel. I immediately planned the continuation of worship in the cathedral via the webcam (<https://christchurchcathedral.ie/worship/video-stream-1/>). Now we have a regular pattern of Morning Prayer at 10am and Evening Prayer at 5pm from Monday to Friday and the celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays. I am very grateful to Abigail Sines the Dean's Vicar who has supported the worship life by arranging recordings and creating meditations for the Facebook page and website. We are a good team together.

For me it is important that we continue to offer worship in the cathedral during the lockdown. The cathedral's tagline is that it is 'The Spiritual Heart of Dublin.' The cathedral has been at the heart of Dublin since the foundation of the city. I believe that it should continue to be the spiritual heart and be a comforting presence to the people of Dublin and further afield. Since I became dean I have worked towards bringing the cathedral beyond the confinement of the railings and into the city. I believe this needs to continue during this crisis and be a sign of hope in a time of deep fear. I feel it a privilege to be able to continue in this way and I pray that both Abby and I are given the continuance of health to be able to do so. We are happy to be the beacon of the dioceses reaching out to all in this time of need.



Dean Dermot Dunne

# Christ Church Cathedral



Paschal Candle 2020

## From the Dean

March has to be one of the most difficult times for me as dean since I arrived in the cathedral twelve years ago. Because of this awful pandemic we had to close our doors to the public. Because of this we had to lay off sixty-one staff who were on our books. These staff comprise full and part-time workers as well as all our choir. Never before had we to take such drastic measures. We now have a skeleton staff who are all working from home. Both Abigail Sines and I continue to work in the cathedral every day except for Saturdays when we both take a day off. It is a privilege for us to be able to continue to offer the praying of the offices at 10am and 5pm each day, Monday to Friday and to offer the Eucharist at 11am on Sunday.

I am grateful to all who have taken the time to record readings for the services and also for the music which has been extracted from past services which were located in our music archive.

Of course the closure of the cathedral has had a huge effect on our financial position. Like many in our position our income and welfare relies totally on visitors who come to the cathedral and on functions and dinners that are organized throughout the year. These have now stopped so we have to reduce our outgoings dramatically. There are fixed costs that still need to be met like insurance, Security, Utilities to name but a few. We are grateful that we have an understanding bank manager who has helped us in accessing overdrafts and loans to keep us going. It is hoped that we can limp along until the end of the year. Forecasts predict that tourism and visitors will not really get started until March 2021. I am very positive that all will be well and we will be back up and running when everything gets back to normal whatever normality will be

I am grateful to all who have donated to the cathedral via the donate button on our website. This is providing a fund that enables us to pay for the webcam services which we offer each day. If you would like to donate the button is on the front page of our website.

While I am conscious of our financial vulnerability it doesn't dominate or take top priority at the moment. What is priority for us in the cathedral is the concern for all who are affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. We continue to pray for those in hospital, those critically ill and for all health care workers. We thank the government for its direction and help throughout this crisis. As we pray the offices in the cathedral we are praying for the whole diocese that the Lord our God will keep us safe and well and will support all who are in need. Please be safe and keep well too. Tune in to our services and let us be together as we pray for each other and the welfare of all people throughout this present crisis.

## Services via Cathedral webcam:

<https://christchurchcathedral.ie/worship/video-stream-1/>

Monday – Friday

Morning Prayer 10.00

Evening Prayer 17.00

## Sundays

Eucharist 11.00

Service sheets are made available each week online: <https://christchurchcathedral.ie/worship/services/>

We have posted a variety of recorded reflections and services online: <https://vimeo.com/user109771403>

If you would like to be added to our email newsletter please email the Dean's Vicar: [abigail@christchurch.ie](mailto:abigail@christchurch.ie)

## Canons-in-Residence

3 May The Canon Treasurer

10 May The Canon Precentor

17 May The Revd Canon Leonard Ruddock

24 May The Revd Canon David Gillespie

31 May Canon Dr Mary McAleese

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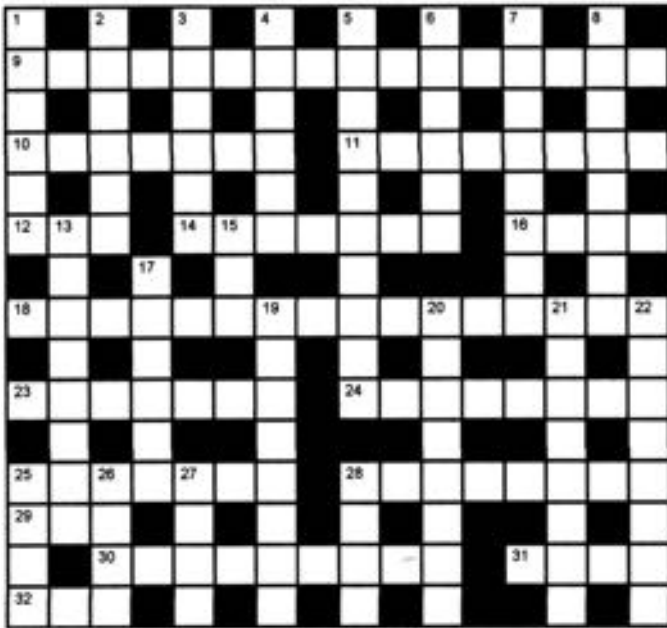
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# The Editor's Crossword Competition

May Bible Crossword compiled by Randal Henly



Entries to the Editor by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 15th May 2020. No photocopies. The first correct answer drawn will receive a cheque for €25.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

## Clues Across

9. Jesus' oration from on high (6,2,3,5)
10. An October festival in Protestant churches (7)
11. Chief archbishops or monkeys or apes (8)
12. Proverb: *The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall ...*
14. Promiscuous women, such as the two women in 1 Kings or those associated with the Publicans in Matthew (7)
16. The weak part on Achilles' body (4)
18. *O worship the Lord in the — what?* according to the hymn (6,2,8)
23. Again, according to a hymn *There is ..... in the desert, there is laughter in the skies* (7)
24. Feeling or showing deep and solemn respect (8)
25. Ps. 104: *Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a .....* (7)
28. A member of the clergy, especially in the Presbyterian and Nonconformist churches (8)
29. The third king of Judah who is strangely found in Joppa Samaria! (3)

30. In biblical times it comprised the kingdoms of Israel and Judah (9)
31. Garment worn by an ancient Roman (4)
32. Item used by Simon Peter and Andrew in their work (3)

## Clues Down

1. Jewish queen and Old Testament book (6)
2. The traditional mount on which Noah's ark came to rest (6)
3. It could be a son of Jacob, or maybe Mary's husband, or perhaps the man from Arimathea (6)
4. Psalm: *Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a ..... 's vessel* (6)
5. Leah's relationship to Benjamin (10)
6. The Sun personified as a god; father of Phaethon (6)
7. The eldest son of King Saul and a close friend of King David. He was a commander of 1000 men in Saul's army (8)
8. They are correctly called hassocks (8)
13. He was the fugitive slave of Philemon. He had robbed his master and fled to Rome where he met Paul in prison (8)



## ANSWERS TO APRIL CROSSWORD

The winner of the Editor's April Crossword Competition receives a cheque for €25.

Winner: Linda Gillis, 7 Tournville Lodge, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14

## SCEALA NA nGAEL

Lúcás/Luke 3: Ileanaigí oraibh ag urnaí sa bhaile agus ag léamh an Bhíobla.

STAIÐÉAR AR AN mBÍOBLA: Maíonn roinnt daoine sa lá inniu nach bhfuil sa Bhíobla ach miotais agus finscéalta béaloideasa, ach ní fíor dóibh. Leabhar staire atá ann – cuntas staire ar Dhia agus ar an mbaint a bhíodh aige leis an gcine daonna, le náisiúin agus le pobail agus le daoine aonair agus le teaghlaigh i rith na n-aoiseanna.

Duine ar bith a bhfuil mórán scéalta béaloidis léite nó cloiste aige, ba chóir go n-aithneodh sé gan dua nach bhfuil blas an bhéaloidis ar an mBíobla. Níl leaganacha ann, mar shampla, ar nós "Bhí rí ann fadó" ach tugtar ainm an rí dúinn agus is minic a bhíonn fios a chraobha ginealaigh agus/nó ainmneacha ríthe comhamsireacha eile againn chomh maith. As sin, féadaimid – mar shampla – dátaí a oibriú amach.

Sampla maith de sin tús seanmóireachta Eoin Baiste: "Sa chúigiú bliain déag de réimeas Thíbir Céasar..." (Lúcás/Luke 3:1). Ós rud é gur aithníodh Tiberius Caesar mar Impire an 18 Meán Fómhair 14 AD, is í AD 29 – nó míonna deireannacha na bliana roimhe – an dáta atá i gceist.

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## BOOTERSTOWN, CARYSFORT AND MOUNT MERRION

The Rev. Canon Gillian Wharton:

Tel: (01) 288 7118 or 087 230 0767

Email: [booterstown@dublin.anglican.org](mailto:booterstown@dublin.anglican.org)

Review Distribution: St Philip and St James: June Burgess  
St Thomas: Denis Beare

### Services:

As with all other places of worship, our church buildings are closed for public worship as per directives from the government, but whilst the buildings may be closed, the Church has been open. A short service for each Sunday is posted on our parishes' website – [www.booterstownchurch.ie](http://www.booterstownchurch.ie) or [www.mountmerrionchurch.ie](http://www.mountmerrionchurch.ie) and on our parishes' respective Facebook pages and on the Rector's Facebook page. As my technical skills are VERY limited, I am very grateful to Mike Lee, Charles Pearson and Graham Hayes for their help.

### Parishes, Cathedrals and Clergy Online:

Thank you to the clergy of both cathedrals and other parishes for their inspiring online worship, reflections and prayers, during these difficult times, and to the Archbishop for his series 'The Last Lap' during Holy Week.

### Help During Covid-19:

Another way in which the Church has been open is the many parishioners who have been so kind in looking after others during this time, through shopping, pharmacy pick-ups, phone calls, etc.

### Heroes in the midst of Covid-19:

We continue to pray for the safety and wellbeing of those who are working on the frontline during Covid-19: all who work in any way in the medical and health services; those who work to ensure that essential provisions are supplied, in food shops, supermarkets, pharmacies; those who work in post offices and banks; those who work in transport; those who work to clean our streets and roads; those who manage waste disposal, etc. There are so many... we are very much in your debt.

### Easter:

Each day during Holy Week, a short reflection or service was posted on the parishes' website and Facebook pages and on the Rector's Facebook page, and likewise, a short service was posted on those fora for Easter Day. Each year, Vi Wilson makes a floral cross which goes up on the door of St Thomas' Church Mount Merrion on Easter Day. After the services, it is put up on the porch gate on the Foster Avenue side of the church. This year, Vi insisted on making the cross, whilst cocooning. She wanted the message to go out that the Church was 'still in business', and so the floral cross was put up on the porch gate.

### Easter Cards:

One of our parishioners suggested that this year, out of all years, we should highlight the Easter message of hope, and do so by sending out an Easter card to each household in the parishes. Particular thanks to the three individuals who felt that it was a really good idea but were also conscious that the parishes have little income with no public worship taking place in our churches, and who sponsored the printing of the cards and the postage.

### Boosterstown National School:

In the midst of an unexpected long-term closure, it's hard to remember what a busy bustling place Boosterstown National School was until the 12th March 2020!

We all entered the Blackrock Education Centre Write a Book project, creating wonderful extended pieces of fiction, illustrating them and binding them together as a book. The PTA very generously funded Drama classes for all the children in the school with Dublin Stageschool - the pupils really enjoyed the games and activities on Thursday mornings. Junior Infants – 2nd Class visited Cool Planet in Enniskerry, they learned all about climate change and what we can do to protect our planet. This fitted in with our application for the Green School Flag for Biodiversity. 3rd and 4th class visited Dalkey Castle as part of their history studies, and following a study of the 1916 Rising, 5th and 6th class visited Kilmainham Gaol and 14 Henrietta Street, which they found fascinating.

One of the highlights of our term was Forest School Class with Kiki, unfortunately we only had two sessions before the term was cut short, but in that short time we built swings and rope bridges in the trees, we built a willow dome and had great fun making a mud kitchen!!

Thanks to fundraising by our wonderful PTA, we were able to have the classrooms painted over the February midterm break.

The parents/guardians are sending in daily reports of how well the children are applying themselves to their study at home – well done! And well done and thank you to the staff team who so quickly got their heads around preparing lessons from home and delivering them to the children; and to our SNAs and school secretary have also gone above and beyond in ensuring continuity in our school in this time of uncertainty.

We pray for the health and wellbeing of all members of our school community at this time. Rachel Fraser, Principal

### Plans On-hold:

Like every other parishes, plans that were made are now all on-hold, pending further directions from the government.

### St Thomas' Summer Fête:

In normal circumstances, we would be gearing up for the St Thomas' Summer Fête which is due to be on Saturday 23rd 2020, 12.00 – 15.00 hours. Planning and work for the all the various stalls was underway... we hope that at some stage, we will be able to hold the Fête and have all the usual stalls: Cakes, Toys, Ice Cream, BBQ, Bric-a-brac, Books and Media, Bottles, Plants, and a 'Second Outing' Stall... and we will be serving lunches, as well as tea/coffee and goodies! We are currently doing some essential work on our parish hall to make it compliant with fire regulations - the Summer Fête is our major fundraiser for this, so your support and generosity is much needed.

### Blessing of the Animals:

If services are allowed by then, the service of Blessing of the Animals will take place at the United Family Service in St Philip and St James' on Sunday 24th May 2020 at 10.30.

### In Memoriam:

Averil Hayden (née Browning) died on Friday 27th March 2020 in The Blackrock Clinic following a long illness. Due to the restrictions in place for the corona virus Covid-19, Averil's funeral was held privately. A celebration of her life will take place later.

We extend our sympathy to her sons Peter, Graham, Nigel and Robert and their families; to Derek, to her brothers Brian and Michael and all the extended family

### Stay well and stay safe:

We pray for all at this devastating time, that they may stay well and stay safe, and we pray for those who grieve at this time.



Left: Easter Card reminding us, in these difficult times, of the promise of all things being made new through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Right: Two Senior Infant pupils from Boosterstown National School who thoroughly enjoyed making a mud kitchen as part of the Forest School Class!!!

**BRAY****Rev. Baden Stanley:** 087 948 4407**Lay Minister:** David Reynolds 087 918 7792**Parish Office:** Tracey Kerr (01) 286 2968**E-mail:** christchurchbray@gmail.com**Website:** www.christchurchbray.ie**Review Distributor:** Alan Mulligan (01) 286 3511**From the Rectory 'Our Deeper Instincts'**

We are living in extra ordinary times, full of change and challenge. The arrival and spread of Covid 19 on our island has thankfully remained somewhat in check, thanks in most part to the phenomenal work of our frontline workers and your adherence to the restrictions brought in by our government. Every day I'm hearing heartening stories of people's kindness to one another and harrowing accounts of people's struggles, during this time of unsettling fear and concern. I want to encourage you to pray every day for those in deepest need both here and right around the world. They say that Sir Isaac Newton, when sent home from college during a plague used the months of self-isolating to develop some of his extraordinary discoveries including the laws of gravity. My slightly less admirable contribution to awareness of how gravity works happened while on my daily 2 km walk. A raised piece of pavement snagged my foot and I found myself beginning to fall. In such 'life and death' situations things seem to happen in slow motion. I distinctly remember instinctively trying to counterbalance by falling backwards only to realise that to do so would probably cause me more serious injury. I had to countermand my first instinct and allow myself to fall forward and to roll into the fall with my hands outstretched. This deeper instinct proved correct as I ended up on the ground with a sprained hand, a grazed elbow, a sore hip and a bruised ego but thankfully nothing worse. As I looked up I noticed two people who had been walking behind me instinctively rush to help me but then their deeper instinct kicked in and they hesitated to know what best to do in terms of physically distancing. While we don't always have the luxury of taking that extra moment before reacting to a situation there can be no doubt that this time of isolation and distancing is presenting us with challenges that can go very deeply into our core identity. I suspect all of us have felt that consistent gnawing, unsettling fear as the hidden virus comes closer to our loved ones and our homes and while it is important that we isolate and physically distance ourselves it is rightly important that we don't cut ourselves off socially or spiritually. As Christians we know that there is a peace which passes all understanding; we know that prayer, bible reading and worship work: we know that no matter what happens to us God's presence and love is both promised and assured. One of the challenges facing us as a society, is that we do not become defined by fear or by the spread of this virus. Our deeper instinct must always be to trust, to follow and to obey. People we meet whether virtually or in real time need to see and experience God's love in action through us and in spite of us. Keep praying, keep trusting, and keep loving as Christ has commanded us to do.

In His Service

Baden

**Connect online!**

As our experience of 'being church' changes from physical to virtual there are a number of on-line connection points with the parish. Our website is [www.christchurchbray.ie](http://www.christchurchbray.ie) Our Facebook page is called Christ Church Bray We are also developing our email connections ([christchurchbray@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchbray@gmail.com)) and WhatsApp groups (087 9484407) We have also been developing a YouTube Channel for all ages called "The Story Tree" which you can find by clicking the following link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrK0DFTPIodpiOyxBSqKxw>

We have set up a live stream from the Epiphany Chapel which is where you can follow our Sunday services at 11am. The address is [www.churchservices.tv/christchurchbray](http://www.churchservices.tv/christchurchbray). This is a 24/7 live stream so you can log in at any time, even just to see the familiar interior of our church building. Please be patient as we learn as we go. Our heartfelt thanks to the Collier family for facilitating us using their premises for Sunday worship in March and April. Their generous support is as always, really appreciated.

**Women's World Day of Prayer:**

Before the Covid 19 restrictions came into place there was a lovely service held in St.Fergal's Oratory on Saturday 7th March. As you will see from the accompanying pictures the service was enjoyed and celebrated by members of churches across our community. The service booklet was prepared by Women in Zimbabwe.

**Our Sympathies**

We know that many people are grieving at this time for loved ones that have died in recent days, weeks, months and even years. Our prayers are with those who are entering the last phase of their life, especially with all the restrictions that are now in place, in nursing homes, hospitals and hospices. Over the last few weeks a number of our parishioners have lost members of their extended family and our love and prayers are with them at this time especially Patsy Quinn on the death of Neville, Artemis Kent on the death of her brother in law Abdullah and Nicki Henderson on the death of her beloved mum Phyllis. And also to Carol Cassidy on the death of her beloved mum, Joan.

I am very conscious that a number of our younger parishioners are also grieving not just about restrictions from meeting up with their friends but especially from a deep rooted fear that they are "vectors" who might transmit Covid 19 without having any of the symptoms themselves. This can cause significant anxiety and grief to our young people who may be terrified that they may cause their vulnerable loved ones to be ill and maybe even die. Please be mindful in your communication with our young folk that despite appearances they do listen and they do worry.



Above: Womens' World Day of Prayer.

**CASTLEKNOCK AND MULHUDDART WITH CLONSILLA****Canon Paul Houston:** Tel: 820 0040**Reader:** Stella Obe Tel: 087 2237402**Parish Website:** [www.castleknock.dublin.anglican.org](http://www.castleknock.dublin.anglican.org)**Parish Office:** Jennifer McGrath  
(Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 9.30am - 1pm - 820 0040).**Email:** [cmcparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cmcparishoffice@gmail.com)**Review Distribution:** Beatrice Richards (838 2590)**Castleknock National School:**  
Principal Mrs Sandra Moloney (820 2611)**Sunday Services in May:**

Castleknock: 8.30am, 11.30am

Clonsilla: 10am

Mulhuddart: Night Prayer (3rd Sunday) 7pm

Wednesdays: Castleknock Parish Centre: 10.30a.m. HC followed by coffee

Dear Parishioners

This has been a very strange Holy Week and Easter. I hope you are all keeping well and safe.

I realise this has been a very difficult period for people personally and financially,

I have continued to broadcast services on YouTube via our website at 10.00am every Sunday. I would like to thank Philip Good, my wife, Adrienne and Jenny McGrath for their help. I'm learning new skills.

I have been trying to keep in contact by phone and email.

If you require any help either, finically or personally, please contact me on 01 8213083.

God Bless and keep well,

Regards

Canon Paul

## Greetings from our CMS Link Mission partners in Zambia.

This has been an extraordinary year for all of us around the world hasn't it? Almost every country we know has been affected by Covid 19 and, as I write, I am well aware that the UK and Ireland have suffered thousands of infections and bereavements.

Looking from Zambia it is shocking and sobering. We have nothing like those numbers but we fear that, in future months, Zambia will be devastated as may the whole continent.

Presently we are not in lockdown, we have advice on hand washing and social distancing but there is no serious adherence to the rules. Quite often poor people have limited access to water for a start. We are still on load shedding, which means regular power cuts. Before the emergence of the new Coronavirus the country was already in a fragile state, and there was some mob violence in the townships. People in the townships have a tough life, the economy has been on edge leading to deprivations and social problems. Fear of the virus is an extra burden. Please pray that Coronavirus will not sweep through Africa as feared and bear in mind how under-equipped countries are and how inadequate their resources.

As a seminary we are soldiering on, staying open for the short-term but being cautious and wary. Our students are safer here than travelling to their home dioceses for their Easter break even though there are no restrictions on travel yet. We are aware that a lockdown could be imposed at any time so they might not be able to return if they left. Please pray for their families, for understanding and patience.

We are thinking of our family, friends and link churches too. Being far away and unable to support them is difficult.

We are aware of several parishioners in our link churches also who have contracted the virus and we are thinking of you in our prayers. May God surround you with His comfort and strength.

In these uncertain and bewildering times, we need to look at the example of Christ our Lord and Saviour, His trust in the Father and the promise of the Holy Spirit to always be with us. These assurances give us an anchor.

May God bless you and keep you safe and well, Keith & Lyn

....A synopsis of a letter from Keith & Lyn Scott, Diocese of Zambia, Easter 2020.

## Bowls:

Our McIlwaine team reached the final of this competition and were due to play against Dundrum Methodist team but due to the present health conditions that wasn't to be, in the near future anyway. However, the Association Executive agreed in late March to conclude the season now by declaring that the finalists in this and other Association competitions were to be joint winners, so well done to Dundrum Methodist and to us!! Valerie

## Mothers' Union:

I have just reread the notes I wrote for April and it seems like we were living on a different planet at a different time. I did finish with "praying we may all stay well in the days ahead" but I had no idea of what was to come, individually and globally.

At present it's essential for us to keep up our spirits while supporting each other. One of the great blessings is the technology, which enables us to stay in touch. This is a really difficult time for some, depending on their individual situation and responsibilities - a phone call, text or card can bring encouragement and help to reduce the feeling of isolation.

We have even been on a virtual trip to the beach (in Cork) with our grandsons who were sitting in the family car with their dad, outside their home. The 3year old was driving and the 2year old making scrambled egg en route! It was an imaginary journey but one to remember with a smile and a real connection for us.

