



Autumn
2020



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*The Grouped Parishes of
Booterstown and Carysfort with Mount Merrion*

St Philip & St James' Church & St Thomas' Church

NEWSLETTER

When writing our Easter newsletter, I thought, along with many others, that our lives would be upscuttled for a number of months but that we would be able to take up many of the threads of our lives by the Autumn and that we would fall back into familiar patterns of living. How wrong I was!

I know that people are upset that, for a second period of time, we are not allowed to gather together for in-church worship. At both Easter General Vestry meetings (which were held in August) we discussed in-church and online worship during the coronavirus, recognising that we may have to live with this for longer than we initially thought. Both Vestries agreed that we should continue with the same times for services so that we did not create further confusion.

In-church Worship (when allowed): 8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church and a 10.30 service in St Philip and St James' Church. This service will always be live-streamed each Sunday.

Online only worship allowed: 10.30 live-streamed service from St Philip and St James' Church.

Like everyone else, we are finding our way through this and doing the best we can with online worship etc.—see pages 4 and 5.

For many COVID-19 has meant inconvenience as the restrictions limit our freedom, and it is easy to be frustrated with those limitations, but for others, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact as people have lost a loved one to the coronavirus; others have been diagnosed with COVID-19, and some of those have had lingering symptoms and challenges. COVID-19 has also meant mental health and wellbeing challenges; it has impacted on those who are having treatment or assessment for other illnesses; patients in hospitals and residents in nursing homes have gone for long periods without having any visitors; family members who live at a distance from each other have not seen each other for long periods of time; those who live alone have felt very isolated.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help anyone who needs support, and who continue to do so, and to those who continue to be available to help. If anyone needs help in any way, or a chat, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

In the online service of 17th May 2020 and again in the live-streamed service on All Saints' Day, I spoke about the Mizpah Prayer:

The Lord watch over me and you while we are parted from one another.

It can mean when we are parted from each other by distance or separation, or by death, and I find it a very comforting and helpful prayer.

On All Saints' Day we had 70 candles on the altar/communion rails in St Philip and St James' Church for individuals and families that we had been asked to remember. Since last Sunday, I have been asked if I could do it again, as others would like to remember their loved ones, so I will do something similar on Sunday 15th November 2020. If you would like someone to be included, please send their name(s) to me by 12.00 midday on Saturday 14th November 2020.

Stay well and stay safe and may the Lord watch between me and you while we are parted from one another.

Gillian



A sign of the times... a prayer book, a church hymnal and a mask on the prayer desk



REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

Peter Arthur Delahunt, the son of Lisa (née Stocks) and Ivan Delahunt and younger brother of Seán, was baptised in St Philip and St James' Church on 18th July 2020. Peter's godparents are Gráinne McHugh and Arthur Delahunt (with James Delahunt acting as proxy). The readings were done by Gráinne McHugh and James Delahunt, and Peter's big brother Seán assisted with pouring the water in the font!

Harry Peter Coyle, the son of Lisa (née Kelly) and Robert Coyle and younger brother of Sebastian was baptised in St Thomas' Church on 17th August 2020. Harry's godparents are Dawn Kelly and Anouska Kemple. The readings were done by his granny Margaret Kelly and his aunt/godmother Dawn Kelly, and Harry's big brother Sebastian assisted with pouring the water in the font! Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Harry's Dad, Rob, took part in the ceremony via Facetime.

We wish Peter and Harry every blessing on their journey of faith.

Holy Matrimony

Nuala Mary Phelan and **Paul Landman** were married in St Thomas' Church Mount Merrion on Saturday 25th July 2020.

The wedding was small and intimate, just as they had planned it, wedding with their witnesses Maura Lynch and Fergal O'Donoghue present, and a photographer.

COVID-19 did mean changes to their wedding reception but gatherings of up to 40 people were allowed at that time and so family and friends were able to join with them in celebrating their marriage. We wish them every happiness and blessing in their marriage.



Catherine Princy Thanaseelan and **Adam Cyril Richard McMurray** were married in St Thomas' Church Mount Merrion on Saturday 12th September 2020.