I would like to say thank you to all who are looking after us. It is inspiring to see the health care workers take such great care of Covid 19 patients on top of normal hospital work. There are so many others whose working lives have been transformed and they put themselves at risk every day. Everyone involved in the food chain, any form of cleaning, refuse collection, government planning and strategy, education, RTE radio and television continue to "keep the national show on the road". We send a very big thank you to you all.

On a different note altogether, a smile maker, "Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine I would go up to a bank teller with a mask on asking for money"!

Finally, one quote has helped me many times over many years, repeating it as a mantra. "Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered. No one was there."

Keep safe and well. Anne

## All General Easter Vestries have been postponed. Bereavement:

The death has occurred in Nigeria of Adeyemi Sobowale, he has been ill for some time. Our thoughts and prayers are with his Wife, Bola and Family at this time.

## CLONDALKIN & RATHCOOLE

Rector: Rev Alan Rufli 087 997 2401

Email: clondalkin.rathcoole@gmail.com

Assistant Priest: Rev Martin O'Connor

Readers: Mrs Sylvia Armstrong, and Mrs Barbara O'Callaghan.

Services: Sunday - St John's 11.15

Rathcoole 10 am

Wednesday - St John's 11 am. Holy Communion

## Easter 2020

This year has seen the most different and difficult Easter, which any of us could have imagined. Holy Week Services, along with Services on Easter Day itself, were watched and listened to on the laptop. There was no Flower arranging session with Don's welcome cuppa and Hot Cross Bun included on Saturday. Favourite hymns were not sung but were hummed quietly to ourselves.

Like many people we are cocooned and are receiving grocery shopping from our children, which at least allowed us with some organising to "exchange" Easter Eggs with our Grandchildren.

On Easter Day texts and emails were exchanged with those that we would normally see and share the joy of the festival with. One we received was from the Parish's Poet Laureate Billy Murphy and read as follows:

All our churches closed today  
No Holy Place for us to pray  
And so I sit in my fireside chair  
And offer up an Easter prayer.  
No family visits for me today  
All are ordered to stay away  
For I am in my own cocoon  
And now I pray it will all end soon.

## Niall Dowling



Niall Dowling's death in his 90th year took place on 22nd March 2020. Due to the Corona restrictions his funeral was a private affair.

Niall was for many years an integral part of Parish life, serving on the Vestry and Bowling Club. A Memorial Service will take place later when we will have an opportunity to remember his life with thanks. In the meantime we remember Betty, David, Susan, Jennifer, his Brother Ronald, and his family circle on their loss. Sure & Stedfast.

#### And finally

At the moment there doesn't seem to be anything to joke about.

Stay Safe!!

## CLONTARF

**Rector:** Revd. Lesley Robinson, telephone 087 909 1561

**Curate:** Revd. Prof. Anne Lodge, telephone 086 373 6995

**Diocesan Reader:** Mark Acheson, telephone 087 967 4885

**Rector's Church Warden:** Heather Walsh, telephone 085 108 6112

**Peoples Church Warden:** Ziva Newman, telephone 087 624 6964

**Church Review Distribution:** Mr. Tom Waller

**Parish Website:** [www.clontarf@dublin.anglican.org](http://www.clontarf@dublin.anglican.org)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/clontarfparish](https://twitter.com/clontarfparish)

**Facebook:** Clontarf Parish, Church of St. John the Baptist

**Parish Centre:** [clontarfparishcentre@gmail.com](mailto:clontarfparishcentre@gmail.com)

**Services:** Sunday 8.30 (Holy Communion) & 10.30. Evening Service 6pm on 2nd Sunday of the month. Wednesdays: 10.30 (Parish Centre)

My Dear Friends,

We continue to find ourselves caught up in strange and unprecedented times which prevent us from gathering together for worship or any community events. To this end I wish to advise you that our Ecumenical Conference scheduled for 16th May has been postponed, as has the Confirmation Service scheduled for 3rd May. In the current uncertainty we can only say that we intend to rearrange without saying when.

I am conscious of the level of hardship that this pandemic has caused and we continue to hold in prayer those who are sick, those who are bereaved, the frontline healthcare staff and all the ancillary staff, all whose work is deemed to be essential, all who are lonely, isolated or anxious, and all who have lost their jobs. We remember with sorrow all those who have lost their lives as a result of Covid-19.

We are fortunate that as I live in the grounds of the church, I have been able to broadcast Morning Prayer from the church daily at 10.30am. On Sundays a service of Holy Communion will be broadcast at 10.30am. These services are available to view live or later on the parish page on Facebook or through our brand new webcam which livestreams on our parish website [www.clontarf.dublin.anglican.org](http://www.clontarf.dublin.anglican.org) or the Church Services TV website <https://www.churchservices.tv/>

Please let friends or family know of the availability of these services.

May God bless and protect you all

Until we meet again.

Lesley

## CRINKEN CHURCH

**Rev Trevor Stevenson:** Mob: 087 981 2025

Email: [trevor.stevenson@fieldsoflife.org](mailto:trevor.stevenson@fieldsoflife.org)

**Lay Reader:** Stephen Gardiner

**Youth Pastor:** Neil Douglas. Mob: 087 646 5281

Email: [neil@crinken.com](mailto:neil@crinken.com)

**Children's Pastor:** Olly Adams. Mob: 086 088 4959

Email: [olwynsadams@gmail.com](mailto:olwynsadams@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.crinken.ie](http://www.crinken.ie)

Dear Friends

One never knows what's ahead do they? If I had told my congregation at the end of February that all pubs and churches would be closed by St Patricks Day, I think they would have sent me to see a doctor or

wonder what on earth was I smoking! But alas church buildings are closed and even though one or two were able to broadcast from the church building at Easter, for our church family members that was not possible. So what was one to do for the church family? I thank God for people who are technically gifted, as I am not! It was decided to record the services on YouTube so people could watch the service together from their own homes. Reports coming through of people watching in bed or in their pyjamas while drinking their tea and eating toast amused me. What was even more amusing was people arriving late for the service (even from their own home) when you watch the viewing numbers at eleven and then again at ten past eleven – that made me smile! Nothing changes for our dear Crinken folk. I am finding it is taking much longer to organise the services this way and I am amazed at how neat other people's studies look, with lovely neat rows of books behind them. I have decided to record from the conservatory as I like being near the garden.

So technology is playing a big part in our lives now. It was so uplifting and encouraging to have church members each night reflect on the scriptures during Holy Week. Thank you for all who took part. The 'Churches Together' for Holy Week obviously did not happen but we were able to record an Easter Day service from all five churches. Zoom (which I had never heard of before the virus) is amazing and it's very interesting having a vestry meeting by this means. It's handy to be able to mute someone if you don't agree with what they are saying. Only joking folks as I have a great Select Vestry and we work brilliantly together. Bible studies with our younger generation are also working well. So all in all we have been able to keep in touch with everyone remotely. Everyone in the congregation has at least had one phone call if not more to make sure all is well with them. But with all this technology I still miss the interaction with people. The warm smile, the sincere handshake or the embrace is missing and the isolation is difficult at times without seeing anyone from one day to the next.

It has given all of us time to think of what our priorities are. Will they be different when the strict controls are lifted? I know I personally have had time to read some more and to spend time in the presence of the Lord and to listen to his voice rather than rushing from one thing to another. So let me leave you with a verse that has meant a lot to me over this last month or so. "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him". Psalm 34:8. I have been blessed reading this psalm and at same time listening to it being sung. Try it and be blessed. Go to YouTube and in search bar type in Psalm 34 Brooklyn Tabernacle choir.

Every Blessing

Trevor

#### Marion Coombs

Our dear friend Marion in her mid nineties departed this life on Sunday 15th March. Marion, before going into a nursing home had been a very faithful member of our church. She had some accidents in her own home breaking a leg and a hip at different times but nothing would stop her coming to church. Martin her faithful taxi driver would bring her without fail every week in his wheel chair taxi. She loved church and was a great encouragement to me and always asked about the welfare of the family and indeed the boys would receive gifts at Christmas and Easter. She loved the chat afterwards and the cup of tea amongst her friends. She has a delightful sense of humour. As the Covid-19 restrictions had come into effect her cremation was a very sad occasion. Her daughter Marcia who lives in America was not able to travel because of the restrictions. So I and the undertaker were the only ones at her cremation and I pray while these restrictions are in place I never have to preform a ceremony like this again. However when the time is right we will have a memorial service for her in the future.

#### Crinken Youth

We've moved Crinken Youth online!

Our Instagram @crinkenyouth is full of fun memories, daily bible encouragements, worship songs & a place to connect. Plus every week we have Crinken Youth meetings on Zoom video chat for teens of all ages. Join us for a game; maybe it'll be household scavenger hunt game or rock, paper, scissors! Being together will put a big smile on your face & time with Jesus in the bible will encourage your heart and remind you of the sure, confident hope we have in God.

In the book of Judges we read about Gideon, a small and scared man who's life wasn't going as he hoped & his people were isolating. As Gideon yearned for rescue God said to him, 'The Lord is with you mighty warrior'. God is indeed with us. Praying for you guys.

Neil Douglas

## Crinken Kids

Upon reflection of these last few weeks, my main thought is 'I miss the kids!' I miss their cheeky grins, their stories about their week, their art, etc.

Every week, I get to tell them stories. But in front of a camera which is not the same as seeing all those little faces before me. We'd a bit of fun telling the Resurrection story from a megalithic tomb up in the Dublin hills! Our families also made daily scenes for Holy Week out of packs they received in the post.

Then we started into the Story of Daniel...look out for fires and lions on our screens! We love how Daniel trusted God whilst undergoing uncertain times in a strange land.

In all of this change and uncertainty, we see how Jesus is the same yesterday, today and will be tomorrow. Jesus is our Hope and our Rock to build our lives on. That will never change!

Olly Adams

Children's Pastor

## CRUMLIN AND CHAPELIZOD

Rector - Rev. Ruth Noble: Tel: 01 405 9708

Readers: David O'Halloran and Shona Rusk

Review: Philip Deacon (Crumlin). Tel: 442 5867

Mrs. A. West (Chapelizod). Tel: 626 7699

Services: St. Mary's Sunday 10am. St. Laurence's Sunday 11.30am.

No notes this month.

## DALKEY

Rector - Rev. Bruce Hayes.: Email: [brucejohnhayes@gmail.com](mailto:brucejohnhayes@gmail.com)

Parish Office: phone: 01 2845941 Email: [dalkeyparish@gmail.com](mailto:dalkeyparish@gmail.com)

Parish Website: [www.stpatricksdalkey.com](http://www.stpatricksdalkey.com)

Twitter: @DalkeyParish

### Our Lady's Manor

The Eucharist will be celebrated in Our Lady's Manor on the 12th and the 26th of the month. An updated leaflet entitled 'Pastoral Care Information for Residents & Their Families' is now available from the Parish office or from reception in the Manor. The leaflet gives details of service times, some prayers for personal use and contact details for the chaplain.

### YouTube Channel

To keep us connected over the next number of weeks, when we may not be able to get to church, a YouTube channel has been set up for St. Patrick's Church. You simply go to YouTube and search for St. Patrick's Church Dalkey, then click subscribe and you will get notified of all new content when it arrives. The idea is to try and keep us together as a church no matter where we are. As more content is created, you will find some services and reflections, which you will be able to enjoy in the comfort of your own home. Content will be added from the first week in April.

### St Patrick's Annual Summer Fete

Unfortunately, the decision has been made to cancel the summer fete. A huge amount of planning goes into the Fete beforehand, and in the current circumstances it is simply not possible to proceed as normal. The financial penalty from cancelling is significant, but many organizations and individuals are having to deal with new realities that could not have been foreseen, a year ago. The fun of the day will be missed too, but we will look forward to 2021.

## DONNYBROOK AND IRISHTOWN

Vicar - Revd. John Marchant:

Rectory Phone: 01 218 7893 Mobile: 087 419 6071

4 Ailesbury Grove, Donnybrook, Dublin D04 T9V2.

Sunday Services: St. Mary's Donnybrook 10am;

St. Matthew's Irishtown 11.30am.

We are continuing to follow government guidelines and St. Matthew's Church, Irishtown and St. Mary's, Donnybrook will remain closed until further notice. While our physical interactions have been curtailed we are learning new skills and adapting to our situation. While the doors remain physically closed we remain well and truly open. I have continued to prepare services and we distribute service sheets to the parish by WhatsApp, email and via a link on our website. We are now communicating through different means. We welcome the installation of equipment in St. Matthew's Church which allows for live streaming of our church services. For this we are grateful until our doors open once again. Our Parish WhatsApp Group has allowed us to share thoughtful reflections to help us through these unprecedented times.

St. Matthew's National School has also adapted to these times. We are grateful for the wonderful teachers and staff. Casey McConnell and her team have been providing lessons and resources on line to students. They are continuing to support parents and pupils during this unusual final school term. We extend our thanks to all for their continued hard work. We thank all parents for embracing homeschooling.

In these times of reflection I wish you all peace and joy in believing. Pray without ceasing that God may give us all the grace to believe.

Blessings

John

[revjmarchant@gmail.com](mailto:revjmarchant@gmail.com) 087 4196071

### The Friendship Hour

At St. Matthew's Church on Monday March 2nd we had a visit from Rev. Rob Jones, Rector of Holy Trinity Rathmines with Harold's Cross, along with his wife Dilys and daughter Alanna. Rob began by describing the formation of a church plant as part of Holy Trinity, authorised by the Archbishop at the time, the Most Rev. John Neill. Rob was designated to develop this and later he became Rector, leading the whole church as numbers increased greatly.

He then told of the longstanding connection of the Parish with the work of TMTEL (The Mission to end Leprosy - formerly TLM, The Leprosy Mission) in India. He recently travelled to Chennai in Tamil Nadu State as part of a Parish Team of four to strengthen the relationship. They worked with NGO's helping to care for those affected while mapping the disease to see how TMTEL are improving the detection and treatment of leprosy.

Rob showed excellent photographs while describing the work at a school for children with leprosy, those with parents who have leprosy and other vulnerable children.

He also described with visual aids the wonderful work of the hospital they support where sufferers of all ages are treated for the dreadful short and long term effects of leprosy.

All in all this was a most inspiring and encouraging presentation and we heartily thank you Rob for your time and expertise and indeed we thank the Lord Himself who personally healed so many of the disease and continues to do so today, to Him be the glory!

F.H.

## DRUMCONDRA, NORTH STRAND AND ST. BARNABAS

Rector: The Revd Garth Bunting (01 837 2505)

[drumcondra@dublin.anglican.org](mailto:drumcondra@dublin.anglican.org)

Services: Drumcondra 10:00 Sunday and 10:15 Friday

North Strand 11:30 Sunday and 10:30 Wednesday

No notes this month.

## DUN LAOGHAIRE

Rector - Ása Björk Ólafsdóttir: Tel 01 280 9537

Email: [rector.asa.bjork@gmail.com](mailto:rector.asa.bjork@gmail.com)

Fridays off unless in the case of a pastoral emergency

Review Secretary is Mrs. Stella Henderson. Tel. 01 280 7168

### Services:

If we are allowed to have Services in May, they will be:

**3rd May** 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Holy Communion 1

**10th May** 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Morning Prayer

**17th May** 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Holy Communion 2

Followed by our Easter Vestry in the Hall.

**24th May** 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Family Service

**31st May** 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Holy Communion 2

**Thursdays:** 11:30 Holy Communion One

### From Rector Ása's desk

This Easter was different from any other I have known. The magnificent time leading up to Holy Week and then Easter was full of discovery, getting to know how to record and publish, let alone live-stream Services. In a way, I feel like I could do anything now. My purpose was to bring Church to you all, not just to keep myself busy, but to serve and be a shepherd – as is my vocation.

I have learned new ways to minister, and in a way, it has been strangely easy to adapt to – even if we take into consideration the time my computer was full and I couldn't convert the recorded Service in order to send it out by email.

I have sent a daily email with an encouraging message and prayers to my congregation and a few others since the middle of March, and will continue until we get through this difficult time and will adapt to a different reality and norm. Handshaking will not really be on the agenda after Church, but eye-contact and smiles will hopefully become our norm. Wouldn't that be lovely?

I have heard that some expect Christians to look at Covid-19 as the end-times. I don't believe that is it at all! Perhaps we can look at this as a warning that we need to re-prioritise and re-evaluate our lives, our ways and our attitude to nature and sustainable living. Perhaps working from home will become reality to many...

I will keep on live-streaming Services on Sundays at 10:30 and the Service will be available on our "Dun Laoghaire Church of Ireland" Facebook page. I can also be contacted regarding getting the Services emailed. My email address is at the top.

Our Easter Vestry had been planned for end of March, didn't happen. Officially we have until Monday 18th May, so Sunday 17th after the second Service, we should meet in the Hall. The general take on things is that we keep those already on the Select Vestry until further notice, but as this year we should have the Triennial elections, it is a little more difficult – especially for those who feel they have been on it long enough...

In life, we all need a safe haven. When the news are full of information about all the tragic and negative things going on in our world, we need to be able to escape to a joyful existence and see the good in every situation. Happy memories often play an important role. We should also be making happy memories, as we tread the often thin line between reality and imagination. Our children need more joy and we might realise in the coming years, that these months were so important for our families. Grownups working from home, children studying from home and the pets ecstatic with all that human encounter!

Unfortunately there can be hidden danger behind closed doors that some might not be able to escape from. Violence doesn't ask about intelligence, class or age. If you are ever in doubt, please call the Garda. If we are wrong, it is all right. But if we are right, we might be saving lives and cutting a chain that needs to be broken. Let us not forget that children learn from our actions, not only from our words.

As I sit by a window that overlooks the People's Park, I have seen it full of life for a while and then down to five or six people in it. Siblings often kick a ball, parents stay close by, some shoot by on their scooters and there always seems to be joy. We are fortunate enough that the Rectory back garden is both sunny and very sheltered. You wouldn't believe the amount of baking that has taken place and then the produce is always consumed in the garden. I keep thinking that a rainy day will be availed of to tidy up and even rearrange in the office – but there haven't been many bad days and for that we ought to be very thankful.

As I leave you in the name of our risen Lord, here is the longer version of the **Serenity Prayer** by Reinold Niebuhr:

God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
Courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.  
Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it;  
Trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His will;  
That I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him  
Forever in the next.  
Amen.

## GLENAGEARY

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Review Secretary: Mrs Deborah Burke Tel: 2855486

Sunday Services: 8.15am 10.30am and 7.00pm

Website: <http://glenageary.dublin.anglican.org>

### Margaret Johnson

Margaret Johnson, formerly of Upper Glenageary Road, died in the care of Glengara Park Nursing Home on St Patrick's Day. Margaret was full of years; her age was an open secret but could never be mentioned in her presence! Small in stature, she had the energy and drive of someone half her age and was involved in most aspects of parish life until her final illness struck in the autumn of last year. She could always be relied on when volunteers were being sought, whether it was helping to make the supper during bowls matches or working at the deli stand at our annual summer fair. She loved being amongst people and could be relied on to have all the latest news. Her strong faith was her motivation in life and she rarely missed worship. She had many friends amongst our parish community and she greatly appreciated their attentiveness whilst she was in hospital and later in the Nursing Home.

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions which at just been introduced around the time of her death, cremation took place privately. It is hoped to have a memorial service for Margaret in St Paul's at a later date.

We continue to remember those closest to her, her sisters Diana (Weldon) and Ruth (Bailey) as well as her nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews who meant everything to her, and she to them.

### Summer Fair

Like everything else recently our Summer Fair, traditionally held on the fourth Saturday in May, has been postponed. This decision was made at a very early stage because of the amount of planning and

organisation involved. There may be an opportunity to have something later in the year.

## Church closed

The last services in the church took place on Sunday 15 March and at the time of writing it doesn't look like we will have returned by the time this edition of the Review appears. Each week we have been recording a short fact of worship and posting it on YouTube. We also send out a service sheet each Saturday evening via email inviting recipients to sit down in their homes at 10.30 am on Sunday morning so that we are all reading through the service and watching the video at the same time. I suppose you could say we are still worshipping together, but separately. Feedback has been very positive, and many seem to find this helpful. We are very grateful to Mark Lavery for his expertise and for making himself available to record, edit and post our worship video each week.

## Amid the gloom of social shutdown, parishioners share rays of light

Around Easter we invited parishioners to contribute a sentence to sum up an unexpected or newly appreciated positive during these weeks we stay apart but remain connected. Here is a selection of those we received.

"I now truly understand the meaning of 'don't stress about the things you cannot control or change' and I am enjoying a much better night's sleep as a result."

"My shed may not be as neat as Claire Byrne's but it has proved a surprising hit as an office since I've cleared out the junk."

"Sitting down for family meals altogether, every day."

"My kids are having a simple, old-fashioned time - hide and seek, tag, Simon says, making daisy chains - because we've had to be more inventive since the playgrounds closed and this is much more fun."

"Sitting in the garden."

"My sons having the time and the inclination to extend their culinary skills."

"We are so very much encouraged and thankful for the freely offered and unasked for help, thoughtfulness and kindness from so many neighbours."

"Enjoying spending family time together, which is very rare and really pleasant with grown-up kids!"

"My son, daughter-in-law and their three children moving into our home for five months in mid-March [due to work on extension], which now means we can enjoy their company, rather than just wave through the window."

## And finally, time to smile...

### Top Ten Silliest Questions asked on a Cruise Ship

– Paul Grayson, Cruise Director for the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line

Do these steps go up or down?

What do you do with the beautiful ice carvings after they melt?

Which elevator do I take to get to the front of the ship?

Does the crew sleep on the ship?

Is this island completely surrounded by water?

Does the ship make its own electricity?

Is it salt-water in the toilets?

What elevation are we at?

There's a photographer on board who takes photos and displays them the next day... the question was asked: 'If the pictures aren't marked, how will I know which ones are mine?'

What time is the Midnight Buffet being served?

## Incomplete

I'm not a complete idiot. Some parts are missing.

## Lesson

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

## HOLMPATRICK AND BALBRIGGAN

**Rector:** Rev. Anthony Kelly,  
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**Asst. Priest:** Rev. Tom O'Brien,  
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**Church Review:** Mrs. Margaret Davidson Tel. No. 849 1756

**Church Services:** 9.30am Kenure; 10.30 Holmpatrick;  
12 noon St. George's, Balbriggan.

## A Time For Prayer and Hopeful Trust

The Old Testament of the Bible tells the story of God's relationship with his people. The Hebrew Scriptures record the story of God's leadership and intervention in the life of his people. As humanity faces into a truly difficult existential crisis, we call to mind the journey of the chosen people, the people of Israel, the people of God. We remember particularly their journey out of bondage and slavery in Egypt and into the promised land. We recall the many adversities they experienced on the way, how their leader Moses put the path of life before them and exhorted them to choose life and not death. Like the Israelites of old, we trust that God our Father will lead us out of this darkness with mighty hand and outstretched arm. We collectively choose life by trusting in the God of our life. We know that God fulfilled his promises found in the Old Testament, by sending his Son who entered human time and human history. We remember the joy of Luke the evangelist in the New Testament as he tells of the Benedictus: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty saviour for us, in the house of David his servant.....that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, that we might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.....By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."(Lk. 1 : 68-79)

We have just been celebrating the Paschal Mystery at Easter, the central and most profound mystery of our faith. The heart of our Christian faith is that God has raised his Son to new life. Paul writes in first Corinthians: "If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain". The resurrection was God's resounding "Yes". In raising his Son, God raised up all that Jesus proclaimed by his words and deeds, by his life and death.

When we think of Easter, we think of the Easter Triduum – firstly, Maunday Thursday and the model of service Jesus gave us, along with the institution of the Eucharist; secondly, Good Friday and the celebration of the passion and death of Jesus on the cross; and thirdly, Easter Sunday when we celebrate with joy the glory of the resurrection on Easter Day.

However, with our focus on the Easter Triduum, we can tend sometimes to forget about Holy Saturday. This is a time of waiting – it is sometimes referred to as "the long day of the Saturday". It is particularly apt that this year we remember the long wait from Holy Saturday to Easter Day. We remind ourselves of what was happening on the Saturday, as we hope against hope that the world will be delivered from the corona virus. Jesus was dead, stripped of all power, placed in a tomb. He was truly dead among the dead. Christian tradition tells us he descended to the nether world. On the "long day of the Saturday" Jesus waited. Redemption came when the mighty hand of his Father raised him up in the power and glory of the Holy Spirit on that first Easter morn. Like Jesus in the tomb, we too, the whole world, waits for the redeeming power of the hand of God our Father to deliver us from the darkness of the corona virus.

As we wait in faith and hope, we ponder our Saviour God. Let us remember God's faithfulness described in the book of Deuteronomy:

“Have no fear or dread of them. The Lord your God, who goes before you, is the one who will fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your very eyes, and in the wilderness, where you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as one carries a child, all the way that you travelled until you reached this place” (Deut. 1 : 30).

Through baptism, we have been plunged into Christ’s risen life. We live in the light of Easter faith, no matter what darkness surrounds us. Even our darkest moments, our calvary experiences are bathed in the light of the risen Christ. We embrace the prologue of the gospel of John: “The Word was made flesh and dwells among us”, even as we place all our hope in the final words of Matthew’s gospel: “And remember, I am with you always, yes, to the end of time” (Mt.28 : 30)

Rev. Anthony Kelly.



## KILLINEY, BALLYBRACK

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### Services in May (Provisional)

**Sunday 3rd** The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Lockdown still in force

**Sunday 10th** Fifth Sunday of Easter  
9am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 17th** Sixth Sunday of Easter  
9am Holy Communion  
10.30am Morning Worship

**Sunday 24th** Seventh Sunday of Easter  
9am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 31st** Pentecost  
9am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion

Mid-week services of Holy Communion take place on Wednesdays at 10.30am

### Rector writes...

Since the lockdown began on the 16th March, we have all inhabited a very different world. Undoubtedly, there have been some real positives. It has been a chance to slow down, remind ourselves of who we are, what and who matters most. Many of us will have had to reset our calendars, plans and aspirations. May of us too will have taken time to invest in new or neglected hobbies – reading, playing a musical instrument, gardening, sewing, getting fit and so on. And some of us will have reflected on our faith in a new way.

### A word in season...

Since Sunday the 19th April, we have been following the New Testament letter of 1 Peter in our Sunday lectionary readings. Right at the start of the letter Peter talks about hope. One commentator suggests that this letter may best be understood as a letter of hope in the midst of suffering. He continues, ‘In the Bible, hope is not wishful thinking but a firm conviction, much like faith directed towards the future’. For the Christian, this hope is that we, like Christ, will be resurrected just as he was. And, if our hope rests on the resurrection of Jesus, we like the Lord Jesus, will have the grace and peace to endure temporary suffering. Once again, Holy Week and Easter become

## HOWTH

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Rev Ken Sherwood

**Lay Reader:** Mr Ron Bass

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### Services

For the duration of the present crisis, pre-recorded short acts of worship for each Sunday are posted on YouTube at

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJh\\_LINceFcMk2oIFaMDGsA/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJh_LINceFcMk2oIFaMDGsA/videos)

Alternatively, these can be found by typing ‘Howth Parish’ into the search bar on YouTube.

This has been the strangest of all times. Our churches have been empty, we have been confined to our immediate neighbourhoods or, for those cocooned, to their own homes. We have discovered the value of people we all too often looked down on; those who work in our supermarkets, those who empty our bins. We have seen just how good, how dedicated are our often much maligned health services.

I find myself asking, ‘What does Church mean for us in these circumstances?’ As I thought on that my mind went back to words of the late Bishop Noel Willoughby. He was speaking at the General Synod, introducing a report on the use of Church buildings, the number of buildings barely used for public worship, recommending a review and eventual closure of a number of them. He said, ‘The Church is what is left when the buildings have fallen down.’

What has been left with the closure, albeit temporary, of our Parish Church, our Parish Centre along with the postponement of our Fete and other activities? We have been left with community. I have been struck by the stories I have heard of people reaching out to neighbours, to those living alone; doing shopping or simply phoning. I’ve been encouraged by the numbers availing of simple acts of worship, posted on YouTube and comments from people who, for a variety of reasons, we rarely, if ever, see in Church.

We will be back in our Parish Church and we will meet up over coffee afterwards, shake hands, hug (do you remember the glorious feel of that?). May we do that with a deeper sense of gratitude for and a desire to to enrich that community that is the Church, the Body of Christ in this place.

### Our Confirmation Group

We have not been able to meet as a group but Elke, with her wonderful creative skills, has come up with ways to continue to engage and reflect. Members of the Group have contributed to prayers included in our online services. The Confirmation service itself has been postponed until a later date.

### Howth gets as far as Peking!

Frank McMorro, a member of Howth Parish and a pilot in Aer Lingus, has exchanged the transatlantic routes for flights to Peking, as one of the Aer Lingus crews bringing PPE equipment from China. Here are a couple of photos taken on one of his trips.

the pattern for our lives now. There is no resurrection without the cross, but the cross is meaningless without the resurrection. We, like Peter's readers/listeners, are experiencing a time of trial but we are encouraged to live through it as people given a new birth into a living hope. Jesus is our example: 'who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right of the throne of God' (Hebrews 12: 2). In the words of Peter, may we know and experience all grace and peace.

If you are interested in finding out more about I Peter (or any other book of the Bible), I strongly recommend the work of Bible Project. You can find their excellent 7 minute overview and introduction to I Peter here: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/I-peter/>

### Sad news...

On Wednesday 1st April, Helen Stillman died peacefully in St Vincent's hospital. Helen was a much loved wife of Chris, mother and grandmother. For many years, Helen taught English at Rathdown School. Among her many hobbies, she loved music and, especially, singing. She was a founding member of the Dun Laoghaire Choral Society and a long-time member of our choir here in St Matthias. Helen will be missed by all of us who knew her, and we look forward to having a memorial service to celebrate her life properly once it is safe to gather again. We remember Chris and all the family in our prayers.

## KILLINEY, HOLY TRINITY

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**Day Off - mostly Mondays**

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### From the Rector

I hope you are all keeping well, keeping home and staying sane. Living through 'History as it Happens' was never a great ambition of mine, having been here before, 'up North'. But here we are. The strangest part of it is that there is no clear cut end to it, rather, [with a bit of luck] a long drawn tailing off which might go on for some time, and include a few bumps on the way. An odd sort of suspended animation simultaneously normal and peculiar.

This is a time in our lives when faith is of more clear cut use than when things are comfortable and ordinary and the same week in, week out. The background stress for most people stuck at home, alone or with small children is not insignificant. The subliminal fear which surfaces occasionally is present for all of us. Prayer, and actively seeking the presence of God in the small mundane things that go to make up our restricted environment is an antidote to all that. When and if things get bumpier, scarier, we have something to turn to, a hand outstretched to ours when, perhaps, no one else can be with us. We are not alone, not forgotten, not uncared for. If the services and sacraments of the Church are not available to us, then we must remember that everything else around us is a sacrament of God's presence for us. Sunlight, new green leaves and clear air are signs and pointers for us. The walls, carpets and clutter of our own homes are as much markers of God's being there as sunsets, mountains and oceans. We just need to look in a different way.

As an active part of faith, if you can help, do. Whether it's fetching groceries, or a simple text or phone call, it makes a difference, provides support and encourages. Root through your address book for people you haven't spoken to in years, and text, email, write, phone. It all helps, it all goes to shorten the road for all of us.

Please remember all affected by this situation in your prayers. Make time each day, [... most of you have no excuse left in that department!] and make a list of people and countries and pray through it.

Go mbeannaí is go gcumhdaí Dia sibh.

### Easter Services

During Holy Week, two stations each day of the Way of the Cross were put up on the Parish Facebook page and website ([holytrinitykilliney.wordpress.com/worship/](http://holytrinitykilliney.wordpress.com/worship/)), and a Service of the Word and sermon for Easter Sunday. I will put up a Service of the Word for the forthcoming Sundays. Also online are a slideshow and a video of our church garden, which is looking wonderful at the minute and a credit to all who planted it and mind it. Many thanks to Caroline and Nigel, and to Meriel for their work online.

### Easter General Vestry

The Diocesan Office has advised that the holding of an Easter General Vestry be deferred until at least early May and an update will be issued taking account of circumstances at that time. In the meantime, all office holders remain in position.

Parish organisation events are of course cancelled due to Covid19 for the foreseeable future.

### Bells of Hope

A few weeks ago Churches across Northern Ireland rang their bells at midday to acknowledge the efforts of healthcare workers on the frontline during the coronavirus crisis. The initiative also aims to give people a sense of hope in the weeks and months ahead.

The idea came from a woman in north Belfast, who spoke to local priest Fr Gary Donegan. A member of a local Protestant church contacted one of his colleagues and raised the possibility of some kind of joint activity. Fr Donegan posted messages on social media inviting churches of all traditions to join the initiative to give people a sense of hope, as well as say thanks to those battling to save lives. Churches across Belfast as well as in counties Derry, Down and Fermanagh quickly signed up. The sound of bells could be heard in the eerily quiet streets of Belfast and Derry city centres that day.

The plan is to ring the bells at 12pm every Friday until the coronavirus crisis ends. The priest said the initiative is particularly important at this time, as churches have ended public services including funerals because of the risk of the virus spreading. "This is a very worrying time for everyone across all communities," he said. "We wanted to do something to give people a sense of solidarity and a sense of hope. We also want to pay tribute to healthcare workers and others who are putting themselves at risk to help others at this time."

He hopes churches all over the island of Ireland will join in.

Having talked to Fr Tom Dalzell, and to the other clergy in our own local cluster grouping, we're going to ring the church bells in our parishes for a few minutes each Friday. This is to give people a sense of hope, and so that, together, we can spend a short time in quiet and contemplation, and to remember all affected in any way by the present situation.

### Church Gardens

Our Parish website ([holytrinitykilliney.wordpress.com/news-events/](http://holytrinitykilliney.wordpress.com/news-events/)) has two videos made during April and featuring the beauty and serenity of our Church grounds. Much time has been devoted to the maintenance and improvement of the garden areas and we would encourage people to use these videos as a way to 'virtually' spend time and enjoy them.

### Sheep Thrills

We held our last meeting on Thursday 12th March owing to the Covid19 restrictions. We have put everything on hold; particularly the pop-up sale which was due to take place on Saturday 28th March in aid of Blackrock Hospice Homecare Team. In the meanwhile the Group are knitting away making Twiddlemuffs for St Vincents Hospital and Gillian and Maurethe have made lots of facemasks for a local Nursing Home. We also have a terrific WhatsApp group with all sorts of ideas materialising on the needles and jokes to keep us all in good spirits.

### Flower Guild

Gillian and Caroline prepared two Easter arrangements of flowers, foliage and Easter eggs which were hung each side of the closed church door, so that passersby could enjoy them. A lovely thought, and thank you.



Left: Decorations by the Flower Guild  
Right: The entrance decorated for Easter

## KILL O'THE GRANGE

**Rector:** The Rev. Alan Breen, Tel. 284 5930.

**Lay Readers:** Blair Halliday, Tel. 288 8328; Derek Singleton, Tel. 2855398; David Williams, Tel. 4950421.

**Lay Reader & Pastoral Worker:** Bert Van Embden, Tel. 282 0513  
**Youth Pastor:** Jonathan Byford, Tel. (089) 4362287.

**Children's and Family Worker:** Seb Dungan, Tel. (089) 472 3063

**Church Administrators:**

Jane Winning and Caroline Plascott, Tel. 2896442.

**Church Review: Parish Office** Tel. 2896442.

(9 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday to Thursday)

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### Rector's Letter:

John 20:19-20 The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, Peace be with you. Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

These words that Jesus spoke probably have more meaning, if not bring about questions for us in this time we all are facing in the midst of COVID-19. In this season of Easter we often visit the upper room again and again, and read of the disciples hiding away out of fear, or waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit. How relevant does all this feel to us now? I have been so encouraged as to how we as a nation and as a Church have risen to the challenge that we are now facing.

Many of you know of my love of the mythical Superheroes that have so often been written about in comics, graphic novels, film and tv screens. Superheroes are no longer deemed to be mythical by the media. We read about them everyday or see and hear them on the news as those who are on the frontline, desiring peace, protection and healing from this virus. We are all called to be those heroes! We as a Church have been called to be heroes, not in a made-up mythical sense, but in the reality of Christ.

Many churches have gone online to continue services, devotionals, Bible readings etc., but what has me encouraged is hear the stories of people being church as we have always been called to be. Talking, sharing, looking out for the needs to those around, praying, petitioning and waiting on God. In this time of Isolation, what is Holy Spirit revealing to you? What is God's song for your heart and mind right now? Write it down, meditate on it, understand it, because when we walk from this wilderness we are in, that song will make a difference in you and those around you.

Blessings,

Alan

### Church Services:

Sadly the announcement we made last month of services, especially during Holy Week and Easter, were overtaken by events. The coronavirus may be unbelievably tiny (apparently a mere 50 to 200 nanometres diameter) but has hugely affected activities across the earth. A nanometre is only one thousandth of a millimetre! In our parish, we keep in touch through our website (www.kotg.ie) with online services, daily devotions, and by means of e-mail. We are looking after one another as circumstances permit.

A Prayer for God to be Glorified

Dear God,

You alone are worthy of all glory and praise!

You are not shocked by the state of the world, and nothing is impossible for You.

Today, we're proclaiming that You will be glorified through this pandemic. Your name will be praised throughout the earth.

Pierce the darkness. Shine brighter than the fear of death, loneliness or economic ruin.

When we look back on this moment in history, would we be filled with joy as we remember the revival, hope and peace that came from this season.

Continue to draw this hurting world back to You.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

### From the Parish Registers:

**Funeral:**

**Gerard (Gerry) Lynch** (Died 26th March 2020.)

Our deepest sympathies go to Gerry's wife Sheila, children David, Cathy, Kieron and Alison, grandchildren Caoimhe and Eabha, and friends.

**Oonah Boyd, née Stokes** (Died 31st March 2020.)

We extend our deepest sympathies to Oonah's daughter Fiona Stokes, to her family and friends.

These were private funerals for family only, owing to present circumstances.

### Thoughts at Easter 2020:

This Good Friday as we suffer the loss  
Of Christ the Saviour as he died on the Cross,  
At Calvary no nurse, ICU, PPE  
Just vinegar alone as he died on the Tree.

Our Church remains shut with no congregation,  
But will return again after self-isolation.  
And for Communion the altar will once more be spread,  
With the candles, the Chalice, the Wine and the Bread.

If we trust in the Lord then we can live in some hope  
And figure out somehow a new way to cope.  
And believe together in what we can share  
A hymn and a psalm and the power of a prayer.

One of the rules from which we mustn't depart  
Is the social distance of two metres apart;  
So think of the joy – not asking too much,  
Of a hug once again and the touch of a touch.

So as we emerge from our lonely cocoon  
To blink in the sun and smile again at the moon;  
Returning at last to some normal routine  
And bidding farewell to COVID-19.

John Riseley.

### KOTG Youth:

The past few weeks have been an interesting time here at KOTG Youth. When everything kicked in we quickly moved to an online version of our youth group. We keep things fun and simply with a few table quizzes and weekly challenges.

We have also been taking the time to go through the book of Philippians and will later move on in the Bible. This is a chance to grow and challenge ourselves, while seeking encouragement and the joy that Christ can give.

Please pray for us as we continue to navigate this time and take care of each other.

Jonathan Byford  
Youth Pastor

## KILTERNAN

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As I write these review notes for May, I'm conscious of how we are beginning to adjust to what some are calling a 'new normal'. These are strange times for us, as we continue to live in exile from our regular patterns of worship. But we have learned much in recent days of what the Spirit may be doing among us. Sometimes it is important that we have our old normal unsettled as we grow and learn to appreciate and love one another in new ways.

### Church Services

Until further notice, services will be available online on the parish YouTube channel at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC14iGDgC\\_3m\\_EIY8aMHffPQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC14iGDgC_3m_EIY8aMHffPQ) (or just go into YouTube and search Kilternan Parish Church). Remember to subscribe for regular updates. I am grateful to Kevin O'Sullivan for his technical skills, and to all who have recorded poems, prayers, songs, and sent art in for the services.

### Easter 2020

This was certainly an Easter like no other that we have experienced in Kilternan. We gathered for a Zoom prayer meeting on Wednesday, before two YouTube services on Thursday and Friday. Our Easter Sunday service was uploaded early on Sunday morning. I'm amazed how many people access these services and certainly we are learning about a new way of reaching into people's homes with the good news of Jesus.

### Parish Register

We mourn the death of Andrew MacWilliam who died on the 26th March. Our prayers are with his family and friends at this difficult time.

### Praying on Zoom

During Holy Week we had our first prayer meeting on Zoom. I was delighted by how many parishioners attended, people of all ages! While it might take a while to get used to the technology, this is something that we will continue every Wednesday at 8pm during this time of restriction.

### Supporting those most vulnerable

As a parish we have set up a system of regularly contacting individuals in the parish who may be cocooned at home during this difficult time. This may simply involve a regular check in phone call. On other occasions it may involve helping people with groceries, supplying masks, picking up prescriptions etc. We offer our thanks to those in the parish who have put themselves out there to offer support and practical assistance.

While we may not be able to get into our local nursing homes, we were able to distribute a little Easter gift to the residents, alongside a little booklet called Calm for the Soul: Readings and Prayers in Anxious Times by Ruth Gyves.

### Supporting families

Lynn and Brian have been busy trying to engage and support families during this difficult time.

Lynn has put together a weekly activity sheet for families to use as part of their weekly act of worship based on the theme of the online service. She also provided craft bags for families to use during the lock in.

The Sunday club may not be meeting, but there have been regular Zoom Thursday Clubs with Sunday club kids and their parents. There are also craft demo videos aimed particularly at the regulars in the Wednesday play café. You can see some of those videos on our Facebook channel <https://www.facebook.com/KilternanParishChurch>

### Holy Week Easter Lego Brick Challenge

During Holy week, children were encouraged to participate in the Easter Lego Challenge. The challenge lasted 8 days, starting on Palm Sunday and finishing on Resurrection Sunday.

Each day of the challenge, there was a scripture reading. Families could download the Lego challenge booklet which included instructions and responses. Children were invited to build a scene using Lego.

We had hoped to launch this through the school and Gathering Grounds, but no matter, it was still a wonderful thing to promote through our online services. Children were invited to take photos and share. You can see a wonderful montage of images on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKGOor-UMNhw>

### Keeping the Choirs Going

One might think that the choirs might be getting a break at this time, but not in Kilternan. Kevin has been finding wonderful ways of keeping the choirs engaged, doing a bit of distance mixing, and some Zoom events. You can hear the finished products on the online services.

### Saying thanks

I'm mindful how difficult a month May has been. Many have experienced illness, anxiety, and loneliness. I'm grateful to those who offered to pick up groceries and prescriptions etc. for vulnerable people in the community, and for those who have spent time in prayer. I'm grateful to the team here in Kilternan, who despite changes in their own circumstances, have continued to find ways of ministering.







Above: *The Lego Challenge*

myself into a position of debt again. I would go back to my father's way of only buying when I had the money. It may be a little boring, but I was much happier as a result. There are a lot of things we need to learn this time around, if we don't, we will make the same mistakes again. Bill Gates gave a very interesting TED talk in 2015 predicting that a super virus should be our biggest fear. He outlined how this could easily be dealt with, and without huge expense. However, governments did not seem to want to invest in this kind of development and we could be the price. We have. We must learn from this and be better prepared in the future. Secondly, there was no way that we could continue to treat our environment the way we have and one silver lining in this terrible situation is that our emissions have gone down enormously. We need to evaluate what is essential going forward and what is not. We might just be able to save our planet if we do. Thirdly, we can also not continue with the current level of consumerism. We must be able to discern what we want and what we need. Finally, what will the church look like for the future? It may be some time before large gatherings are allowed again. Does this mean the end of the church as a gathering of community? I think not. In many ways we have lost our sense of community to our peril. People are beginning to understand in being confined to homes how valuable community is and how much we need the support of others including the church. I would hope that people would return eventually with a greater desire to develop a church which truly looks after and cares for one another. Maybe we did this before, but we will do it better in the future. Moreover, with a deeper understanding that we are living in a fragile world where we don't have as much control as we would like to think we have, there may be more room again for God.

### School

What does school look like at this time? The technological learning curve is certainly very steep. Teaching on line has great challenges as well as benefits. The group dynamic in the classroom is certainly greatly missed, but opportunities to bring in more technology to augment classroom teaching will be looked at closely in the future.

There are great economic concerns at the moment with people losing jobs, worry over fee payments, future social distancing in the school chapel, sporting events and in the Boarding House. These, and many other related issues will be addressed in the coming months.

The primary concern at the moment are the Sixth Form students. Our hearts really go out to them. The goalposts have changed with the later exam dates and it is incredibly difficult to readjust to this new timetable. It also has a huge knock on effect on their chance to celebrate together at the end of the school year and to travel away in the summer together. They will not be able to get this time back again and there is no point in trying to sugar coat this. It is devastating for them. We will do all that we can to help them get over the finish line and we want the chance to celebrate with them as well and we will find a way to make that happen. Our prayers are with them at the moment and I hope things will work out for them.