Catherine and Adam met whilst leaders on the Diocesan Youth Camps in St Columba's College seven years ago – the Diocesan Youth Camps have a lot to answer to! Catherine and Adam had to change their plans several times due to the COVID-19 restrictions but whilst the wedding was smaller than originally planned for 12th

September 2020, what did not change was the significance and importance of the commitment and vows that they made to each other. We wish them every happiness and blessing in their marriage.

REGISTERS *continued*

Karen Irene Moore and **Michael Scanlan** were married in St Vincent's University Hospital on Saturday 10th October 2020, in very intimate and emotional ceremony. Their witnesses were Patricia Scanlan and Donal Scanlan. The Lay Chaplain of St Vincent's University Hospital, Hilda Plant read the prayers.

In Memoriam

Karen Irene Scanlan (née Moore) died in St Vincent's University Hospital on Saturday 10th October 2020. Karen's funeral took place in St Philip and St James' Church on Friday 16th October 2020, followed by burial at Redford Cemetery in Greystones. Due to the restrictions in place, only 25 people could attend the funeral service. The service was live-streamed which was much appreciated by Karen's family and friends in England and Ireland, and other parts of the world. We extend our sympathy to her husband Mike, and the extended Scanlan and Moore families.

Lilian Roulston Allan (née Spencer) died in Howth Hill Lodge Nursing Home on Tuesday 20th October 2020. Lil was a loyal and faithful parishioner of St Thomas' Church. When she felt that attending the Sunday Service would mean that she would be away too long from her unwell husband Dave, she used to come every Wednesday to the midweek service. However, she enjoyed the chat and the cuppa so much after the Wednesday service that she was probably there for as long, if not longer, than the Sunday Service!!! Lil was a talented bowler and was a stalwart member of St Thomas' Indoor Bowling Club. In addition to playing bowls, she umpired at bowls at a national level, and she loved the social side of bowling as well as the sport itself. Declining health meant that Lilian and her husband David moved to Howth Hill Lodge Nursing Home in 2015, to be near Lil's nephew Dudley and his family, and her niece Audrey and her family. David died in September of 2015. Lil's funeral took place in Glasnevin Crematorium Chapel on Friday 23rd October 2020, and in time her ashes will be interred in St Thomas' Garden of Remembrance, where Dave's ashes are already at rest. We extend our sympathy to her nephew Dudley, her niece Audrey, and their families.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to:

Gillian Davis and her family on the death of her mother, Pauline (Filla) Harrington

Victoria Bruce-Smith and her family on the death of her mother, Violet Despard

Jane McCrum-Dane and her family on the death of her grandmother, Dorothy (Dora) Benson, and her uncle, Norman McCrum

Brian McConnell and his family on the death of his father, Jack McConnell

Nathalie Norton and her family on the death of her grandmother, Marie Elliette (Lily) Heugas

John Mason and his family on the death of his father, Anthony Gerard (Gerry) Mason

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION



The parishes' Christian Mediation Group has continued viz Zoom on a Tuesday afternoon at 3.30pm. If you wish to take part, please contact Irene—details below.

Men and women from all walks of life come together to express a desire for deeper meaning to their lives through meditating together.

The World Community for Christian Meditation follows the teachings of John Main OSB and over 2000 meditation groups meet in 115 countries around the world each week.

Contact: Irene 087-275542

Discover more: www.christianmeditation.ie www.wccm.org

ONLINE WORSHIP and PRAYER

From Sunday 22nd March 2020, we were not allowed to gather in our churches for worship, as the strict lockdown began. We couldn't not worship as a Christian community, and so, on Saturday 21st March 2020, Michael Lee, (a parishioner who recently retired as a cameraman with RTÉ) and I met in St Philip and St James' Church and recorded a short service for the Fourth Sunday of March 2020, Mothering Sunday, and we 'put it up' on our parishes' Facebook page, on my Facebook page, and on the parishes' website. We did the same again, the following Sunday, 29th March 2020 and on Palm Sunday, 5th April 2020. We then thought that we should have music and so, Charles Pearson came on board and on Monday night of Holy Week, we had a verse of a hymn at the beginning and at the end of the little service. We recorded a short service for each day of Holy Week. We continued to record a short service with two or three short pieces of music as part of the service up to and including Sunday 28th June 2020.