### Death of Past Pupil

As a school, we mourn the death of past pupil Barney Redman (1944-1950). He had a distinguished career as an anaesthetist. I visited him at his home in rural Wiltshire a few years ago and interviewed him for the archives. He and his wife (a sister of a past pupil) made it clear to me that he was always known to everyone as Barney. He hadn't lost his Armagh accent. He gave a vivid account of the need to get Irish grinds on the Garvaghy Road in Portadown prior to admission to the school. There was of course little use of Irish in the Church of Ireland in Co. Armagh but it was an essential requirement for boys at Blackhall Place.

REDMAN Dr Leonard Rountree (Barney) Passed peacefully away at home, surrounded by his family, April 10, 2020, aged eighty-seven. Beloved husband of Elizabeth and much loved father of Patricia, Alan and Stewart. Adored grandfather of Oscar, Andrew, Gregor, Robert, Tom, James, Maddie, Elizabeth, James and Connie. There will be a small family funeral and a service of Thanksgiving and celebration of his life at a future date.

Andrew Whiteside, Chapel Reader and Archivist

## THE KING'S HOSPITAL

The Revd. Peter Campion: Tel: 626 5933 (day) 623 2752 (evening)

Website: [www.kingshospital.ie](http://www.kingshospital.ie)

### Church

As we look to adjust to a very different world at the moment, one wonders will things ever go back to the way things were or have they changed forever? After the last recession, though a completely different thing altogether, many asked the same question. If people actually had gone back to the way things were before the recession, we would just have made the same mistakes all over again. Many did. I certainly learnt some things, the first being that I would never get

## THE MAGEOUGH CHAPEL

**Chaplain:** *The Rev. Robert Kingston. Mobile 089 400 1720*

**Manager:** *David W. Wilkinson. Tel. 497 1620*

### Services

Sunday Services: 10.45am  
 Holy Communion 1st & 3rd,  
 Morning Prayer 2nd, 4th & 5th  
 Wednesday Service: 10.45am.

### Activities

Since the cancellation of the Monday Music Group on the 9th of March all weekly activities have had to be suspended. We are practising social distancing very carefully but are at least able to greet each other at a distance in the beautiful weather which has been a feature of the month.

### Worship

Since mid-March the Chapel has been closed and the best we could do was to have a daily prayer service on the Mageough Chapel website. This is recorded on the previous day and available for 24 hours before being replaced. For some curious reason some browsers will not link straight through to the Worship page but all will find and follow the links from the main page. It has been good to get messages even from overseas about the services and are pleased that most residents can use the link and feel in touch that way.

## MALAHIDE, PORTMARNOCK'S & ST DOULAGH'S

**Rev Dr Norman E Gamble:**  
 Tel. 845 4770 Mob. 086 815 3277  
 E-mail [normanegamble@gmail.com](mailto:normanegamble@gmail.com)

**Diocesan Readers:** *Dr Tom Healy Tel: 087 918 1436*  
*Mr David Rea Tel. 846 0570*

**Parish Administrator:** *Mrs Anne Taplin Tel. 816 8698 (O)*  
 E-mail: [standrewsparishmalahide@gmail.com](mailto:standrewsparishmalahide@gmail.com)

**Parish Website:** [www.malahide.dublin.anglican.org](http://www.malahide.dublin.anglican.org)

**Service times:** As per parish website.

The hopes for Lent and Easter worship expressed last month were dashed by the time the Review appeared in eform! Normal worship, even our Confirmation all cancelled, as is the Easter Vestry originally planned for 17th April. Normal parish life is paralysed, the rounds of pastoral visiting and daily worship suspended as well as Sunday worship and eucharistic life. We had carefully worked out plans which accorded with social spacing prepared, until the regulations were tightened even more and even the semblance of parish life was choked off, perhaps when it was most needed.

The coronavirus made a perfect storm as far as the parish is concerned. Having had St Andrew's closed for most services since October until the beginning of March for major ceiling repairs, we were no sooner getting back to a normal service pattern, than government regulations terminated all services, and also closed down the Parish Centre which is not only the social hub of the parish activity, but a major contributor to parochial finances.

Even in Malahide, the disruption is massive. Many of our parishioners are working from home, but commercial and industrial life has ground to a halt and in an area where tourism and restaurants are a major employer, jobs are now being lost in large numbers and many of them will never return. This industry worked on a shoestring, and staff once gone may never return, while Dublin Airport has virtually no flights to anywhere. Many airline staff live in Malahide, and it difficult to see their jobs being viable or returning in the short or medium term. Schools and child care facilities have been closed down, creating huge problems for parents still employed, and those working from home must juggle the needs of children and work.

But we have also seen with heroism on a large scale. As I write these notes, our local nursing homes have kept the virus out, and overstretched staff are performing miracles without an adequate supply

of protective clothing for residents who are now denied for good reason visits from family and friends. We have had relatively few cases of Covid19, and thankfully all have recovered or are recovering, but the fact that 75% had connections to the health services speaks of the huge risks that carers and medical professionals have so willingly taken.

Parish life is paralysed; services are reduced to saying morning prayer each morning as we have done for 30 years: often no one turns up but that has always been the case! But it isn't prayer offered in the name of the congregation, and has a special efficiency! No Sunday worship, no Holy Week (but the Holy Week addresses were prepared and put on the website and other social media), but no Easter either, with the daybreak eucharist in St Doulaghs and every thing else cancelled. We did manage to get palm crosses to nearly all those 'cocooned' by the government, and those whose families were grounded by the virus, and St Andrew's is open for private prayer during daytime hours.

And perhaps we came nearer to the first Easter which was not a joyful day in which the empty tomb was found and all jumped immediately to conclude that Jesus had risen! Mary Magdalene initially saw it as 'body theft', Thomas would not believe his friends, Cleopas and his friends heard rumours but were still in deep depression, Peter has to have his guilt complex relieved by divine forgiveness.

Easter, you see, is not a sudden, glorious event, but for most people a continually occurring progressive experience in which we are drawn to the risen Christ, and brought in contact with the reality of his resurrection. He is a living reality, but we are always struggling against ourselves as we move deeper into our relationship with him. Easter lasts all our life long as we understand more and more of what God was doing for us at Calvary. And this year of no Easter bonnets, and daffodils, and chocolate eggs perhaps we have been drawn closer to the disciples and the true implications of the Easter events than we ever have before. Christ is alive, even when the world seems to be falling to bits and all our dreams for a future lie shattered around us!

## THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALING

**Diocesan Chaplain & Chair of the Diocesan Committee:** *Revd Bruce Hayes*

**Mobile:** *086 232 7349*

**Diocesan Hon Secretary:** *Jeanne Salter Email: [healing.dgdc@gmail.com](mailto:healing.dgdc@gmail.com)*

**Website:** [www.wholenessandhealing.org](http://www.wholenessandhealing.org)

**Church's Ministry of Healing:** *Ireland (central office) Egan House, St Michan's Church, Church Street, Dublin 7*

**Administrator:** *Tel: 01 872 7876*

**Website:** [www.ministryofhealing.ie](http://www.ministryofhealing.ie)

**Office Email:** [hello@ministryofhealing.ie](mailto:hello@ministryofhealing.ie)

### Biblical Words of Comfort and Hope

We find in the Holy Scriptures so many words of comfort. The following few verses remind us how God is with us through what ever is going on, always present as we turn to him for help and strength.

In His everlasting love and compassion He will uphold us and give us his peace.

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things...

And the God of peace will be with you. Phillipians 4:8,9b.

May the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom.15:13.

**Website**

The prayers which may be found in the service of Healing and Wholeness liturgy, under the 'Resources' section of our website offer comfort and hope at this time [www.wholenessandhealing.org](http://www.wholenessandhealing.org).

**CMH: I News**

During recent times CMH:I have been offering reflections, meditations and prayer via their Facebook page. These have been available live on Thursdays at 12noon and are fully available on the CMH:I Facebook page afterwards to offer support and encouragement with prayer for healing. It is not necessary to have Facebook in order to be able to access these via [www.facebook.com/CMHIreland/](http://www.facebook.com/CMHIreland/).

On Thursday 16th April a beautiful Service of Wholeness and Healing was held online by Revd Lesley Robinson and this is also available on the CMH:I Facebook page and also on the CMH:I website.

**MONKSTOWN**

**Rector:** *The Revd Canon Precentor Roy H Byrne*

**Telephone:** (01) 280 6596 **Email:** [royhbyrne71@gmail.com](mailto:royhbyrne71@gmail.com)

**Lay Reader:** *Thelma King*

**Parish Administrator:** *Liz Neill Watson (01) 214 7714*

*(Monday to Friday 10:00 – 13:00)*

**Office email:** [monkstownparish@hotmail.com](mailto:monkstownparish@hotmail.com)

**Facebook:** *Monkstown Parish Church, Dublin*

**Sunday Services:**

*09:00 Eucharist (every Sunday) 10:45 Eucharist (1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday)*

*Matins (2nd Sunday) Family Service (4th Sunday)*

**Wednesday:** *10:45 Eucharist*

*Eucharist in Carrick Manor on 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:00*

**Coronavirus**

The difficult decision was taken on Sunday 15 March to suspend all church services until further notice. Our parishioners are receiving a weekly letter and services to use on Sunday's in their homes by email and post and the Parish Pastoral Care Committee, Rector and Parish Administrator are available at all times by telephone or email to deal with any worries or concerns from our parishioners and friends. At the time of writing we continue our prayer for the healthcare professions and all who are trying to support others and to allay fear. I am extremely appreciative of the care and support I have received from our parishioners, friends and fellow clergy over these past few weeks and together with prayer, hope, goodwill and cheerfulness we will, with God's help get through these difficult days together. Roy

**Lockdown Adventures**

It has been fascinating to learn from telephone calls and emails from our parishioners how they are passing the time in these strange weeks of cocooning and social isolation. Some of our parishioners are learning new languages, reading books from childhood days, following online free courses, gardening, playing games online, engaging in art, crafts and painting, writing poetry and memoirs, deep cleaning and Spring cleaning, tackling DIY jobs, attic clearing, fox and bird watching, baking, real letter writing and even gathering things together for November's parish sale! It is wonderful that people are keeping busy and exploring avenues and dreams that they normally don't have time to do.

**Crinken Storehouse**

Just before the final lockdown we managed to have a collection of Easter Eggs for the clients who use the services of the Storehouse in Crinken parish. Over 150 Easter Eggs were dropped off by our parishioners to a collection point in front of the church and were duly delivered to Crinken. Our sincere thanks to all who contributed to this appeal and to Anne Lee who acts as our Storehouse coordinator.

**Do you like to sing?**

Monkstown Parish Choir is looking for new members - soprano, alto, tenor, bass. Please contact our organist Raymond Russell by email: [raymondarussell@gmail.com](mailto:raymondarussell@gmail.com) or mobile 087 769 2269 for further information.

**Parish Facebook Page**

Followers of Facebook are invited to find and 'like' our page 'Monkstown Parish Church, Dublin'

**RAHENY AND COOLOCK**

**Rector:** *Revd. Norman McCausland*

**Priest Assistant:** *Revd. Canon Aisling Shine*

**Parish Office:** *office manager - Liberty Finnegan*

*Howth Road, Dublin 5, D05 WF59*

*Telephone 01 851 2459*

*Email: [admin@allsaintsraheny](mailto:admin@allsaintsraheny)*

**Review Notes Raheny:** *Séamus Puirseil*

**Review Notes Coolock:** *Robert Adams*

**Reflection**

*This year, our journey through Lent has been one dominated by COVID-19. We have 'given up' much more than the usual list of trivial Lenten sacrifices. We have all sacrificed our freedoms for the greater good – for the health and safety of family, friends and neighbours. Many have 'given up' much more in putting other's needs before their own. Others have lost jobs, businesses and relationships. The loss of loved ones to the virus without the opportunity to say a proper 'good-bye' is for some the hardest sacrifice of all. Now that we have arrived at Easter Sunday, we may wonder what we have to celebrate.*

*The celebration of Easter is a call for us to face our current sufferings (the cross) in the hope symbolized in the Resurrection where-by bad things and tragedies are overcome, including death.*

*Our world has changed dramatically over the past weeks. Easter is a call for us to change – and perhaps change radically – as Jesus' own disciples were changed. They changed from hiding away in hopelessness and fear following the crucifixion to boldly telling the world around them about Jesus even when their message was not welcomed.*

*The sign that we are truly sharing in the risen life of Jesus is that our lives and our behaviour as individuals and as a church undergo constant development and change. On this Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection life we share in Jesus, risen from the dead, and the promise of new life and light and hope even in the darkest hour.*

The copy date for the April Church Review notes came just as we went into isolation and public, church and private events were hit by postponement and cancellation. We were facing into Lent, preparing for Holy Week and Easter and parish notes for the Review might have been copied from any one of the previous number of years. And then we found ourselves in an unexpected reprise of biblical events such as the plagues of Egypt, the apostles locked in the upper room in Jerusalem, reading from tablets if not quite the same type as Moses brought to the Israelites from Mount Sinai and being guided by voices and images from afar in a manner which would have seemed miraculous not many years ago.

The seclusion proved a good time to read Ida Milne's book on Ireland and the influenza epidemic in 1918-19 (Stacking the Coffins) and to follow up with a search of the Church of Ireland Gazette of the same period which published throughout the epidemic and managed to give very little space to this strange illness sweeping the land. Our health, welfare and housing systems may not be perfect but it is so very much better than the situation that existed in 1918.

During February the incidence of coronavirus in Wuhan and then more generally in China was a foreign news story of secondary interest to domestic political affairs during and after the General Election. In early March it was clear that the incidence of Covid-19 was not confined to China or South Korea and that there was a significant incidence in Italy.

The government announced the closure of schools on 12 March and on Sunday 14th March we had a very small congregation and while we continued with our service for St Patrick's Day social distancing was no challenge for the small congregation. In the following days we came to terms with the necessity to cancel normal church services and to close the churches and postpone normal parish gatherings until we were advised that it was safe to resume.

Like most parishes we discovered the extent to which we have become accustomed to using Smart phones and tablets. Within a couple of days we had systems in place for pastoral care, distribution of service sheets and a support service with a large team of volunteers

prepared to help those who needed such assistance picking up and delivering shopping, collecting medicines and other supplies and posting letters. Mothering Sunday was marked as well and as appropriately as possible and Daffodil Day with fundraising for the Irish Cancer Society was well supported on line.

Raheny's JAM Club had intended to hold a sponsored walk in aid of their chosen charity for this year the Cystic Fibrosis Society. This reverted to a very successful online fundraiser tied into the CF 65 Roses campaign.

Meanwhile with schools closed home school became a whole new experience for our Springdalers.

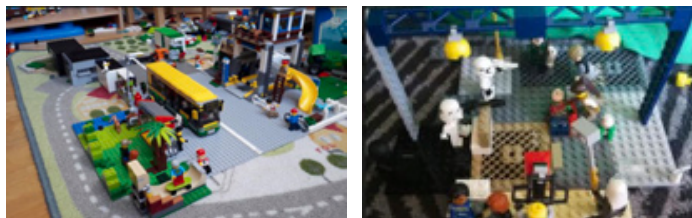
What most pupils love about school is the routine of attending daily, being taught by their teachers, having fun with their friends and following their regular timetables. Unfortunately during these times we cannot provide the perfect substitute for school. However, our pupils have been doing their best to be part of school from afar.

Over the Easter holidays, a number of children took a break from their school work but kept busy in other ways. For example, our aspiring engineers and architects took on the challenge of building their own amazing Lego creations. You can visit our school website, [www.springdale.ie](http://www.springdale.ie), to see how well they have been getting on.

The more mundane and less exciting aspects of parish administration and the adjustment to this new crisis situation took place behind the scenes. Events were postponed, insurance matters, employment matters, cleaning, lock up grounds and the ever more pressing financial concerns were dealt with. Vestries held incorporeal meetings and the ordinary and extraordinary pastoral concerns were attended to.

Easter Eve was marked throughout the country by the shining of lights for all the people who were sick, those who had lost their lives and the loved ones who remain, reminding us that love and hope are always with us. All Saints' Church was lit to take part in this campaign.

And if the churches remained locked on Easter Day the JAM Club had completed their Easter animation which arrived early on Easter Day to the joy and delight of all parishioners. [www.jamclub.allsaintsraheny.org](http://www.jamclub.allsaintsraheny.org)



Springdale homeschoolers try their hands at architecture and engineering.

## RATHFARNHAM

Canon Adrienne Galligan: Tel: 490 5543

Diocesan Reader: Dr. Joan Forsdyke Tel: 494 2385

Parish secretary: Andrew Shorten Tel: 01 490 5543

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9.30-12.30.

Sunday Services: 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon

Website: [www.rathfarnham.dublin.anglican.org](http://www.rathfarnham.dublin.anglican.org)

Email: [rathfarnhamparish@gmail.com](mailto:rathfarnhamparish@gmail.com)

Find us on Facebook

Review Distributor: Pam Shorten. Tel: 493 7179

Dear reader,

The tomb, the locked upper room, death itself couldn't contain Jesus, the Life. The president of the Methodist Conference, Barbara Glasson, has scripted this prayer for the times we live in: We are not people of fear:

we are people of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own safety;  
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.  
We are not people of greed:  
we are people of generosity.

We are your people God,  
giving and loving,  
wherever we are,  
whatever it costs,  
for as long as it takes  
wherever you call us.

### Services

Services this month are being relayed via our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCso-NPjtC4skX-mlKICJ-jA> and for parishioners who are not on line, the service sheet is posted in advance of the upcoming Sunday. We are very grateful to Jacqueline and Paul (organists and choir directors) whose technical knowledge has made it possible to create this broadcast every week. Also it is great to have so many parishioners lending their voices in reading and co-leading the services weekly. The Choir too also collaborated on recording a hymn for Easter Sunday from each of their homes. Since Easter Sunday we have involved children in leading aspects of the liturgy as well.

Every Sunday we have rung the church bell at the usual time as a way of marking the Sabbath and also calling people to pray in their own homes. The hymns from the service and the main reading are also gently relayed outdoors via our sound system to give a musical backdrop to Sunday morning life.

### Sunday Club

Wow! What a month April has been...we had great plans for the build up to Mothering Sunday and Easter, and we were all stopped in our tracks quite suddenly with the Covid 19 restrictions. So although we have not met in person in Sunday Club since early March, with a bit of lateral and 'outside-the-box' thinking, along with huge assistance from An Post, we were able to continue with our scaled-back Easter preparations. Modern technology has been of enormous benefit to all of us as we try to negotiate these difficult times, but it was the old, low tech, 'Snail Mail' that brought such joy to our members, in the form of a package in the post. 'Holy Week in a Box' (see photos below) was a great way for the whole family to get involved in the journey through Holy Week – starting on Palm Sunday with a reading and activity, all the way through to Easter Sunday.

Birthdays: This month we wish Happy Birthday to Jacob and Charlie who will both be 7 – have a great day boys! Hope to see you all soon. Linda

### Shine your light

As a way of thanking all who are in the frontline we joined with our neighbours in placing candles in the windows of the War Memorial Hall. We also invited parishioners to submit names or categories of frontline workers to thank for inclusion in the heart poster launched 15th April in the Church Notice Board. As we rightly thank all who are putting in long and risky hours, we also thank everyone who is staying home and staying safe. While you may feel helpless at home, you are in fact 100% helpful in the struggle to quash this virus.



Shine a light

### From the Registers

Bereavement: We continue to remember Joy Mac William whose husband Andrew died on the 26th March 2020. To Andrew's sons Ian and Craig, his daughters-in-law Orla and Linda and his grandchildren Amy, Ross, Guy, Warren, Carrie, Lucy, Alastair and Lara, we extend our deep sympathy and pray they know God's hope and consolation.



Left: Easter Box. Right: Easter Colouring

thoughts and prayers are with you all. If you have a particular person you would like remembered, please let me know. Likewise, if you would like a 'phone call or prayer, please call at any time. (086 886 5361)

I hope that you all had a peaceful and blessed Easter. Until we see each other again may I wish you God's every blessing and that you continue to stay safe and well.

Terry

### Restricted – cocooned – isolated – but still going!

How many of us would have ever thought that the day would come when our church would be closed for worship, and especially to have the doors shut during Holy Week and Easter Sunday? Well Covid-19 has managed to do the unimaginable. But due to social media and assistance from our "tech" parishioner, we are very fortunate that The Rev'd. Terry has had, and will have, a service transmitted on YouTube at 11.00 a.m. each Sunday morning. We thank him for these services and parishioners are invited to join in at that time so that we can have a "virtual service" together. Our thanks go to our stalwart church wardens, Paul Barron and Richard Marshall who are keeping the virtual wheels turning at this time. Richard rang the church bell at 11.00 a.m. on Easter morning which was a poignant but re-assuring gesture.

We had a beautifully decorated Cross erected in the churchyard to remember those who have died from Covid-9 and those who are recovering from it – the Cross of Comfort and Hope. It was also a reminder to pray for the front-line doctors, nurses and care givers. The Cross was then moved to the outer edge of the grounds for Easter where it has been a reminder to all who pass by that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and we will come out of this pandemic with his help.

The church grounds are looking beautiful with daffodils and primroses in full bloom and our thanks go to Dave Elmes, Fiona Ashe, Debbie Duncan and all the team of helpers who keep the place looking so good. These are the people who erected the Cross and attended to its maintenance over the past few weeks. Thank you for your dedication.

The Sunday Club were invited, with their parents, to walk up to the church and count the chickens which were hiding around the grounds. Social distancing and guidelines to be kept in mind! There were not a lot of searchers over the three days, but Sophie, Grace and Jasmine Marshall gave it a go, got the count correct and earned themselves some chocolate goodies. Well done to them and thank you to our Sunday Club leader, Debbie Duncan, for setting it up this fun event for the children.

Please continue to pray for those in our parish who are unwell, receiving treatment or awaiting hospital appointments.

We have a group of volunteers who have very kindly offered to shop/pick up prescriptions/walk the dog, for people who are compromised or who are cocooned. Should anyone require assistance the first call is me, Anne Thompson @ 086 893 7067, and I will gladly pair you up with a volunteer. In the meantime everyone Stay Safe and Stay well and God bless.

## RATHMINES WITH HAROLD'S CROSS

**Rector - Rev'd Robert Jones:** Tel: 086 285 4098

**Lay Reader & Lay Assistant Pastor:**

Ms. Ruth Gyves – 085 858 2939 | Email: ruth@htrinity.ie

**Lay Readers:** Mr. Edward Lewis, Mr. Scott Hill, Mr. Scott Evans

**Office:** Ingrid Brennan & Kim Bardon Phone: 552 1211

Usually Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri Mornings

**Youth Pastor:** Joe Ambrose

**Children's Ministry:** Beverley Maxwell

**Worship Pastor:** Sherry Hazlett-Gallen

**Organist:** Dr. Ken Glass

**Sexton & Parish Buildings Manager:**

Mr. Jacob Reynolds. Tel: 087 7974604

**Church Review:** Miss Elizabeth West. Tel: 497 3553

**Church Of Ireland Gazette:** Isobel Henderson. Tel: 497 2202

## RATHMICHAEL CHURCH

**Rector:** Incumbency Vacant

**Priest in Charge:** Rev'd. Terry Lilburn 086 886 5361 for pastoral matters.

**Parish Readers:** Mrs. Lily Byrne & Mrs. Anne Thompson

**Diocesan Prayer Minister:** Healer Prayer Mrs. Lily Byrne 087 222 9633

**Parish Visitor:** Mrs. Vivien Reid

**Times of Services:** Sunday 08.30 hrs. 11.00 hrs. 19.00 hrs.

**Church Review Distributor:** Mrs. Carol Bond (01) 282 6391

**Hon. Treasurer:** Mrs. Lily Byrne, Old Conna Cottage, Thornhill Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

**Tel:** 086 222 9633 **Email:** treasurer@rathmichaelparish.org

**Parish Office:** Rathmichael Rectory, Ferndale Road, Shankill, Dublin D18 NK45.

**Tel:** 01 282 2803

**Office Website:** www.rathmichael.dublin.anglican.org

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs. Anne Thompson,

Kelgar, 10 Seafield, Shankill, D18 XA72

**Mobile:** 086 893 7067 **Phone:** (01) 282 4202 **Email:**

annethompson2824@gmail.com

Some readers may be familiar with H.G. Wells' novel "The War of the Worlds," in which the earth is invaded by a species from Mars that sets about destroying the earth and killing its inhabitants. All the weaponry at the disposal of humankind is completely ineffectual against the invaders and it is only minute organisms or pathogens that eventually destroy the invading horde. Stretching the analogy a little, today we are faced with an invasion that to date we have little or no defence against and we are facing into a world that will be forever changed as we now know it. Nevertheless, it is out of the most difficult, the most tragic of circumstances that God acts to bring about good. It is often in the most straitened times that we see the best of human nature rising to the challenge and today's circumstances are no different. Thank you to all who have stepped up to the plate and offered help and assistance to those in the community who are most affected by the lockdown and the attending isolation. These invaluable acts of kindness have been greatly appreciated by those who find the lack of contact with fellow beings the most difficult aspect of the situation to deal with. We are by our very nature, social beings and the enforced restrictions have greatly impacted on us.

Thanks also to all who assisted in erecting the beautiful cross in the churchyard and maintained it, a powerful symbol of our resilience and fortitude.

We will continue to broadcast our Sunday service on YouTube so please look out for the weekly link that will allow you to access this. Judging by the reports in the media, it may well be some time before we can resume Sunday services from the church. In the meantime,

## The Rector Writes:

I'm sitting here in the church office on the Tuesday after Easter Sunday, reflecting on the last four weeks and also looking to the next few weeks. It's been a very challenging time for all of us and as you read this, each of you will have experienced challenges in many different ways. As I reflect, I'm thinking about Easter, which is not just a day, but a season of 50 days called Eastertide which finishes on the Day of Pentecost, May 31st. This is a wonderful season of great hope and joy, even in the midst of trial and struggle, for the early church, as they considered what it meant to be the Church in a new paradigm shift. The biblical stories in Eastertide are mainly from the Gospel of John, The Acts of the Apostles and First Letter of Peter, and are about the many people in all their diversity who were changed forever as they responded to the risen Christ. In these readings there are a couple of common themes I think are important to us in our current season. Firstly, Jesus met all these people simply where they were at; He listened to them, He cared for them and reminded them of the new resurrection hope they had in Him. Secondly, there is a recognition that this was a brand new season, one in which there will be many changes, but they were not alone. I think we should remember these two points as we journey with the risen Lord in a very different Eastertide for us all, not being afraid to talk to Jesus and each other about our fears and anxieties, while also allowing Him to give us fresh and renewed hope every day as He leads and guides us. We are in a very strange time, one we will look back on in many years, telling stories about what it was like. This is exactly what happened in the Bible when people told the stories about the resurrected Jesus. These stories were all about a committed community in all its many forms, working together to remind and also share the love of Jesus with all. I pray that in this very different Eastertide we will do the same, the best we can. We need each other more than ever and we need the risen Lord to lead us. He led the early Church and He is leading us now. Let's look to God daily and encourage each other to keep going as we look forward to better days, while also being aware and open to what He is teaching us now in the midst of the storm. Jesus is our anchor and we can trust in Him. May His peace be with you and his eternal love keep you. The Lord is risen; He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## Children's Ministry:

Despite the unusual circumstances of this year's Holy Week, the Team came up with some creative ways for families to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection together, delivering boxes of resources and coming up with challenges for kids to create Bible scenes with Lego, clay, toys, etc. As restrictions continue, the team continues to send home resources, have catch ups over Zoom, and find new ways to connect. A big thanks to all the children who have participated in the online services through their prayers, readings, and pictures! Kathleen

## Worship:

Due to current circumstances we have been meeting weekly to record our Sunday services. This has been such a fruitful time of learning new skills and providing a Sunday service to bless our community and beyond. Services are available to stream via our website [www.htrinity.ie](http://www.htrinity.ie) or on our YouTube channel by searching Holy Trinity Rathmines - let's keep worshipping together, knowing that God meets us wherever we are.

Sherry Hazlett-Gallen (Worship Co-ordinator)

## Young Adult Ministry:

We have been meeting over Zoom as we continue our exploration of Romans. Thursdays from 8-9:30pm. Email [scott@htrinity.ie](mailto:scott@htrinity.ie) for more details.

## Ht Youth:

We have been up to all sorts of shenanigans while stuck at home! Be it through podcasts, YouTube devotionals or Zoom gatherings for all the teens. Our hope is that any young person can still be loved and supported during these tough times. Head on over to [htrinity.ie/youthresources](http://htrinity.ie/youthresources) for more information. To learn more about our gatherings, contact Joe Ambrose 085 107 1899

## In Sympathy:

We sympathise with Sandra and Gordon Pullen, along with Ross and Gina on the death of Sandra's dad, Bill Croly. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time.

## Come Together Tuesdays:

While we're all missing being together, it has been great to catch up with everyone, whether by phone or by sending little encouragements by post. Please remember we're only a phone call away! Ruth 085 858 2939

## EASTER VESTRY:

Date to be advised.

## SAINT ANDREW, SAINT WERBURGH WITH SAINT MARY, SAINT MICHAN AND SAINT PAUL AND ALL SAINTS' GRANGEGORMAN

The Venerable David Pierpoint: Tel: 830 4601.

Email: [pierpoint.david@gmail.com](mailto:pierpoint.david@gmail.com)

The Reverend Ross Styles: Tel: 087 989 2941. Email: [stylesr@tcd.ie](mailto:stylesr@tcd.ie)

Parish Administrator: Mrs. Patricia Parfrey

Tel: 872 4154 Email: [stmichan@eircom.net](mailto:stmichan@eircom.net)

Review Distribution: Mr Fran Gorman; Ms. Denise McGowan.

Tel: 478 3710

We hope that you all had a safe and peaceful Easter. Hopefully not too much chocolate was consumed!! It was a very strange experience celebrating and recording communion for Easter Sunday in an empty church, yet as a community of faith, we must protect each other by staying apart and play our part in protecting our wider community and nation. Easter is a time of hope and expectation, a time when darkness passes and a new world begins. So it will be that the darkness of Covid-19 will pass and we will worship together again in our beautiful churches. Stay safe and well, you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

God bless,

David and Ross



Easter Fire

## Parish notes:

Following the decision to temporarily cease acts of public worship across the Church of Ireland due to Covid-19, there will be no services in St. Michan's Church or in All Saints Church for the foreseeable future. The buildings are closed but the church is more than a collection of buildings, it is a community of faith and, as such, the church never closes. At this time we must follow the example of the early church and join together in prayer from our own homes. In order to keep in touch and pray together as a community, we are putting in place several ways to enable this. We are printing a weekly newsletter, which will be emailed or posted out each week to parishioners. This is also uploaded to the activities page of our website, <http://www.cathedralgroupdublin.ie/activities/>. If you would like to be added to our email list and consent to us adding your name, please email Patricia at [office@stmichanschurch.ie](mailto:office@stmichanschurch.ie). Secondly we will be recording short services and reflections, which will be posted on our face book page:

Christchurch Cathedral Group of Parishes, <https://m.facebook.com/cathedral/>. We also now have a YouTube channel, St. Michan's Church Dublin, which will have recorded services and reflections each week, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs5-XHFQtqDgmK8xrA-0Ljg>

At this time, when most of us are self isolating or cocooning, and many shops are closed; it can be difficult to access shopping or other services. If any parishioner needs any assistance or is in need of shopping or other supplies, please do not hesitate to contact the vicar on 087-2630402, email: [pierpoint.david@gmail.com](mailto:pierpoint.david@gmail.com) or the curate on 087-9892941 or email: [stylesross@gmail.com](mailto:stylesross@gmail.com). Shopping can be left on doorsteps and physical distancing can be maintained.

### New parish email address

The new email address for the parish office is: [office@stmichanschurch.ie](mailto:office@stmichanschurch.ie)

### The Sick

We continue to remember in our prayers all those who are ill; in hospital, in residential care or at home and we give thanks to God for all who care for them in many ways.

We especially remember and pray at this time for all in our community who are affected by COVID-19, for those who are ill, for those who grieve, for doctors, nurses and healthcare staff, for all who work to discover a vaccine for this disease and for all who work to supply essential services.

### Prayers we can say together at home:

God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Merciful God,  
we entrust to your tender care  
those who are ill or in pain,  
knowing that whenever danger threatens  
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.  
Comfort and heal them,  
and restore them to health and strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Vicar and curate maintaining physical distancing



Above & Left:  
Psalm 1 & 2

## SAINT ANN WITH SAINT MARK AND SAINT STEPHEN

Rev. Canon David Gillespie: Tel. 288 0663. Mobile 086 026 7528.  
The Rev Yvonne Ginnelly: Tel: 087 699 8238.

Parish Administrator: Mrs Kristin Matson-Murphy  
Email: [stannschurch@eircom.net](mailto:stannschurch@eircom.net)

Church caretaker: Mr Fred Deane 676 7727.

St Ann's Senior Citizen's Cyber Café: 676 7727.

Bereavement Counselling Service: 676 8882.

St Ann's website: [www.stannschurch.ie](http://www.stannschurch.ie)

St Stephen's: [www.peppercanister.ie](http://www.peppercanister.ie)

Service times (Sundays) St Ann's 11.00 am. St Stephen's 11.00 am (first Sunday of the month only).

Weekdays: St Ann's Monday – Friday 12.45 pm Eucharist.

### Easter Day

Easter 2020 will be one of the most memorable – for all the wrong reasons! It is hard to believe that, as these notes are submitted for a special PDF online version of the 'Review', both churches will have been closed for over a month. These are, without doubt, challenging times and how we do church has had to change drastically as we make use of every means at our disposal to stay in touch with parishioners.

The parish Facebook feed has never seen so much activity with prayers, orders of service, activities for the Kids' Club and much more uploaded in recent weeks. The Vicar also recorded a special video message for Easter Day, put together by Greg Fromholz, formerly of Three Rock Youth.

"Easter Day 2020 will, without doubt, go down in history as unforgettable.

It is, quite simply, like nothing we have ever experienced before.

The restrictions that have been placed upon us all, as a result of Covid 19, are unprecedented.

Like many of you, I will miss not being in St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, for Easter Day.

The privilege and joy of sharing in Holy Communion, the smell of the Easter flowers and the tangible expectation of the children, eagerly awaiting the signal to go hunting for Easter eggs hidden around the church, are memories we all share.

I will miss too the sound of our marvelous choir - the familiar and stirring strains of the Easter hymn, 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today' and the now traditional Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah at the conclusion of the administration of Holy Communion.

In these days, I find myself missing the familiar.

A new normality, if one can call it that, has dawned among us.

It is not particularly pleasurable, and none of us knows for sure how long we will have to abide by it.

But abide by it we will.

Because we know that the small sacrifices we are being asked to make are for the greater good.

The greater good is something that all people of faith know a thing or two about.

Repeatedly, in scripture, we are told to care for one another.

We are told to carry one another's burdens.

We are told to love one another.

This is what we can do.

And this is what we have seen, in abundance, in recent days.

The newspaper headlines carry the latest grim statistics.

The stories make for frightening reading.

But we also hear of real, honest, down-to-earth goodness: people reaching out to help one another.

And especially the vulnerable and those who live alone.

It is the stuff of which we are made.

It is our shared potential for good, deep within each one of us, coming to the fore.

Indeed, it is to be hoped that, when all of this has passed, we will continue to see more of it.

Perhaps it is that the worst excesses of humanity will be somewhat trimmed back as a result.

It would be so very easy, given the gravity of what is going on around us, to become despondent.

More than ever, we need a very large dose of the hope, peace and joy of Easter.

This Easter may be very different from any we have known before, but the message remains the same.

The empty tomb is our defence and shield against despair.

Today we proclaim, together with the Christian church worldwide, that Christ is risen from the dead.

The darkness of death, misery and anguish has been overcome, and the hope of new life is born.

I will miss, as I say, not being in St Ann's Church this Easter.

However, we are still doing Church and the message is unchanged: Christ is risen!

Faith, and how it is practiced, may have changed for the present, but Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

For the moment it seems that Coronavirus is everywhere, and all around us.

None of us could ever have imagined that we would have to cope with such a thing.

It is worrying, sad, lonely and frightening in equal measure.

And it is particularly so for those who are ill, and for those who love them.

Today we hold them all in our prayers.

We pray too for those who have the responsibility of caring for them.

We remember those who have died, and those who have been unable to give them the funeral they deserved.

We remember those in positions of authority in this land, and throughout the world as they seek to do all they can to meet our needs, and we pray for those searching for a vaccine for Covid-19.

A week on from the resurrection, the disciples are all together in one place.

Jesus came, and stood among them, and said 'Peace be with you.' John Chapter 10 v 19.

Twice he said it to them, before he breathed on them the Holy Spirit.

The task of the disciples was not to guard an empty tomb.

It was, and it remains, to follow the risen Christ and try to understand something of how he appears to us afresh.

Easter is about finding and encountering the risen Jesus in the very present.

It is a story of intense presence, which remains resolute amid all the trials and tribulations of life.

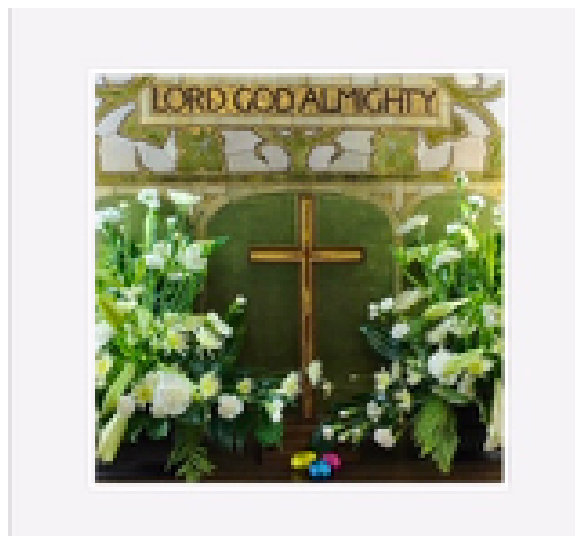
We cannot hold onto Jesus, any more than Mary Magdalene, or the first disciples could, but we can be assured that he holds onto us.

May you each know the peace that can only come from Him this Easter and always.

'Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you". Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.' John 20: 19, 20."

## Parish packs

A few days before Easter all parishioners, received by post, a pack of resources for use on Easter Day. It included a special Order of Service for use in the home and activities for the Kids' Club. There were also prayers, written by Lynn Mills, for Good Friday and Easter Day together with a specially commissioned Easter card produced by our printer RDP at very short notice. The card depicted last year's floral arrangements for Easter by Patricia Hill.



## Stephen's Choir

Members of St Stephen's Church choir made a virtual recording of two of our favourite Easter hymns - Jesus Christ is Risen Today and Thine Be the Glory. They sounded terrific and were widely listened to, and shared, on social media including by the diocese. Each member of the choir recorded themselves singing their respective parts separately and sent them to Joost Slingerland who mixed them with a recording of our organist playing. It was a great team effort and a marvelous addition to our efforts to do church at this time.

## Contact

The clergy are in touch with all parishioners for whom we have contact details. Any parishioner reading this, who requires any kind of help, and would like to be put in touch with someone from the parish, is asked to contact the Vicar in the first instance who will make the necessary arrangements.



## SAINT BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH AND CHRIST CHURCH LEESON PARK

**The Revd Andrew McCroskery:** Vicar

Tel: (01) 269 4813 vicar@stbartholomews.ie

**Director of Music:** Tristan Russcher music@stbartholomews.ie

**Assistant Director of Music:**

Andrew Johnstone music.assistant@stbartholomews.ie

**Megan MacCausland:** Administrator

Tel: (01) 668 8522, admin@stbartholomews.ie

**Parish Website:** www.stbartholomews.ie

It has been a very peculiar Holy Week and Easter and a great sense of sadness at being unable to come together to mark and to celebrate it, but as I write the current restrictions appear to be having a positive effect and we look forward to the time when we will be able to meet together again and to celebrate the Eucharist as a gathered community once more. It has been incredibly heartening to see the ways in which people have come together to give support and encouragement and in the offering of skills and talent to make this lockdown more bearable.

One thing that has been something of a revelation in these days is that you really can teach an old dog new tricks! There was once a time when I would have considered myself reasonably tech savvy but recent events have exposed the limitations of my age and my era. Nevertheless I have learnt to continue confirmation classes via Zoom, make audio downloads for services and we have recently been greatly helped in producing services by webcam; all things I never thought I'd be able to manage. Of course, it all take time and quite a considerable amount of preparation. It is but a pale shadow of our usual gatherings but has proven to be an invaluable resource for maintaining contact and in the encouraging of the worship of the church to continue albeit at a greater distance.

One aspect which comes home time and again throughout all of this is just how important it is for us to meet together in our worship; whether that be at smaller gatherings during the week or in our main gatherings on a Sunday. We have been greatly blessed by the many broadcast services of quite remarkable quality and inventiveness and in their diversity. Yet despite all of the difficulties, in large and small ways, each of us has been able to contribute to a steady stream of worship that continues, looking forward to the day when we can come together again, an Easter people.

As o'er each continent and island

The dawn leads on another day

The voice of prayer is never silent,

Nor dies the strain of praise away.

## SAINT CATHERINE & SAINT JAMES WITH SAINT AUDOEN

**Canon Mark Gardner:** Tel: 01 454 2274 Mobile 087 266 0228

Email: markgardner@eircom.net

**Diocesan Lay Reader:** James Kilbey

**Review Distribution:** Margery Bell Tel: 01 4542067

**Website:** cja.dublin.anglican.org

**Organist:** Harry Meehan

**Services:**

St Audoen's Cornmarket, 10.00 Eucharist (behind closed doors)

St Catherine & St James, Donore Avenue, 11.30 Eucharist (currently suspended)

### Children in Church

Many years ago, my father and mother with five children, tall ones and small ones, stayed with my father's colleague in the High School Dublin (where she wrote a text book on biology), Faith White, who lived in an extended converted former boathouse, on the shores of Lough Derryvaragh, associated with the Children of Lir. We attended the Church nearby, where one of us fell off a kneeler and made a

racket! My father apologised to an elderly Colonel sitting in front of us. He turned round and said, 'I wish the Church was full of 'em!' (The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage describes Portneshangan Church of Ireland church as one of the finest buildings of its type and date in Ireland.) Prof. Ferdinand VonPronzynski will remember his name. At that time his family lived in Knockdrin Castle nearby. His late mother brought a bowl of sweet pea for the altar. Ferdinand has it on the market now, as he and his family now live in Scotland. At one time it was occupied by Colonel Levinge, whose ancestor Sir Richard Levinge had built it. He was on the board of the Female Orphan House on the North Circular Road in Dublin, which had a rather fine chapel attended by the little girls in a little red riding hood uniform, (which some of them hated, for the stigma it carried) and an eclectic congregation. One of my cherished possessions is a book (as most of them are) withdrawn from the RCB Library and sold by Stokes in George's Street Arcade, a volume of Dean Kirwan's charity sermons (preached in old St Andrew's), 1814, dedicated to Mrs Peter LaTouche, for the Schools of St Peter's Parish (a fund which still exists) for the Female Orphan House (later called Kirwan House) and 'for the Relief and care of diseased Children, and for Inoculation with the Cow Pox'. Others are preached to inspire the hearers to contribute to the welfare of St Werburg's School, for the Meath Hospital and for the Poor Children of the Parish of St Nicholas Without, of which one was preached on March 10, 1805, on the text, Job V.7. 'Man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward.' Sermon XI: 'This was a Charity Sermon preached in the year 1798, for the Benefit of the Widows and Children of those of the Yeomen and militia Men, who fell in the Rebellion.' It was proposed after the Second World War that the chapel and the parish church should be amalgamated, but Colonel Levinge refused, saying 'We're all right here!' At the same time another board member, Miss LaTouche, was said to have uttered the words 'We need more orphans!'. The story was told to me as often as the Vicar and I passed by in his car, incumbent of the parish for forty years. Inspector Shepherd, when he saw the work and ministry of the parish church, transferred his attendance there. His son Ernest was subsequently ordained.

### Ministry in Dublin 8

At the request of the Archbishop, we recently had a Zoom meeting, online, with members of St Catherine's Thomas St, the Church of South India congregation in Donore Avenue, called Holy Trinity, and the Parish of St Catherine & St James with St Audoen. Our aim is to find means and ways of linking these three more closely with each other and the diocese of Dublin. The Revd Viji Varghese Eapen, John Uthup, Siby Cherian Koshy, of the Church of South India, the Revd Eoghan Heaslip, the Revd Dr William Olhausen and Andrew McNeile of St Catherine's, as well as the current incumbent, shared thoughts and hopes for the future.

The meeting was moderated by the Revd Ken Rue, long-standing colleague of my brother Stephen in Fodhla Printing, and married to Lesley Rue, whose father Joe Coady was for many years Dean's Verger at Christ Church and lived nearby. He succeeded a pipe-smoking man called Kelly, who was remembered by a later Dean's Verger of long standing, Fred McKeown, who died only recently. What decades of service they all had to Christ Church. Lesley is still Honorary Secretary of the Friends of the Cathedral.

### Two funerals at the crematorium

The funeral service at All Saints' Grangegorman of my old friend Eddie or Paddy O'Brien was held on Wednesday 4 March. Only a few days later I officiated at a funeral at the crematorium at Mount Jerome, with fewer than a dozen people present. On the following Friday there occurred the funeral of a man from Scotland, long resident in Ireland, with a gathering of only ten. Beforehand they all stood far apart, but afterwards, they forgot, and chatted shoulder to shoulder!