School Assemblies/ Children's Worship Online: Initially, we had expected that schools would re-open after the Easter holidays on Monday 20th April 2020 but as that date approached, we heard that schools would be closed until September. On Saturday 19th April 2020, we recorded our first school assembly/ children's worship and it 'went out' on Monday 20th April 2020. The Principal, Rachel Fraser, told me what birthdays were taking place in school each week and we sang Happy Birthday and had the Birthday Prayer. We did ten school assemblies/children's worship including the Blessing of the Animals, and then did a Zoom final school assembly.



Charles Pearson at the organ

Midweek Musical Treats: On 29th April 2020, we posted our first Midweek Musical Treat - Be Still for the Presence of the Lord. The reaction to the Midweek Musical Treats was amazing and we posted 21 Midweek Musical Treats between the 29th April 2020 and 4th July 2020 with the music being recorded in St Philip and St James' Church and Mike Lee putting additionally-shot footage to one (and sometimes, two) midweek musical treats each week, incorporating visuals from both churches and elsewhere.

Live-streaming with a Webcam: We returned to in-church worship on Sunday 5th July 2020, with an 8.30 Holy Communion Service in St Thomas' Church and a Service of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer or a Service of the Word at 10.30 in St Philip and St James' Church. Conscious that our numbers were (and are) very restricted, Booterstown and Carysfort Select Vestry made the decision to install a webcam so that worship could be 'broadcast'

live and that a video of the worship would be available later in the day, via a parishes' YouTube page. Thanks to the generosity of time and expertise from Graham Hayes, Mike Hayes and Dylan Rynhart, who sourced the broadband and the equipment, and then installed all the equipment. We live-streamed our first service on Sunday 5th July 2020 at 10.30, and have continued to do so. We are indebted to each of them and continue to be grateful to Mike Hayes and Graham Hayes who come each Sunday to look after the cameras, the live-streaming, etc. etc. Graham also uploads all the services, school assemblies/children's worship, midweek musical treats and sausage services on to our website and YouTube page.

Mike Lee getting the angle right as he films in St Philip and St James' Garden of Remembrance



ONLINE WORSHIP and PRAYER *continued*

Midweek Holy Communion/Prayer and Chat: We resumed our Midweek Holy Communion Service in St Thomas' Church on Wednesday 2nd September 2020 at 10.30, but we only managed to have three midweek services in church when the restrictions moved to Level 3. Since Wednesday 23rd September 2020, we have a Midweek Prayer and Chat, 10.30—11.00 via Zoom, to which everyone is very welcome. During that midweek service, whether in the church or online, we pray for all those who are on our Healer Prayer List. Zoom details are emailed each Tuesday evening/Wednesday morning.

Healer Prayer Group: also meets via Zoom. The next meeting of the Healer Prayer Group is on Monday 23rd November 2020. Zoom details will be emailed on the morning of Monday 23rd November 2020.

Back to Live-streaming and Midweek Musical Treats: That move to Level 3 restrictions meant that once again, people could not gather in our churches, and so worship from Sunday 20th September 2020 could only be online. We reverted to recording the short services on a Saturday, along with two Midweek Musical Treats. However, the feedback from select vestry members was that they preferred to join in with the live-streamed service at 10.30 as there was a sense of coming together, even apart, and that it felt more like 'going to church', so after three Sundays (20th September, 27th September and 4th October), of recorded short services, we started back live-streaming the 10.30 service each Sunday. And we record two Midweek Musical Treats each week and they go 'out' on a Wednesday and a Friday. This week, the 34th and 35th Midweek Musical Treats went online.



Mike Lee filming during the summer in St Thomas' Church

Already, Mike Lee and Charles Pearson have recorded Elgar's Nimrod and Finlandia as the Midweek Musical Treats for the week after Remembrance Sunday, and they have recorded the music for eleven Christmas carols as it looks like our Christmas celebrations will be very different to what we usually have. The visuals have yet to be worked on for the carols.

Sausageless and Wedgeless Sausage Service!: School Assembly is now happening via Zoom each Friday morning, with the Principal and me in St Philip and St James' Church linking up viz Zoom with the pupils and staff in their classrooms. As this is live, and is not recorded and 'broadcast', I record a short Sausage Service each month, to go online. I hear that some kids are asking their parents if they can have sausages and wedges, followed by cupcakes, for tea/supper when the Sausage Service is on!!!