### St Audoen's Cornmarket

When I was a member of the clerical staff at Christ Church Cathedral, I was both the Board secretary and Chapter Clerk. There I learnt the term 'avian ingress', something to be deplored, as the birds which got into the belfry were a great nuisance. The architects, Kevin Blackwood Associates, at St Audoen's have discovered the same problem. In addition to the works in hand, the wiring which keeps out the birds will need to be renewed. A defective coping stone needs to be replaced, and the flashing along the roof of the Visitor Centre needs attention. There is another puzzle. Removal of a bank of earth

has uncovered a patch of the wall of the tower which the architects describe a 'crazy paving'. While they consider how to stabilise the wall, they expect that this will be a separate project, worthy of grant aid, which will be sought in September.



Above: Marcus & Becky's Holy Baptism at Donore Avenue, with Jenny.

God willing, we will return to something resembling our former normality sooner rather than later. But when those days come, let us not forget the kindness and love which have so characterised the way that we have all been in this together.



The Chapel, taken in the Spring sunshine during Holy Week.

## ST. COLUMBA'S COLLEGE, CHAPEL OF MARK

Chaplain - The Rev. Daniel Owen

Warden: Mr. Mark Boobbyer

Website: [www.stcolumbas.ie](http://www.stcolumbas.ie)

These notes are being written a few days before the start of the Trinity term. Although school will resume, it will be very different. Each morning, the Bible will be read, and prayers will be said in an empty Chapel. The service will be recorded and then uploaded for the wider Columban community to join in with as they each begin their day wherever they are. Lessons will be taught remotely, with pupils scattered throughout Ireland and in numerous different countries and time zones around the world. Thankfully, we already had a very good system in place and our current software, Firefly Learning and the Google Education Suite enable us all to work together in an effective, albeit different way.

We were all saddened to hear the news of the closure of Headfort school, a wonderful place with which we have long had a proud association. Our prayers and thoughts are very much with the staff and pupils at this very challenging and difficult time.

Normally, there would be something written about the end of last term, the House singing competition, the Ski Trip and perhaps a few sporting triumphs and near misses. There would be a write up on Arts Week and comments about how much we enjoyed the wide variety of activities that it contained. Then there would be a mention about the upcoming Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations and announcements about speakers in Chapel. But of course, everything has changed, and things are at least for the moment, not as we had hoped they would be.

Towards the end of last term, we recorded a couple of services of Morning Prayer from the Chapel and put the recordings on the website. This was gratefully received by both past and present pupils, who found it gave them some familiar structure in a time of uncertainty and fear.

On the 12th April, we recorded a special Easter Sunday Service in the Chapel – just seventeen minutes long, with two hymns, 'There is a green hill far away' and 'Thine be the glory', a reading, John 20:1-18 and a short sermon. It was lovely afterwards to receive many messages of thanks from near and far and to know that the Easter message of hope and new life spoke powerfully to so many of our wider community. Here is just one of many such messages received:

"Thank you for sending on that recording of the Easter service. I have just arrived home from a 24-hour shift ... as a doctor. In these extraordinary times it was so comforting to listen to something so familiar. It brought me back to happier and simpler times. I hope you in college and the wider Columban community are well and keeping safe. Happy Easter and Floreat Columba!"

## SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST, SANDYMOUNT

Chaplain - Fr Paul Barlow: Tel: 01 516 3457. Mob: 085 2849564.

Email: [paul.barlow@upcmail.ie](mailto:paul.barlow@upcmail.ie)

Worship: Sung Eucharist every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

Festivals as announced.

Web address: [www.sandymount.dublin.anglican.org](http://www.sandymount.dublin.anglican.org)

### Everything that was planned has been changed

All that we were planning as reported in last month's Review has been changed, postponed or cancelled. The church doors are closed, and worship is taking place elsewhere. Fr. Paul is dropping in when he passes to keep an eye on things at St. John's.

The daily round of prayer continues, but at Fr. Paul's house rather than in church. The Sunday Eucharist and the Holy Week services were celebrated by Fr. Paul and Caroline at their dining table. The blessed palms are still in their bundles, awaiting our return to St. John's. The Eucharist of the Last Supper was held in the early evening and the liturgy of Good Friday at 2 in the afternoon.

Fr. Paul is in contact with all the congregation, checking they are ok and asking for any prayer requests for the daily Eucharist. There is also a weekly email which notes the Sunday readings and gives a brief comment on the Gospel reading. Everyone was circulated with a brief order for making spiritual communion and they are also offered links to online worship.

Our Easter Vestry was due to take place on the last Sunday in April, we will see if we can fit it in before the end of the extension period allowed, or whether it will be postponed further.



The dining table prepared for the Sunday Eucharist



Above Left: The Blessed Palms ready for collection when we meet together again.  
Above Right: The Good Friday Cross.

## SANDFORD AND MILLTOWN

The Revd Canon Sonia Gyles: Tel. 497 2983

The Revd Dr Anne-Marie O'Farrell: Tel. 296 6222

Rector's email: [sandford@dublin.anglican.org](mailto:sandford@dublin.anglican.org)

Parish Administrator: Nikki Murphy

Tel. 086 0386432 (Mon-Thurs 10.30- 12 noon;

Fri 8.50 a.m. – 10.20 a.m., term time)

Parish e-mail: [sandfordandstphilips@eircom.net](mailto:sandfordandstphilips@eircom.net)

Parish website: [www.sandfordandstphilips.dublin.anglican.org](http://www.sandfordandstphilips.dublin.anglican.org)

Parish Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/sandfordandstphilips](http://www.facebook.com/sandfordandstphilips)

Review Distributors: Margaret Wynne (Sandford) Tel. 497 8609

Ruth Potterton (Milltown) Tel. 087 2383534

Sunday Service times:

St. Philips, 8.30 am and 11.30 am.

Sandford, 10.00 am.

Wednesday: Holy Communion in Sandford at 10.30 am.

Albeit in different and varying ways due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the ministry of and worship within our parishes continues, calmly and efficiently.

We continue to keep in our prayers all those affected, in so many ways, by the Coronavirus. We pray for those suffering from the virus and those who mourn the loss of a loved one. We pray for those who are cocooning and separated from family, friends and community, and for those in nursing homes and hospitals with restricted visiting. We pray for those concerned about their financial security, future employment or the future of their business.

We pray for our leaders that they may make wise decisions for the good of all. We pray for doctors, nurses and all healthcare professionals, and all frontline workers, that they would be supported and encouraged in their work. We pray for those engaged in scientific research who work to expand scientific knowledge and protect health.

We give thanks for the kindness and generosity that we are seeing and experiencing during these weeks, for times of quietness and calmness, and for the opportunities to spend time with family and in the wonders of nature.

Lord hear us; Lord graciously hear us.

With very best wishes to one and all.

## SANTRY, GLASNEVIN & FINGLAS

Rev Canon David Oxley: 01 834 1015, 086 8816486

[revdwo@hotmail.com](mailto:revdwo@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.pappanspeople.wordpress.com](http://www.pappanspeople.wordpress.com)

[www.facebook.com/PappansPeople](http://www.facebook.com/PappansPeople)

PUBLIC WORSHIP continues to be in abeyance during the Covid-19 lockdown. A certain amount of interaction has happened through the medium of Facebook, and sermons etc posted on [dewildox.wordpress.com](http://dewildox.wordpress.com). Some other churches have produced an amazing amount of livestreamed services and so on. There is no shortage of options for those who are familiar with internet use.

But in many essential ways we have to pursue our Christian lives on our own at present – taking personal responsibility for prayer, for scripture reading. This may be the moment when your long-forgotten Bible or Prayer Book comes into its own. Much as we value our parish churches and congregational worship – and how we miss them both – we are reformed enough to appreciate direct personal engagement with the Lord, at all times and in all places. Much as we value the celebration of the Eucharist and the faithful receiving of the Sacrament, we are catholic enough to know that the real and dynamic presence of Christ himself is the essence of that rite, and that while he wonderfully uses the appointed means of grace, he is in no way confined to them. “Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.”

I find a great encouragement in these days from the doctrine of the Communion of Saints: the sense that we are all “knit together in one body and fellowship in the mystical body of Christ”, so that our acts of prayer and faithfulness, offered on our own, are nonetheless connected across time and space; so that our intercession for the sick and the health-service staff and for one another is not without its value. As Father Bradley used to teach us, when it was just himself and the server at the early Service in St Patrick's, “Don't forget the angels and archangels, child”.

Wishing all our readers continued blessings of the Easter Season.

## STILLORGAN AND BLACKROCK

Clergy - Rev. Ian Gallagher: Tel: 288 1091 or 086-811 9544

Rev. Robert Marshall: Tel: 288 6170

Lay Reader: Hazel Graves. Tel: 288 7444

Review Distributors: Cherith Dalzell (Stillorgan);

Trevor Robinson (Blackrock)

Parish Secretary: Brenda Sweeney. Tel: 288 1091

Tues, Wed and Thurs 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Email address: [office@stbrigidssandallsaints.com](mailto:office@stbrigidssandallsaints.com)

Website: [www.stbrigidssandallsaints.com](http://www.stbrigidssandallsaints.com)

By now we should be “in full swing” celebrating the 150th anniversary of All Saints Parish Church. So much work had been done by quite a few people. The excitement was beginning to build and then we had to put everything on hold. Thank you to everybody for all your hard work. Maybe we'll get a chance to celebrate in the Autumn!!

I'm glad to be able to keep connected to you through the telephone and the Internet but was thinking how strange it will be for some to have to get dressed to go to church and not attend in their dressing gown.

Good Friday 2020 is starkly different from any other in living memory. As mass gatherings are prohibited as part of measures to stem the spread of Covid-19, services and events have become virtual rather than actual. However, the traditional Journey of the Cross between St Brigid's Church in Stillorgan and the Church of St Thérèse in Mount Merrion took place on Friday 10th April, although in a very pared back way. Usually members of both parishes join their clergy for the ecumenical walk of witness on Good Friday. But this year Fr Joe Mullan and the Revd Ian Gallagher kept up the tradition alone and socially distanced.

We offer our condolences to Brenda (parish secretary) on the death of her Dad and keep her, Martin, Jake and James in our thoughts and prayers.



Above: Ecumenical Walk of Witness 2020 on Friday 10th April.

## TALLAGHT

**Canon William Deverell:** Tel: 4621044 (Mobile 086 8030239)  
**Auxiliary Priest: Rev. Avril Bennett** Tel: 6282353  
**Parish Secretary: Mrs. Jane Thompson** Tel: 4626006 (Parish Office)  
**E mail:** tallaghtparish@gmail.com  
**Website:** www.stmaelruains.ie

### From the Rector

The normal routine of parish life has been sent into disarray since the Corona virus has taken hold in Ireland our lives have been sent into turmoil, all our families have been effected in one way or another, some families have been sent into chaos with children and parents at home all day and then for others it is a very lonely time. In the couple of weeks before our 'Lock Down' we noticed our numbers in Church dwindling until 15th March we really had just a handful, myself and my family, the Churchwarden's family (who had faithfully come to Church to ensure social distancing, which in reality was not an issue with so few people in Church) and a few others. We even dusted off our two hundred and one year old collection pan to use again instead of everyone handling the collection plate. So for our service on St. Patrick's Day with the encouragement of the more 'techkie' folk in my household we decided to go on Facebook Live. In preparation for the Mothering Sunday service I phoned around our more senior parishioners thinking that if they weren't on Facebook that their adult children could forward them the link on WhatsApp but the reality was that many don't have a smart phone but consequently it was also a chance to have a chat and to see how they were coping in the current situation. I then decided to do a quick ring around of the Good News Club (Sunday School) mums to let them know that we are on line and to try and get the word out which was more successful. Now that Easter is over it is my intention to phone more parishioners to tell them that even if they are not on Facebook they can view the services from the parish website anytime after the live service.

A new experience for me, preaching to a camera and going on line, I have been on a learning curve since that first service. I begin each service by stressing that I am cocooning in the church with just my

family, so if anybody hears people responding during the services, be assured that it is just my family. We were worried about the copyright situation with modern church songs so we have been picking just one traditional hymn and sing one verse at a time in the hymn slots throughout the service with the exception of Easter Sunday when we sang three full hymns that were out of copyright. Thank you to Amy for accompanying on her ukulele and preparing for all the services on a newly learned instrument for her.

I am delighted with the responses we have received with over 1000 views from all over the world for our St. Patrick's Day service, since then we have had good numbers as other Churches have gone on line but I am encouraged with the demographics of those watching, varying from our loyal parishioners, those with tenuous parish links, to those from the wider community and even across the world! For those of you who are familiar with Facebook Live you will know that you can see 'likes' and 'comments' as the service is happening, adding to the sense of community for those watching at home. I have been given great reassurance from the supportive remarks that people have posted and feel that having our Church services on Facebook Live is giving comfort to those at home while we endure this Corona Virus crisis. All of the services are on our Facebook page and can be watched again on our St Maelruain's Tallaght Parish – Church of Ireland page and also linked on our parish website [www.stmaelruains.ie](http://www.stmaelruains.ie) I would like to thank Lionel for his camera work, I think anybody who has watched any of the services will agree that he has done a great job showing our beautiful church with it's hidden windows. We continued with our Lenten, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter Sunday service on line. During Holy Week we used props to help demonstrate visually the story of Holy Week using a bowl of water for the washing of Jesus feet, our large life size cross (which we use for our Taize services) placed in varying positions on Good Friday and Eggs and chicks to demonstrate new life and an empty tomb on Easter Sunday.

Anyone who regularly reads our parish notes will know that we have a dedicated group of people in our Flower Guild who normally do amazing work on decorating our church for Easter, obviously this year they were unable to come to the church to demonstrate their creativity for this year's Easter Service but we still managed a 'display' with a couple of shrubs either side of the Holy Table.

We have also been continuing on line with our Taize Style Vine Service (4th Saturday of each month at 7.00pm). This service is an alternative for some who work or play sport on a Sunday morning but also gives people from the wider community who may have come to know about St. Maelruains to visit our church virtually. The Vine Group normally meet for Taize Masses on the first Saturday of the month in Brookfield Church, on the 2nd Saturday in Jobstown Church, on the 3rd Sunday in the Dominican Priory in the Village and then in St. Maelruain's on the fourth Saturday for a lay led ecumenical service.

On the subject of technology, over a month ago, before the 'Lock Down' the Echo Newspaper contacted me, as they celebrated their 40th anniversary to say they were doing a series of articles about the 'Faces of Tallaght' and asked me to do a video 'soundbite' about Tallaght. In essence I said at this point, after being in here for 20 years I would hate to leave Tallaght because of the sense of community. Subsequently on the Thurs 26th March edition of the Echo there was a feature article on myself and our church where I was able to get the word out in the local community about our Facebook Live services.

Our weekly Noticeboard and monthly Newsletter are up on the parish website [www.stmaelruains.ie](http://www.stmaelruains.ie)

While all of our Parish Organisations are cancelled until further notice we have been continuing with our Bible Study of the readings for the following week on Zoom with our small but dedicated band, which has worked out well. Our halls are now eerily unused, previously busy on a daily basis with TUD using the hall for sporting activities, community and hobby groups availing of space not to mention our Parish organisations. Our Select Vestry meetings have been cancelled until further notice along with our Easter Vestry in compliance from a directive from the Dioceses. Our Summer Sale, our one big fund raisers of the year has also been cancelled.

In closing, I'd like to ask people to pray for all those around the world affected by Covid19, this is an event that we will never forget and the effects of which will change many of our lives forever, there will be the loss of loved ones and many are facing job loss and therefore

financial difficulties. Perhaps now we all have time to reflect on life itself, in the future ahead we hope good can come out of the changes we are facing while people long for community they may find comfort in coming to church.

God bless  
William



Above: Empty tomb/ new life



Above Left: Kings crown on Palm Sunday donkey.

Above Right: Anointing His feet.

Left: Using old collection pan so the congregation doesn't have to touch the collection plate.



Right: William's daughter on the Ukulele and son on camera.



## TANEY

Rector - Rev'd Canon Robert Warren: Tel: 298 4497

Curate Assistant – The Rev'd Nigel Pierpoin: Mobile: 087 638 8238

Lay Reader: Trilly Keatinge

Parish Pastoral Visitor: Caroline Brennan

The Parish Office – Tel: 298 5491 (Mon – Fri 9.30am – 1.30pm)

Email: [info@taneyparish.ie](mailto:info@taneyparish.ie)

Website: [www.taneyparish.ie](http://www.taneyparish.ie)

Follow us on Instagram: 'taneyparish official'

Follow us on Facebook & YouTube: 'Taney Parish'

Review Distributor: Parish Office Tel: 298 5491

Along with many other Parishes, Taney Parish has been streaming Sunday Services and our midweek Wednesday Service on Facebook and YouTube. We thank those of our Parishioners who have communicated their appreciation of this new way of bringing 'Church' to their homes. We have been amazed by the number of 'views' that our Services have attracted – way more than our usual congregations Sunday by Sunday!

We will continue to stream our Services on the internet until such time as we are able to re-open our doors and welcome everyone back to St Nahi's and Christ Church, Taney. It goes without saying that all our normal parish activities have been suspended until further notice.

### Confirmation 2020

It has now been confirmed (excuse the pun!) that this year's Confirmation Service, scheduled to have been held on May 10th has been postponed until at least the Autumn – or even maybe until next year. I know that this is very disappointing for our Candidates and their families – as it is for the Clergy. The Archbishop has written a personal letter to each of the Candidates and we thank him for his gesture of concern. We will continue to hold our candidate in our thoughts and prayers as we await further information as to when this Service can be held.

### Easter General Vestry

Yes, you've guessed it! Easter General Vestries have also been put on hold at this time. While the Church's Constitution provides for them to be held up until the end of May, they may (and probably will) be adjourned until a later date. In the meantime the current Officers and Select Vestry Members remain in office until it is possible and permissible to hold the EGV. We thank all those involved.

### On-line Worship Resources

Via the Parish Website (<http://taneyparish.ie/>) you will be able to link in with Church Services that the Clergy are broadcasting on both Facebook and YouTube. See above. Should you not have access to a computer or tablet we can send a link to your smart phone via 'WhatsApp' or text message. Please text your name and number to the Clergy phone 083 477 1673 and we will send you the link.

There are further online resources as listed below

Church of Ireland Daily Prayer <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/prayer-worship/lectionary/daily-prayer>

St Patrick's Cathedral (11.15am & 3.15pm) & Christ Church Cathedral (11.00am) live stream their services on Sunday morning on the following links:

St Patrick's Cathedral <https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/worship/video-stream/>

Christ Church Cathedral <https://christchurchcathedral.ie/worship/video-stream-1/>

### Church Review

We thank the Editor of the Church Review, Rev Nigel Waugh and his production team for making the Church Review available online in these difficult days. <https://dublin.anglican.org>

## Hospital and Pastoral Visits

During the current health emergency, please understand that the clergy no longer have access to hospitals or nursing homes. In the event of a pastoral concern or emergency, the Clergy are available on the Parish emergency phone (083 477 1673).

## From the Registers

### Bereavements

Our sympathy and prayers are with all who have recently been bereaved, remembering especially:-

Daphne Scott on the death of her brother, Neville Quin

Andrew Quin and family on the death of his uncle, Neville Quin

Hilary Langheld and family, on the death of her father, Rory McDonagh

May those coming to terms with life without a loved one, know the comfort of God's love at this time.



Above: Taney Parish has been transformed into a recording studio to facilitate online streaming of services.

Precentor and Director of Chapel Music, Dr Kerry Houston played the presidential salute of the newly refurbished organ on the arrival of Uachtarán na hÉireann. This organ is almost 100 years older than the hall where it is now housed. It is the organ that was provided for the second College Chapel that was consecrated in 1684 (the present chapel dates from 1798).

On Wednesday of that week, Kerry organised a recital of a selection of Beethoven's Irish Songs in the Senior Common Room. Poet Robert Burns, suggested to his friend and fellow Scotsman, George Thomson that he might interest himself in publishing arrangements of Irish melodies and Burns offered to supply the poetry for them. After some financial negotiations Beethoven agreed to undertake the arrangements. Beethoven did not see the texts of the songs. He arranged the melodies (without any words) and sent to him by Thomson who applied texts retrospectively to Beethoven's settings. Thomson could not use the poetry of Burns because Burns had died by the time the settings were completed. There were complex copyright issues also. Thomson then requested Thomas Moore to provide texts for the songs, but Moore went with another publisher (and achieved great success). Thomson then had to be satisfied with texts of mixed quality from minor poets

In a letter to the Musical Times in 1927 the Irish historian and musicologist, William Henry Grattan Flood, wrote: 'In this Centenary Year of Beethoven [he died in 1827] it ought not to be an unprofitable commercial venture for some English publisher to risk a republication of Beethoven's Irish Melodies, and, so far as possible, to substitute Moore's lyrics for those sent by Thomson'.

Tomás Ó Súilleabháin, musicologist and singer took up this challenge and the recital in the SCR featured a selection of these settings with newly selected texts, mostly by Thomas Moore and Robert Burns. The accompanist was Tomás' daughter Mary Scarlett while another of his daughters Margaret O'Sullivan, provided short introductions to each set of songs. Tomás Ó Súilleabháin had sung at the bicentenary celebrations of the 'Hist' in 1970.

On Thursday the 'Hist' celebration moved to the College Chapel where we held a special Choral Evensong. The opening hymn was a metrical version of Psalm 42 which was published by Nathum Tate (1652-1715) and Nicholas Brady (1659-1726) in their New Version of the Psalms of David (1696). Tate was admitted B.A. by the University of Dublin in 1672. He provided the libretto for the centenary ode for Trinity College in 1692 which was set to music by Henry Purcell (1659-95). Tate is best remembered today for his Christmas hymn 'While Shepherds watched their flocks by night'. The Preces and Responses were sung to a setting by George Jackson, a scholar of the house and conductor of the Chapel Choir 2008-09. These are adaptations of parts of Wagner's Die Meistersinger which was first performed in 1868 just before the centenary of the 'Hist'. The psalm was to a chant in d minor by Ralph Roseingrave (c.1695-1747). This is the only known chant by Ralph Roseingrave. Ralph's older brother Daniel is almost certainly the 'young Roseingrave' who was appointed organist of Trinity College Chapel in 1707. The date of death of Ralph Roseingrave has an interesting link with the 'Hist' as it shares the same date as that when Edmund Burke founded a club at Trinity which was a precursor for the founding of the Historical Society in 1770. The canticles were sung to a setting by Charles Villiers Stanford in the key of C. Stanford was born in Dublin in 1852. His adult life was spent in England where he was Professor of Music at Cambridge University. While he wrote music in a wide range of genres (including settings of Irish Folk Songs), but he is best remembered for his contribution to setting of texts for the Anglican liturgy. He was a cousin of the grandfather of William Bedell Stanford (1910-84) who was Regius Professor of Greek at Trinity College Dublin (1940-80) and was chancellor of the University of Dublin (1982-84). The anthem was a setting of a text from Ecclesiastes by George Hewson (1881-1972). Hewson was the Professor of Music at Trinity from 1935 to 1962 and organist of Saint Patrick's Cathedral from 1920 until 1960. The final hymn, 'Abide with me' is one of the best known hymns in the English language (partly due to it being sung at FA Cup finals). It was penned by Trinity graduate Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847). He was educated at Portora Royal School in Enniskillen before coming to Trinity for his university education and was awarded several prizes for poetry while at Trinity.

## TRINITY COLLEGE CHAPEL

Dean of Residence and Anglican Chaplain: *The Revd Steven Brunn*  
 Email: [brunns@tcd.ie](mailto:brunns@tcd.ie) Website: [tcd.ie/chaplaincy](http://tcd.ie/chaplaincy)

March proved to be a rather strange month in College Chapel as in most churches in the diocese. We started the month with the eager expectation of a build up to our final celebration of the year, Trinity Monday (Monday 20th April). This all changed with the announcement from An Taoiseach that all Colleges and schools would close at 18.00 on Thursday 12 March. This resulted in all our services in the College Chapel to come to an abrupt end but a necessary one to protect all staff and students of the College. Fortunately, the previous week was one of great celebration as it was the festival to mark the 250th anniversary of the Historical Society (the 'Hist'). This week started with an interview with President Michael D. Higgins on Monday evening (2 March) in the Public Theatre (the exam hall). The

Some staff and students along with other friends are joining together every evening at 9pm via Zoom to hold the service of Compline. Anyone who would be interested in joining us please message me at [brunns@tcd.ie](mailto:brunns@tcd.ie).

Stay safe!

## TULLOW

**The Revd. John Tanner:** *Tel. 289 3154*  
**Diocesan Lay Minister:** *Alan Rhodes. Tel. 288 7402*  
**Parish Reader:** *Sally McEachern. Tel. 289 3183*  
**Church Review:** *Jill Malcolm. Tel. 289 3365*  
**Sunday Services:** *8.30a.m. and 10.30a.m. (7:00p.m. 3rd Sunday)*  
**Mid-week Service:** *Wednesdays at 10.15a.m.*  
**Website:** *www.tullowdublin.org*

Parochial ministry has undergone a rapid and unexpected transformation due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Albeit that we experienced a few weeks of restricted communal worship, this came to an abrupt end following An Taoiseach's St. Patrick's Day address to the nation. Since then worship has moved to an online platform and parish Services have been made available (and will continue to be made available for the foreseeable future) through Facebook.

Parochial home visiting has had to cease and contact is now being continued through telephone, email, Skype, Facetime, Teams and Zoom (the latter three of which are new to the writer!) Those living alone, those with underlying medical conditions and those in the vulnerable category having to cocoon are facing a worrying and difficult time. Thankfully, there has been a great deal of community and family support evident for those worst affected and I pray that this will continue.

The facilitation of funerals is difficult at this time but hopefully we will be in a position to hold Memorial Services in due course once it is safe to do so. My thoughts and prayers are with all bereaved families at this time, and especially Mandy Swanwick and family, on the death of Mandy's mother, Emily Lee.

I am particularly conscious of those who were scheduled to sit State Examinations this summer. Fortunately, those in Junior Cycle have now received some clarity on how they will be assessed and allowed to move forward – albeit it a logistical headache for schools and teachers. Unfortunately, those facing Leaving Certificate have the added stress and pressure of not knowing when (or if) their examinations will take place and do not have a revised timetable to work towards. My thoughts and prayers are also with those families who are having to deal with this added stress at this time.

### The Evergreens

The next group walk was scheduled for Sunday 10th May when a walk was planned for Crone Woods, Glencree Valley. However, due to current restrictions on movement and social distancing, this is unlikely to go ahead unless provision is made following a review of restrictions due on 5th May. Should this be the case, walkers will be notified.

Donald Gill -Evergreens Co-ordinator

### Beckett in Foxrock

This event was due to have taken place on Saturday 28th March but had to be postponed. No date has yet been selected for reschedule due to the uncertainty of the current situation. As a presentation of this nature requires considerable lead-in time, plenty of notice will be given of revised arrangements

Jane Bowes -Event Organiser

### Congratulations

Mrs. Gladys Locke celebrated her 104th birthday on Monday 30th March. This attracted media attention as an article appeared on the Evening Echo newspaper and it was also reported on both the Six-one and Nine o'clock news on RTE. Unfortunately, members of her extended family were unable to attend the celebrations but she enjoyed a birthday lunch with her fellow residents and staff in The

Clevis, Leopardstown Park Hospital. We wish Gladys continued health and happiness and hope she will shortly be able to enjoy a belated family event.

## WHITECHURCH

**Canon Horace McKinley:** *Tel: 493 3953*  
**Rev. Michael Heaney:** *Tel: 086 265 1791*  
**Email:** *office@whitechurchparish.com*  
**Website:** *www.whitechurch.dublin.anglican.org*  
**Parish Office:** *Tel/Fax: 493 4972 (for P.A. & Secretary),*  
**Rector's P.A. Janet Gillis, Monday-Thursday 9.00-1.00p.m.**  
**Secretary:** *Sylvia Byrne, Thursday & Friday 9.00-5.00p.m.*  
**Review:** *Heather Plummer, Tel: 494 4809*  
**Sunday Services:** *8.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m., and 7.00 p.m.*

### Changing Times And Dates:

Because of current events, both our 'May Fete' and parish 'team' visit to Rwanda have had to be postponed till further notice. Our Annual Easter Vestry, originally with an April date in place, has now been transferred to Wednesday 13 May, subject, of course, to any further government restrictions imposed.

### Message From The Rector:

As I write these brief notes, I do so on a day when the first part of verse 24 from Psalm 55 crossed my daily study path:- "Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you". It struck me just how much spiritual comfort and re-assurance can be drawn from those age-old words of faith, not least during any of life's very uncertain, tough or testing times.

Every blessing,

Horace McKinley.

## ZION

**Rector:** *The Rev'd. Stephen A Farrell*  
**Diocesan Reader:** *Margaret Healion*  
**Review:** *Alan Nairn*  
**Review notes:** *Margaret Healion*  
**Parish Office:** *Tel. 406 4730*  
**Email:** *zionparish@gmail.com*  
**Services:** *Sundays -10.30a.m.*  
**Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer:** *daily.*  
**Website:** *www.zionparish.ie*

### The Rector writes.....

#### A very different Easter

The way we do Easter in Zion is to have a big celebration. We shout "Christ is Risen!" And we don't only shout it once. We actively revel in that joy, and there's a gleeful outworking of that celebration- we drink champagne after Church. Children hunt for eggs. We typically walk home in the bright sun to continue our celebration. The Lord is risen! Could there ever be a better reason for a display of joy?

This year was a very different Easter. In Church the resurrection was celebrated, but with no music, no baptisms, no flowers, no people. My abiding memory will be the Easter Vigil, going to the garden of remembrance to light the paschal fire – to welcome the light of Christ into the world – and looking up to see 15 socially distanced parishioners standing across the road to see the fire and to greet the resurrection for themselves. The paschal candle was lit from the fire and held aloft. 'The Light of Christ'. 'Thanks be to God' came the response from across the road. The Light was carried into the Church and the Vigil celebrated. Outside, some went back to their homes, some continued to watch the fire, keeping their own Vigil.

A fire. The bell. We are going back to basics in our witness.

This year we come to the tomb with Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James. Normally we stand at a distance, and view the tableau

of their joy. This year, we resonate with them in a new way. We see that there is joy there. But also fear. And perhaps better expressed than fear, uncertainty. He is not dead, he is risen! Comfortably jubilant to us. But the two Mary's ran from the tomb. Why was he not there? What had happened? What would happen next?

If we did not know something before of uncertainty. We have a community of uncertainty today. None of us have the answers. None of us have a crystal ball.

In just the same way that we must allow ourselves not to have an instagramable isolation. We must allow ourselves not to be amazing. To grieve what is happening. To be messy.

And that's a perfectly valid and perfectly biblical experience of Easter. The gospel doesn't exist in the toast of a champagne glass. It's a gift. It is given to us. It doesn't need us to put on the show. It will be a more wonderful Easter.

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

SAF

## Worship

Morning and evening prayer continues to be offered in Church each day using the forms of prayer that were sent to everyone in March. If you would like another copy of these please email the Rector.

We ring the bell before each service to let the community know that prayer is being offered.

On Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day short video messages from the Rector were put online and shared by email/watsapp.

From Easter 2 there will be short acts of worship recorded and shared each week, if the Rector can master the technology.

## Thanks

Thank you to all who recorded part of the Good Friday Passion Gospel and sent it to the Rector. We would normally hear this Gospel together on Good Friday, but this year we had to devise a way of hearing it together, but apart. It can be seen here. <https://vimeo.com/405800247>

## Parish Registers - Condolences

### Dr James Charles Gibson

We offer our prayers and sincere condolences to Dr. John Gibson - parishioner, member of Zion Church Select Vestry and friend - on the peaceful passing of his father James, in Newcastle, Co. Down on Tuesday, February 25th 2020 at the age of 101. May he Rest in Peace.

### Mr. Billy Carson

It is with regret that we learnt of the passing of Billy Carson, father of our friend and Zion Church choir-member Noelle McGannon, on Tuesday, 21st January 2020 at his home in Killala, Co. Mayo. We offer our continued prayers to Noelle and her family as they come to terms with the sudden loss of their Dad, Billy. May he Rest in Peace.

### Mrs Colette McInerney (nee O'Boyle)

Late of Waterford. Colette taught in Zion early in her career, and made a big impression in a short time. She played the piano for the hymn in morning assembly and was a favourite with the children. May she Rest in Peace.

## ARKLOW, INCH & KILBRIDE

### Vacant

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**Parish Readers:** Pat O'Malley Mobile: 087 780 7809

Mary Dillon Mobile: No 087 957 4476

**Review Notes:** Rosemary Paul. Tel. 087 9639260

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**Parish Mobile:** 087 9577496

**Website:** [arklowinchkilbrideparishes.com](http://arklowinchkilbrideparishes.com)

**Review Distributors:** Anne Cooper (Arklow), Irene Condren (Inch), Frances Collier (Kilbride)

### Services:

**Sunday:** St. Brigid's, Kilbride, 10.00a.m.

1 & 3rd MP, 2nd, 4th HC, 5th SOW

**Inch:** 10.00a.m.

1st & 3rd HC, 2nd MP & 4th SOW, 5th SOW

**St. Saviour's, Arklow:** 11.30am.

1st & 3rd HC, 2nd SOW & 4th MP, 5th SOW

**MP – Morning Prayer. HC - Holy Communion**

**SOW – Service of the Word.**

### From the Curate...

Lights! Camera! Action! These appear to have become the opening lines to all our prayer services.

Lent and Holy Week were very strange with the COVID-19 restrictions. It was difficult not to be able to celebrate the Resurrection in a community setting as our last church-based service took place in St Saviour's on 22 March.

We also had to cancel our confirmation service which was originally scheduled for 4 April. At this point it looks that we will bring the 2020 and 2021 candidates together next year.

We had a live feed of prayer from each of the parish churches on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Based on positive feedback, we will continue the live feed of a Sunday service from one of the churches until restrictions on movement are lifted. The parish newsletter format has been updated and posted to all homes which has been especially appreciated by those less technologically savvy.

Canon Nigel also announced his retirement from active ministry on 31 March after almost 25 years in the parish group. We await a relaxation on the social-distancing rules before we can come together as a community to recognise his service. In the meantime we wish Nigel, Carol and his family best wishes and every blessing.

### Illness

We remember Sophie Goode who is currently in hospital as we compile these notes.

### Bereavement

News filtered through that Norman Galway passed away on Good Friday in the Asgard Nursing Home. Norman moved to Arklow in the last few years and regularly attended St Saviour's Church, Arklow. We extend our sympathy to his sons Richard, Peter and Robert and to the wider family circle.

### Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Philip Wood on the death of his brother-in-law and sister-in-law and to Oonagh Wadman on the death of her father.

### Congratulations to

Sam and Ann-Marie Nuzum on the birth of a baby girl.

### A Reflection from Pat

So we are self-isolating, or if we are over 70, cocooning. Over 2,000 years ago Jesus self-isolated, for 40 days and 40 nights, after his baptism.

We are tempted, "Maybe I could nip out and meet a friend for coffee? Perhaps I could just drop out for the paper? No-one would see me if I dropped into the Post Office to pay the phone bill? Small temptations which have become a major at cocoon-time.



Jesus' temptations by Satan were very much bigger in comparison, but He turned to His Father God for help, and used the words from the prophets in defence: "One does not live by bread alone but by every word of God," and "Do not put the Lord your God to the test," and "Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only."

Jesus communicated with His Father. At this time of trial and temptation which we are all facing, we can find solace and comfort if we turn to well-known words in our Bibles or our prayer-books, and in quiet prayer.

Also, we can communicate by modern technology with those who we know are alone and lonely—a cheerful chat is worth so much.

Remember Paul's words to the Philippians, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

## ATHY, KILBERRY AND FONTSTOWN WITH KILKEA

**Rector:** Rev. Olive Donohoe. The Rectory Athy, Co Kildare.  
Mobile/Text: 087-2209945. Email: [revolivedonohoe@gmail.com](mailto:revolivedonohoe@gmail.com)

**Uth Group Team Leader:** Emma Purser.

**Diocesan Lay Reader:** Bill King.

**Church Review Distributor:** Roy Kelly. Tel: 059-8631607.

**Review and Newsletter Notes:** Helen Kinghan. Tel: 087-9831786.  
Email: [athynewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:athynewsletter@gmail.com).

**Parish Website:** [www.athycofi.ie](http://www.athycofi.ie).

### From The Rector:

A most unusual Easter, with the lock in, cocooning and self isolation, the opposite of what it means to be a Christian. Well, traditionally at least. Now the kindest thing we can do for someone else is not to hug, not to greet, not to see, not to visit. It's very difficult to navigate these new, and essential, social mores. It is not easy to stay at home all day, every day, and it looks like we will be doing so for another few weeks. But it is an ill wind and all that. The Rectory is getting a deep clean and declutter, I am getting enough rest and now find I have time to read and do the daily Offices.

But it does get lonely at times, and some days are long, even with all the texts, calls and Whatsapps and stuff to prepare for the twice weekly Facebook stuff. It's interesting to see what it is we miss most, but suffice it to say I found myself eating a vegan, almond Magnum. (delivered!) Up to now I never knew such exotica existed.

But it has brought out a great spirit of kindness in our local area and everywhere. There are people providing dinners for those who are cocooning, every day, sponsored by local business people, and everyone is willing to deliver food and medicines to our doors, and it really makes such a difference. Not to mention the all the staff in our two local Nursing Homes, and the staff in our local Supermarkets, who could not be more helpful., and the truck drivers and suppliers, and the farmers.

I really miss gathering in Church on Sundays, it's so strange to record the Services in an empty church, except for the cameraman, Serge, who is playing a blinder, putting it all together. . And I do miss the company and the coffees and the chats, and all we took for granted. They seem so precious now, and I am so glad that I enjoyed them fully when I had them.

But to end I include a Sonnet, by the Rev Malcolm Guite, Chaplin in Girton House College, Cambridge. It is for all who care for others.

### For the Unseen

So much goes unseen and stays unsaid,  
So much that carers keep within their hearts;  
The children who get parents out of bed,  
Already tired before their school day starts,  
The neighbours who keep giving up their time,  
To add a daily round of extra care,

Veronicas who cleanse the sweat and grime,  
And those whose gift is simply being there,  
The patient partners lifting up a cross  
To bear the burden their beloved bears,  
Who ease each other through the pain and loss  
And feel that no one sees, and no one cares.  
But there is One to hear, to feel, to see  
And He will say 'ye did it unto me'.

### Around Athy Union:

H.O.P.E last year we had a wonderful Coffee Morning after Church for Eva Cullen Kavanagh who is in her final year of Teacher training and was all set to go on a trip to India with her class but that has had to be cancelled, Eva told us

### Travelling to India with the HOPE Foundation

Hi all, Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your kind generosity in donating to my fundraiser back in November. The support shown was immensely appreciated and I hope you enjoyed the treats! Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our travel plans have been cancelled for our safety, the safety of our lecturers and the safety of the children in Kolkata. No one could have predicted this would happen but as I'm sure you understand, we have to listen to the guidelines given and put safety first. I intend to donate the money you gave me to the HOPE Foundation to be used in the resource centre in Kolkata which gives teachers access to copies, colours, paper and all other kinds of valuable resources for their classrooms. I hope you will be happy with this and know that your money is still being used to help vulnerable children in slum schools to get access to a better education.



Above: Night visitors on Church Road Athy.



Above: Easter Lamb



Left: Though we could not gather in Church on Easter Day, one family transformed the Cross of suffering into the cross of new life.  
Right: Helping on the farm.

## Dates for your Diary:

Annual Church Fete is to be held on Saturday, 11th July, 2020. Neighbouring parishes please take note.

Blessing of the Animals Service to be held on Sunday, 31st May, 2020, in Ballinatone Church Grounds.

## CELBRIDGE AND STRAFFAN WITH NEWCASTLE-LYONS

Rev. Stephen Neill: Tel. (01)628 8231 Mobile 087 232 8172

Email: [Stephen.neill@gmail.com](mailto:Stephen.neill@gmail.com)

Readers: Mrs. Jackie Taylor Tel. (01) 628 8129

Mrs. Cynthia Lang Tel. 086 265 0742

Mr Geoffrey McMaster Tel. 086 606 2910

Mr Brendan Sheahan Tel. 085 764 6699

Review Distributors: Elizabeth Burbridge (Newcastle); Debbie Kelly (Straffan).

Service Times: (Sundays) Newcastle 9.00am, Straffan 10.15am, Celbridge 11.30, (Wednesdays) 10.00am Celbridge.

Website: [www.cs-nl.org](http://www.cs-nl.org)

May you live in interesting times! It turns out that this familiar Chinese curse popularised in a speech by the late Robert Kennedy is not in fact Chinese in origin and most likely owes its origins to a speech given by Sir Austen Chamberlin in 1936 if not earlier. But regardless of all that we do indeed live in 'interesting times' and times that are equally challenging, frightening and even disturbing.

Without a doubt the most difficult circumstance that has arisen from the necessary 'Lockdown' is the restriction on funeral rites. The funeral service and death in general is something we do well in Ireland. It is not hidden away or a cause of discomfort and threat. Death is a part of life and we accompany our loved ones on this last earthly journey so well, helped by the professional medical services, the clergy and other pastoral supports and finally the undertakers who give a special dignity to our loved ones in death.

And the funeral is not just about those who have died – it is even more especially for the living for we believe that our loved ones are already in the presence of God. For those who are left behind the healing and cathartic liturgy is not just about what happens in the church or by the graveside but the people who call to the house with cakes and sandwiches, hot dinners, flowers and most importantly of all a hug and an embrace and of course all the handshaking at the church and the lovely words that are said and the beautiful hymns that are sung and after it is all over the meal in the hotel and the drinks at the bar where old stories are told and tears turn to laughter and laughter to tears. It is all of this and more that gives people the strength to move on – to pick up the pieces of shattered lives and in time to learn to live again – not in the same way as before but to nevertheless to live again.

At the moment so many people are being deprived of so much of this – perhaps if their loved ones are in a nursing home or hospital they cannot even be with them in their final days and hours. And when death comes nobody comes to visit, there are no hugs, no handshakes, no church service, no friends present because not even all the family are allowed to attend and afterwards no shared meal or stories and everyone goes back separately to their own houses. It is a very lonely and stark final journey and as a Garda I was chatting to about it this week said to me 'Its just not how we do things'.

To be clear – I'm not suggesting that things can or should be any different – lives have been saved by the strict observance of these restrictions but I just want to say that we cannot overestimate the sacrifice that the bereaved are making on all our behalf at this time. We have thanked many groups of people who have stood up to be counted in the current crisis, and rightly so but I think we need to add the newly bereaved to their ranks. Among those please remember the families of Vic Murphy, Olivia Huber and Irene Gillis and indeed any who I may have omitted. In the fullness of time we hope to have memorial services for these our loved ones who slipped quietly away when we so longed to give them the honour and celebration they deserved.

## CASTLEMACADAM, BALLINATONE AND AUGHRIM

### Vacant

Email [castlemacadam@glendalough.anglican.org](mailto:castlemacadam@glendalough.anglican.org)

Diocesan Readers: Mrs Angela Winterbotham 0402 36150

Ms Uta Raab

Lay Readers: Mrs Janet Kirwan, Mr Bruce Middleton, Mr. Alan Pierce

Review Notes: Ms Kay Leeson – 086 8554863

Email [kayleeson@eircom.net](mailto:kayleeson@eircom.net)

Review Distributors: Mrs Olga Stephenson – 0402 36347

Ms Sandra Hall – 0402 35253

Sunday Services: St. John's, Aughrim – 10.00 a.m.

Ballinatone Church - 10.30 a.m.

Holy Trinity, Castlemacadam - 11.45 a.m.

### Recovering from illness/operations:

We continue to remember in prayer, those who are ill, and those who are in hospital and also their families and friends.

### Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to Mary Delaney and family on the sudden death of Mary's husband Seamus, of Woodenbridge Service Station, Avoca. Seamus was a loyal friend and supporter of Castlemacadam Parish.

### Confirmation Classes:

Confirmation classes are continuing. Please remember in your prayers the following candidates:-

Grace Hollingsworth, William Hollingsworth and Joshua Simmonds.

### Coronavirus (Covid 19)

In light of the evolving Coronavirus (Covid 19) situation and the advice of HSE and Department of Health to safeguard the health of our population, the decision has been taken to cancel all Church services in our 3 churches until further notice.

Our Rural Dean Reverend Jack Kinhead, encourages all parishioners to think of vulnerable or isolated neighbours during this period and to offer support and assistance as appropriate.

### 5th Sunday:

Please note that if there is a 5th Sunday in a month, there may be one service only on that Sunday and in one church only.

### Coffee Morning:

Dates and venues for Joint Coffee Mornings will be announced at Church Services.

But there is another side to the Covid crisis and in this Easter Season I would like to finish my remarks on an optimistic and hopeful note. Out of the restrictions which have effectively closed our church buildings has come the birth of something new and that is our online church community. By that I am not so much referring to the church services which I and so many of my colleagues are leading either from our homes or empty churches but the level of contact and communication that is happening especially through our parish Whatapp group which now has almost 100 members. Parishioners are sharing stories, inspiring material, jokes, school homework tips, photos, links to worship and so on. People from different churches or areas in the parish have got to know one another online, have become friends and there is a great desire when this is all over to turn those virtual friendships into real friendships. There is a sense of togetherness and fellowship that no church mission could ever have achieved. In adversity we have grown closer to each other and indeed to those of other churches as we take the opportunity to look at what is going on in the other churches via Facebook Live, webcams or YouTube. This group has also produced many volunteers to look out for neighbours and those who are housebound and to keep contact with those who are not online and perhaps even more cut off than the rest of us. In short it has been a blessing.