Order of Service for Live-streamed Services: Since, we have gone back to live-streaming the services on Sunday 11th October 2020, the Order of Service is emailed out each week, so that people can follow the service as they join in online.

Live-streaming of Funerals: With numbers at funeral limited to 25, being able to live-stream funeral services, has become really important to those who are bereaved and who cannot attend a funeral service, either because of the numbers limitation or travel restrictions. It was very much appreciated by the family and friends of the late Karen Scanlan née Moore that we were able to live-stream her funeral service in St Philip and St James' Church on Friday 16th October 2020.

Thank You: My huge thanks to Mike Lee, Charles Pearson, Graham Hayes and Mike Hayes, who each week, ensure that worship and the midweek musical treats happen, as well as the monthly Sausage Services, and funerals when they arise. My technical know-how is minimal and without them, none of this would happen. Like everything else in these strange times, we are finding our way through it and hopefully, getting a bit better at it as we go along, so please bear with us, and please remember, like so many things in our parishes, this time and expertise is being given voluntarily and willingly.

Gillian

UNITED HARVEST THANKSGIVING



United Harvest Thanksgiving Service Online: We decided to hold our Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 11th October 2020 and if we were not able to gather in church, we would have it online, which turned out to be the case. Despite suggestions to keep the decorations simple as only the east end of the church would be visible on the webcam, our decorators, (observing the COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines) decorated every nook and



cranny of St Philip and St James' Church with care and flair; every corner had something beautiful in it. My profuse thanks to Viola Brady, Denise Richards, June Burgess, Joy Hurst, Orla Kaminska, Lynne Cole and Natalie Driver-Keeley. After the live-streamed service, parishioners brought gifts of non-perishable food items, toiletries, clothing, backpacks, etc. which were passed on to *The Capuchin Centre* in Bow Street, and to the *Alice Leahy Trust*. The children from Booterstown National School also donated lots of items. Thank you to all who made our online Harvest Thanksgiving so meaningful.



BACK TO IN-CHURCH WORSHIP

Sunday 5th July 2020, we were allowed to return to in-church worship, once we were satisfied that we had all the necessary requirements in place, and this was no simple, easy task. Instructions were issued by Church of Ireland House, which had to be worked through. The two Select Vestries gave much thought and discussion to the requirements and to how we could comply with them and what would work for our two churches, respectively.

There was a huge amount of work to be done, and it could not have happened without the help that people gave at every step of the way.



Wil Robertson, Cedric Heather, Quentin Teggin and the Rector measured each church and parish centre, twice, to make sure that we had measured correctly. We then worked out two seating plans, one for each church, to give us the maximum capacity whilst observing the 2-metre social-distancing requirement. The capacity may fluctuate depending on the number of people in each household that would attend church. For example, in St Thomas' Church, if each household was a single individual attending church service, the capacity would be 15 people plus the Rector, but if there were two or three people from some households, the maximum capacity could be 20-24.

In St Philip and St James' Church, the number would be much higher with a possible capacity in the region of 96-100, but this would again depend on the make-up of the households. However, government restrictions limit the maximum number allowed to attend to 50.



Lynne Cole filling a sanitising station in St Philip and St James' Church

Viola Brady, June Burgess and the Rector researched sanitising stations and sanitising gels and anti-viral sprays, etc. These were ordered and arrived just in time! Alan McGurdy and Lynne Cole helped put the sanitising stations together when they arrived, with Lynne laminating signage for both churches and for both seating plans, and putting up same in both churches.

Both select vestries had to work out how Holy Communion could be administered in the safest way possible, and there was also a desire that both bread and wine would be received at Holy Communion, if possible.



It was decided by both select vestries that the

congregation would have a little wooden block with two small cups in it, (see photo); one with bread and one with wine, both of which would have been already consecrated immediately prior to the start of the service. There would also be a consecration during the service. Cognisant of the guidelines from the House of Bishops, both select vestries gave careful consideration to the matter and a risk assessment was carried out for each church, and

this was deemed to be the safest and best way for our two churches to administer Holy Communion, and it has worked very well for the eleven Sundays that we were back in church for worship. Thank you to Quentin Teggin and Wil Robertson who made the wooden blocks and to Quentin Teggin, Joan Sherlock-Robertson and June Sherlock for providing the little cups.