So like so much in life this time is one of both crisis and opportunity – Like the period between the first Easter and Pentecost there is a mixture of emotions. Hurt and fear, joy and anticipation but now as then we are not alone – The Risen Christ stands among us and shares his peace with us. Thanks be to God!

## DELGANY

**The Revd. Nigel Waugh:** Tel. 2874515

**Assisting Clergy:** The Revd. Harry Lew. Tel. 087 628 8049

**Email:** [delgany@glendalough.anglican.org](mailto:delgany@glendalough.anglican.org)

**Review Distributor:** Peter Harrison Tel. 287 4270

**Sunday services:** 8.30am, 10.30am, 7pm.

Well, it is a new world and we are coping as well as we can in parish life.

All usual activities and services are discontinued but we remain available by email and by phone. Parishioners seem to be doing well. The older ones are 'cocooning'. Those who live on their own generally have home help arrangements in place and these continue. Several younger parishioners have volunteered to assist with shopping but generally people seem to be using family members or home helps.

We are all missing meeting up for our regular services on Sundays. How often we take these things for granted. Initially, we directed people to the Cathedral services which were streamed on line on Sunday mornings. We complimented these with online reflections or short sermons. But, from talking to parishioners, it became apparent that what people were missing was the familiar service in a building they knew well and with a familiar voice. So began a steep learning curve on filming, lighting, sound and editing, working our way around YouTube and Facebook and the intricacies of iMovie and other programmes.

People have been very kind in their comments. These services have been watched by parishioners in Berlin and from as far away as Nairobi in Kenya. If the number of views is to be believed, they have a far greater reach than the number of people who would have been in church in the normal course of events. Indeed, perhaps strangely, there have been kind comments from a number of people who rarely attend normal church. And there have also been subscriptions and views from people not connected with the parish at all. Much food for thought here as to how we should conduct church in the future!

Thanks to Meg Elliott for posting Sunday Club material online for the children.

The services and other resources are available on Youtube and the parish Facebook page @delganyparish

While one might expect to have a great deal of free time with so many activities cancelled, I have not found this to be the case. Video production is very time consuming and watching tutorials and learning

techniques takes time too. Email and phone are still available. Things that could be done easily with free movement become more difficult and slower to achieve in lock down. Many of the things I thought I would deal with in isolation – such as my tax return - have not yet been begun.

The death took place during the month of Phyllis McKee. Phyllis was a delightful lady who lived in Glenbrook Park in the parish before moving into a nursing home in recent times. She was a faithful worshipper and one of our flower arrangers. She enjoyed her garden and delighted in her family. She visited some of them regularly in Canada when she was able.

The service was conducted in Delgany churchyard, for immediate family only in accordance with the necessary safety precautions and distancing, by Canon Fred Applebe, whose wife Sonia is a niece of Phyllis. Family members linked the ceremony to others in Canada by livestreaming.

Congratulations to Emma Cafferkey and her husband Rory Mulligan on the birth of a son!

The church bells rang out on Easter Sunday morning and on the following Sunday. It was a proclamation of celebration for Easter and also an act of defiance in the face of adversity. Many in the vicinity commented how good it was to hear them.

Thanks once again to our national school teachers in the parish for their hard work in preparing lessons at the same time as minding their own children and working from home. As many parents are rediscovering, teaching is not an easy job!

I trust all our readers will stay well and continue to take all sensible precautions. We hope things will have changed for the better by the time next month's notes appear.



Delgany Churchyard is maintained by parish volunteers



Left: Steven Wilkinson sings with Doreen McCormick on the organ  
Right: Lynne O'Connor played the bells in Delgany

## DONOUGHMORE AND DONARD WITH DUNLAVIN

**Rector:** Archdeacon Neal O'Raw

**Lay Minister:** Ernest Mackey

**Diocesan Reader:** Mrs Myra Moody

**Parish Readers:** Myra Moody, Edward Allen, Jon Kirby

### Deaths

Sympathy to Mrs Freda Allen on the death of her husband Ned, who died on Monday, 24

February, also to his son Gary, sister Muriel (Storey), brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, gran-niece, grand-nephew, relatives and friends. His funeral service was held on Thursday, 27 February in Donard Church.

Sympathy also to Myra Moody and Neville Case on the death of their aunt, Ruth Watchorn (nee Case), New Ross, Co. Wexford who died on Friday, 10 April. A private family burial took place on Sunday, 12 April.

## DUNGANSTOWN, REDCROSS & CONARY

**Rev. Roland Heaney.** Tel: 0404-41637 E-mail [rolyheaney@gmail.com](mailto:rolyheaney@gmail.com)

**Parish Administrator:** Mrs Deirdre O'Callaghan Tel: 0404-41864

**Review:** Mrs Phyllis Mates. Tel: 0404-41715

**Parish E-Mail:** [info@redcrosschurch.ie](mailto:info@redcrosschurch.ie)

**Parish Websites:** [www.redcrosschurch.ie](http://www.redcrosschurch.ie)

### A Thought From The Rector

What is happening to the world? Three months ago, nobody would have believed that by Easter, we would be in lock down, all sporting events cancelled, pubs and restaurants closed, education suspended, and church buildings empty. The question many are asking, 'What is God doing in all this?'. Of course, we can come up with our theories, but truthfully, we probably don't know.

'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,'

declares the Lord. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.' Isaiah 55:8-9

On Good Friday, the day Jesus was crowned king, his crown was made of thorns. He was raised up for the world to see, but it was on a cross. His proclamation 'The King of the Jews' was his death sentence.

If we had been alive on that day surrounded by the darkness, suffering and confusion, would we have known what God was doing? Yet it turned out to be the day of victory, the day of our salvation!

'And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.' Colossians 2:15

On that Friday, nobody could have imagined Sunday, the empty tomb and Jesus alive.

What is God doing at the moment? I don't know, but I believe we will look back and be amazed what has come out of this time. However today we hold on to what Jesus told us to do, taking on the responsibility of doing our part.

'But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.' Matthew 6:33-34

Today is the time of seeking Him and his kingdom – the kingdom that brings victory, deliverance and healing to our world. Jesus is alive and is still on the throne and as we prepare for the coming of Pentecost, we look forward with hope to what God is going to do.

### Sunday Services

Whilst the current restrictions remain in place and our normal Sunday services are cancelled, we continue to upload our Sunday reflection online each Sunday morning from 10.30am at [www.redcrosschurch.ie/sunday-service](http://www.redcrosschurch.ie/sunday-service).

### Funeral Services

The current restrictions due to Covid 19 have meant that funerals have been affected and the process of public mourning has become very difficult. Over the Easter period, we had three funerals that would normally have packed the church buildings and given members of the parish and local community an opportunity to share their condolences, but unfortunately, we had small private services.

The first funeral was that of Norman Galway, a former dedicated parishioner of Dunganstown who was Rector's Church Warden for several years, served on the Select Vestry and was the Freewill Offering Recorder. Our thoughts and prayers are with his 3 sons and their families, who due to living overseas were unable to be present at the burial. Also, we remember his relatives and many friends from the parish.

The second funeral service was that of Digby Johnson who was well known in the community as the proprietor of a local caravan park. Digby was also an active parishioner, serving as a church warden and member of the Select Vestry as well as one of the Parochial Nominators responsible for selecting the current Rector. He was passionate about indoor bowling and was the successful captain of the parish bowling club for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Marjorie, daughter Deirdre (Parish Administrator), sons, grandchildren, relatives and his many friends.

The third funeral service was that of Dr. Joan McGeachin who died peacefully on 16th April in Blainroe Lodge. Joan was a committed member of Dunganstown Church and was fully involved in parish life. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Alistair, her 3 daughters, Margaret, Verna and Diana and their families.

### Condolence

We remember Phyllis Johnson and her family on the recent death of her father. We pray that all who are bereaved may know the comfort, peace and strength of God as well as the hope of the Resurrection.

## GREYSTONES, ST PATRICK'S

**Clergy:** Canon David Mungavin (01 2874077)

**Curate:** Rev. Rebecca Guildea (085 8194377)

**Lay Minister:** Frank Connolly (087 1211575)

**Website:** [www.stpatricksgreystones.ie](http://www.stpatricksgreystones.ie)

**Parish Office:** 01 2010648. Email: [info@stpatricksgreystones.ie](mailto:info@stpatricksgreystones.ie)

**Sunday Services:** 8:30 am, 10:30 am (followed by coffee), and 5pm

**Weekday services:**

*Daily prayer: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9 am*

**Wednesday:** Holy Communion, 10:30 am, followed by coffee

### From the Rector

Easter was never meant to be 'normal' anyway! The current crisis has forced us all to think outside the box – the adjustment to video messages and live streaming has been a steep learning curve but a few significant things have emerged from the empty tomb this Easter! It is so important for us not to see this time simply as a vacuum that we try to fill and to while away the time until things return to normal. 'Normal' is the antithesis of the Gospel and the Resurrection we celebrate at the heart of the Gospel.

Have any new sacred spaces emerged in this time? Are we able to reach people using the means of communication by which vast numbers of people now live? Is there a huge opportunity for us to find new ways of connecting with many people who have come to realise that their relentless routines were masking a deeper need for meaning and value in life?

As we hold uppermost in our prayers the victims of the pandemic, the healthcare workers and the bereaved, I have a sincere hope that in years to come the Church will look back at this time in the wilderness not as a time of emptiness, but rather as a time when new life emerged. My grateful thanks to our ministry and music team for all their work in keeping St Patrick's 'open', if not literally then certainly spiritually!

David Mungavin

## New ways of worship

During the Covid-19 crisis churches have been left empty on Sunday mornings throughout the country. But church is more than a building and in the current situation clergy and congregations have had to find creative ways to continue to gather together in worship. In Greystones excellent access to broadband has meant that James has been able to live stream Sunday morning services, bringing church into the homes of the parish. This has been a real team effort: David, Rebecca and Frank have embraced technology to deliver the Good News in new ways and Emma has managed the social media side of things, letting everyone know where and how to access the stream. James has used his technical know-how to capture every moment in glorious technicolour and crystal clear sound so that parishioners have had the opportunity of praying together in these very strange times. In addition to 'transmitting' the service on Easter Day he also included video messages from all the local clergy in Greystones Churches Together.

## Sharing our Light 2020

Unfortunately we were unable to hold our usual Easter Vigil service of light this year, but thanks to Emma we did manage to share our light with one another virtually! Thanks to all the parishioners who sent a photo of a lighted candle from their homes, from which Emma created a montage and made a prayerful video. The photo shows a selection of the candles.



## The Zoom Prayer Room

In this time of confusion and unknowing it has been a real blessing and privilege to gather with people each morning and evening and to seek the shelter of God's love. Thank you to everyone who has braved the previously uncharted waters of 'zoom' to pray together online during this time of social distancing and restricted movement. If anyone would like to join this dedicated, informal and heartily faithful 'home from home' group, please contact Emma at the Parish Office at [info@spatricksgreystones.ie](mailto:info@spatricksgreystones.ie).

Sunday Youth Group focused on a short but powerful message this Easter: 'He is Risen' (Matthew 28:6). What does it mean to believe in a God who became human, was brutally killed and then came back to life? When Jesus died on the cross he took all our sins upon himself. His lifeless body was sealed in a tomb; it seemed as though evil had won. In the Gospel we hear about the disciples going to the tomb, hoping only to grieve over the body of their beloved friend. In spite of all the miracles Jesus had performed before their eyes they were not expecting him to flip the script on this one. But he did. He rose from the dead, walked and talked with his friends and explained patiently what his death and resurrection meant.

Through his death and resurrection Jesus has gained for all of us the right to be forgiven for our sins. He has overcome evil. When you feel afraid or weak know that Jesus has freed you from the power of evil and won forgiveness for all of your sins. He knows and loves us all. He is there for us in our darkest hours and our brightest moments.

Think over any situation in your life that makes you feel afraid or uncertain. Whatever it is, know that no matter how scary things get Jesus has defeated evil. Bad feelings and fears can feel very real, but often the things they try to tell us are not true. What is true is that you are a beloved child of God and nothing in the world can ever change this.

Emma Fitzgerald

## Sunday Seekers Kids

We have crafts and messages posted up on our Facebook page and on our parish email bulletin. Many thanks to Janet, Alex and Brian.

## Mothers' Union – 'Building Hope and Confidence'

Sadly, our meeting calendar is on hold and probably will be until the autumn when 'We'll meet again!' We've had some lovely messages of encouragement and prayers at this difficult time from Karen Nelson, Diocesan President. We wish all our branch members and all Mothers' Union members worldwide our best wishes and will remember them in our prayers. Keep in touch by phone and email with family, fellow members and friends and remember, we can do all things through Him who believes in us. God Bless.

Daphne Townsend

## NARRAGHMORE AND TIMOLIN WITH CASTLEDERMOT AND KINNEAGH

Vacant

Readers: Mr. Philip Hendy. Tel: 059 8636518

Mrs. Avril Gillatt. Tel: 085-2774619

Church Review Secretary:

Judy Chambers (notes for inclusion by 12th of month)

Review Distribution: Mrs. Beatrice Hendy. Tel: 059 8636518

Mrs. Charlotte Glynn. Tel: 059 8623167

Mr. John Ubank. Tel: 059 9144176

Facebook: Narraghmore Timolin Castledermot & Kinneagh parish

As the parish is vacant, please refer all queries relating to parish administration and pastoral care to the Acting Rural Dean, Rev. Nigel Waugh, Delgany. Telephone no.: 01-2874515; Mobile no.: 086-1028888; E-mail: [nigelwaugh@gmail.com](mailto:nigelwaugh@gmail.com)

## COVID 19

As with all parishes, due to COVID 19, there are no services in any of the churches in the parish for the moment. A special thanks to Philip Hendy for recording services and having them available to parishioners – the first one from his own home and one for Easter Sunday from The Church of the Holy Saviour in Narraghmore.

## Services of Wholeness and Healing

As these services have had to be cancelled due to COVID 19, Avril Gillatt has offered that if any parishioner would like personal prayer, or prayers for members of their family, they can contact her. All requests are confidential. Many thanks to Avril for supporting parishioners during this very difficult time.

Contact: Avril Gillatt: 085-2774619

## Engagement

Congratulations to Ethan Braithwaite (son of Colin and Olga) on his engagement on St. Patrick's Day to Katie Earle from Ballygarret, Gorey, Co. Wexford.

## Birth

Congratulations to Nicola (nee Gray) and Kevin Deering on the birth of their son, David.

## Bereavement

Our sympathies to the Gillis and Ruddock families, on the death Irene Gillis (mother of Hazel Ruddock and mother-in-law to her husband Canon Leonard Ruddock) Grangecon, Co. Wicklow on 4th April in the loving care of Craddock House Nursing Home, Naas.

## NEWCASTLE, NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY WITH CALARY

### Vacant

**Lay Reader:** *Caroline Tindal*

**Parish Administrator:** *Karen Reynolds 087 2866889*

**Review Circulation:** *Pauline O'Sullivan (Newcastle), Jane O'Herlihy (St. Matthews), Eithi Seymour (Calary)*

**Review Notes:** *Gillian Beare*

**Parish Website:** *www.newcastleparish.org www.*

*newtownmountkennedyparish.org / www.calaryparish.org*

### Dear Friends

Ireland is blessed with having many very talented broadcasters and journalists. One such individual is Olivia O'Leary. One can not only imagine – but actually hear her saying the following: "It was different back then, during Easter 2020.....". Such a phrase is likely to go down in the annals of folklore.

Holy Week and Easter Sunday had a stillness, a serenity -that many of us – perhaps all of us had never experienced before. Participating in any form of 'On Line' service is – yes – 'Different'. We have to concentrate harder and it is a challenge not to become distracted . Of course there is the 'bonus factor' of being able to turn our particular electronic device on 'silent' or better still 'off' -if the 'Address' is not to our liking!

Words cannot adequately describe the sensation- the experience we are living in- that we are witnesses to - of the Covid 19 Pandemic. Many of our fellow citizens have tragically died directly as a result of this deadly virus and very many more have fallen foul to the illness and weakness it brings and our thoughts and prayers are with all directly affected.

Pause for thought! Could 'Social Distancing' actually make us think about Matthew 22 v 39? Could we 'Love our neighbour as ourselves' in a more real and practical way?

Yes it was indeed 'Different back then'. Personally I have been deeply moved by the acknowledgement – long, long overdue – given to all those individuals, we so often take for granted, who enable us to live generally in comfort and peacefulness – those who grow, process, manufacture, check, test, transport, collect and deliver. Those on the 'Front Line' not least those in the Health Service and An Garda Siochana. Those who place their lives at risk for you and me. Two simple – yet powerful words came back into vogue 'back then- when things were different'. The words – 'Thank You'.

Thank you - to each one of you for all that you have done and are doing for yourselves, your family and for your community.

Some of us – yours truly – have found a whole new world lies within and beyond the 'screen'. We will endeavour, we will persevere – we will with loads of help continue to proclaim the 'Good News'.

Our nation – the world in which we live is affected by Covid 19. Events are moving rapidly and by the time of publication of this edition of 'The Church Review' it is anticipated that positive steps to at least commence to 'Reverse the Lockdown' will have occurred. We look forward to celebrating the Festival of Pentecost with renewed hope and joy.

We live with the Hope of the Risen Christ. We will overcome.

Rev. Niall

## POWERSCOURT WITH KILBRIDE

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The streets of Enniskerry Village are almost empty these days. To take a walk 'around the block' we become aware of a wide variety of birdsong, uninterrupted by traffic and the world of nature seems to be in full flourish with the hedgerows thriving around the Rectory. Across the way from us the school is eerily quiet. Our Graveyard in Powerscourt has become home to frequent visitors who stop to think on the benches and meander along the pathways within their 2km limit of a daily walk. It seems that overnight the world has changed.

At the beginning of this crisis I thought it sensible to form a group of people who would take it upon themselves to call a certain number of parishioners on a regular basis to provide company, albeit over the phone lines, for those most isolated at this time. I found to my grateful surprise that this was already happening among this strong community and the distinct sense of outreach and support is astounding. Our thanks to the Care Group for their constant care of those cocooned away at home these days.

For Church, this crisis has provided an opportunity to step beyond its walls and outreach not only to our parishioners but to those who wouldn't normally frequent the pews. This calls for creativity and compels us clergy to take another closer look at the beautiful liturgies already in place and bring them to life in new ways. There is nothing like a magnificent view to bring to life an equally beautiful Collect of the Day to give one example. There is such a broad range of services available now over the internet which embrace the diversity in style of the Church of Ireland as it is seen in a wider context now. I do pray that we hold on to some of these new found methods of outreach across social media when this crisis passes. Furthermore, another prayer would be that this new-found comfort for some, in the words of scripture brought clearly to the fore across a wide range of social media, will encourage those who engage to seek the unity of coming together into communities of faith in the future.

My personal thanks to all those who have already taken part in our Short Services of Worship every Sunday by recording themselves reading the scriptures and offering hymns and music performed and recorded by themselves. I heartily encourage others to do the same as friendly and familiar faces are always a blessing at times like these.

Copperpot the Orangutan (puppet) has also been busy during this time to reflect and create with weekly messages of Birthday congratulations to the children of Powerscourt National School in leu of School Assembly and we continue to think and create prayers and bible stories with this useful character!

We in Powerscourt and Kilbride send greetings and blessings to all of the parishes within the united dioceses at this time, remembering in particular, the families who may be bereaved or those who have loved ones working at the frontline of this crisis. May God's love surround and protect you and his presence be known in your lives.

I attach the following reminder of Services created for Sunday Worship and Weekly Reflection.

### A Short Service of Sunday Worship

is available each Sunday on our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/The-Grouped-Parishes-of-Powerscourt-with-Kilbride-1514315732033467/?ref=bookmarks> and Parish Website. <http://www.powerscourt.glen dalough.angican.org>



## Reflections from the Bench

These short reflections from the Bench in Powerscourt Graveyard continue once a week and are posted on both Website and Facebook Page.

## Copperpot Says

On occasion, we post a scripture explained either to or by Copperpot for engaging Children at home. These are available on our Facebook Page.



## RATHDRUM AND DERRALOSSARY WITH GLENEALY

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## Sunday Service Times

Services are discontinued because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Easter services

The usual Holy Week services were not held because of the Covid-19 pandemic and in accordance with Government guidelines.

The Rector posted services throughout Holy week on uTube and these were gratefully received and were very comforting. Thanks to the Rector for organising and conducting these services and to Dr Leo Kilroy for playing the organ and Cillian O'Reilly for filming. The broadcasts brought the Parish together during these times of enforced separation.

## The great gift of Easter is hope

The rector plans to broadcast a service each Sunday on uTube and will send details to the parishioners in advance of each Sunday's service.

## Sad news

Breffni Carroll passed away on 12th March. The funeral service was held in Glenealy Parish church. We send sympathy to Viv, Rex and Rose on his passing.

## Prayer list

Even though we are not meeting face to face the prayer group is still praying for those who are ill and who have requested prayers. If you would like to add a name to the list then contact the rector or Lin Ryan.

## WICKLOW AND KILLISKEY

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## Lockdown

We hope that the parishioners of Wicklow & Killiskey are coping OK through these strange times. One positive benefit of the lockdown is seen in the environment – air quality is improved, and birds and animals are thriving now that humans are making less of an impact. Perhaps we will live a little differently, once the current restrictions are relaxed.

## Online Services

An old Chinese proverb goes: "may you live in interesting times"! Not only are the current times interesting but also challenging for all and sadly deadly for some. In the great scheme of things for most of us the lockdown is a minor inconvenience when compared with the experience of those who contract the virus and those who are in the frontline of caring for them.

Parishes throughout the United Dioceses have been seeking to adapt to current realities. Wicklow & Killiskey parishes have held services via livestreaming on Facebook, video conferencing via Zoom and uploading recorded services via YouTube. It's all new but largely successful. Each method of delivery has its benefits.

Most services have been held using video conferencing which enables everyone to see and hear each other (provided the broadband width is adequate!). There is also the opportunity to catch up on each other's news once the service is over (like online tea/coffee after church).

## Pastoral support

More established means of communicating with parishioners like email and mobile calls and texts have also been in greater use.

A number of individuals inside and outside the parishes have offered assistance to those who need help with shopping and obtaining prescriptions. Anyone who needs such support can access it by contacting Revd Jack or Revd Ken.

## The Hub

The renovated Ashford Charity Shop was only open for four weeks when it needed to close to comply with the Coronavirus regulations. It will remain closed until the current health crisis eases.

## A Prayer for the Pandemic

*Thanks are due to Canon Fred Applebe for forwarding the following prayer:*

May we who are merely inconvenienced

remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors

remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home

remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close

remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips

remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market

remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home

remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,

let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,

let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours. Amen.

Cameron Bellm

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