Everyone has to provide contact details when they come to church service for contact tracing purposes, and everyone has to wear a face covering.

Congregational singing is not allowed which many really miss.

Deep cleans of both churches were carried out prior to resuming in-church worship and special cleaning has had to take place when there has been less than 72 hours between two services—thank you to Sheila Chamberlain, Judy Donlon, Patricia Bedlow, Viola Brady, Denise Richards and June Burgess.

At this point in time, with the numbers at the level that they are at, it is hard to know when we might be able to return to in-church worship and it is very possible that we may not be able to have in-church worship for Christmas—something that is giving clergy and parishes much food for thought, and which is the topic of discussion for our next Rural Deanery Meeting.

EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES

The Easter General Vestry for Mount Merrion Parish was held on Monday 24th August 2020 via Zoom, and the following were elected or appointed:

Rector's Churchwarden – Patricia Bedlow People's Churchwarden – Sheila Chamberlain
People's Glebewarden – Denis Beare

The following were also elected to serve on the Select Vestry:

Judith Donlon, Aileen Hartney (*Honorary Secretary*), Cedric Heather, John Hudson, Alan McGurdy, Michael McWilliam, Myrtle McWilliam, Ian Mullen (*Honorary Treasurer*), William Robertson, Ray Shanks, Hilary Turner, Clair Wallace.

The following were elected to serve 2020-2023:

Parochial Nominators – Denis Beare and Sheila Chamberlain
Supplemental Parochial Nominators – Ian Mullen and Joan Sherlock-Robertson.
Diocesan Synodsperson – Clair Wallace
Supplemental Diocesan Synodsperson – William Robertson.

The Easter General Vestry for Booterstown and Carysfort Parish was held on Sunday 30th August 2020 in St Philip and St James' Church, and the following were elected or appointed:

Rector's Churchwarden – June Burgess People's Churchwarden – Deirdre Kennedy
Rector's Glebewarden – Gordon Richards People's Glebewarden – Justin O'Callaghan.

The following were also elected to serve on the Select Vestry:

Viola Brady, Marcus Daly, Cecilia Faulim Quadros, Michael Hayes, Joy Hurst, Jill Lacey (*Honorary Secretary*), Stephanie Morris, Damian Phelan, Barbara Plant, David Reid, Denise Richards, Quentin Teggin (*Honorary Treasurer*).

The following were elected to serve 2020-2023:

Parochial Nominators – Quentin Teggin and June Burgess;
Supplemental Parochial Nominators – Michael Hayes and Barbara Plant.
Diocesan Synodspersons – Stephanie Morris and Marcus Daly;
Supplemental Diocesan Synodspersons – David Reid and Deirdre Kennedy.

DIOCESAN SYNOD

The Diocesan Synods of Dublin and Glendalough, which were originally scheduled to take place in Taney Parish Centre on Tuesday 6th October 2020, took place via Zoom on Tuesday 20th October 2020.

The agenda was condensed, but the necessary business of the Diocesan Synods was conducted. The Clerical and Lay Honorary Secretaries of both Diocesan Synods were elected and the resolutions were passed to enable the triennial elections to take place. The reports of the various diocesan councils and committees were presented and passed, and presentations were made on the Archbishop's Come&C project and on a survey on ethnic diversity and inclusion in the parishes of the united dioceses.

GENERAL SYNOD



This year, the General Synod which was due to meet in Croke Park, Dublin, on Thursday 7th May, Friday 8th May and Saturday 9th May 2020, will take place via Zoom on Tuesday 1st December and Wednesday 2nd December 2020 and if necessary on Thursday 3rd December 2020. There will be two 2-hour sessions each day, in the morning and afternoon of Tuesday 1st December 2020 and in the afternoon and evening of Wednesday 2nd December 2020, with the final session, if required, to take place on the morning of Thursday 3rd December 2020. There will be a pre-recorded Opening Service of the General Synod which will be available for everyone to view and worship with, and that will be available on the Church of Ireland and the General Synod websites.

BOOTERSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL



It was great to return to school on 1st September 2020, and to see the pupils bounding in with anticipation and eagerness. Thank you to all our staff who worked together to enable the school to comply with the requirements regarding COVID-19 protocols. Thank you to the parents and guardians for all the assistance that they are giving to the staff as we work together for the benefit of the whole school community in these strange and difficult times.

It is lovely to be able to come together as a school, even though we are in our separate classrooms, through Zoom for our weekly assembly each Friday morning. Canon

Wharton and I are in St Philip and St James' Church and we link up with the rest of the school in their respective classrooms. Pupils from the various classes take it in turns to prepare the prayers, and we have Star of the Week and birthdays where the pupil or pupils whose birthday is that week stand in front of the laptop in their classroom and we all join together to say the Birthday Prayer. Unfortunately, we cannot sing Happy Birthday to them.



School Assembly thanks to the genius of technology!

We are delighted to welcome Emma Nolan to our staff at the beginning of September. Emma is covering the Principal Release days in a cluster of five schools for which Booterstown National School is the base school. She is with us each Friday, teaching 5th and 6th Classes, and she also teaches each week in Lindsay Road National School in Glasnevin, St Patrick's

Cathedral Choir School, Rathgar National School and Powerscourt National School in Enniskerry. The Department of Education and Skills increased the number of Principal Release Days to one day per week for this academic year, for teaching principals, to enable them to carry out the additional administration with regard to COVID-19.



The Mug Cake from one of the online school assemblies!

Cards: At the assembly before half-term, Canon Wharton asked the pupils to make cards for people who live alone, or who are finding it lonely during COVID-19, or who are in hospital, or in a nursing home where they cannot have any visitors. The children have been busy, putting their creative talents to good use. Some are sending the cards to people they know, but there is a big bundle of cards for Canon Wharton to send on from us with our best wishes.

New Ramps, Steps and Pathways: There has been a furore of work going on at the Mount Merrion Avenue side of the school, as new ramps and pathways are being installed. Our previous ones were not appropriate for disability or wheelchair access, so an emergency grant from the Department of Education and Skills was received to rectify the matter.

The work is nearly finished and we are looking forward to seeing and using the new ramps, steps and pathways.

Trim Trail: As soon as the new ramps, steps and pathways are completed, new fencing with gateways will be installed at both sides of the school; the one between the school and the boundary wall adjacent to the parish centre will have a vehicular access gateway and the fence on the opposite side will have a pedestrian gateway. The fencing and gateways are required by our insurance company prior to the installation of the new playground equipment called a Trim Trail, which we are very excited about! The Trim Trail is designed to help develop children's mobility and sensory skills as well as their imagination and sense of exploration and discovery, and it is FUN! Thank you to the Parent-Teacher Association for their fundraising efforts for this project and thank you to the generosity of all who have made this possible.



A sample of the type of Trim Trail equipment available.

Rachel Fraser
Principal

Fr GERARD (GERRY) BYRNE



Fr Gerard (Gerry) Byrne, Chaplain to the Blackrock Clinic, died on 26th May 2020. Gerry became Roman Catholic Chaplain to Blackrock Clinic just a few months after it opened over 30 years ago, and so he was an integral part of the hospital, and any parishioners who were in-patients in Blackrock Clinic will know of his kindness and care. Gerry had a quirky sense of humour! For a number of months, the Chaplains' List in the hospital was entitled "Chaplins' List'(!) and Gerry would say when he saw me arriving "Oh, here comes the other Charlie!"

Despite his own health issues with multiple sclerosis, Gerry went about his chaplaincy work with warmth, dedication, energy and great humour. As he was the only full-time chaplain, he used to visit everyone in the hospital regardless of whether they declared themselves to be part of any religion, denomination or belief system, or not. His impact on so many people in the most difficult times of their lives was extraordinary.

One of the highlights of the year in Blackrock Clinic was the ecumenical carol service. Gerry used to nobble people to be part of a staff choir regardless of what religion they were; he reckoned that the Blackrock Clinic Carol Service was the only carol service in Ireland to have Jews, Muslims and Atheists as well as Christians of all shades, singing in it! Such were Gerry's powers of persuasion! The wife of one of the consultants was conscripted to train the choir and he commandeered us to the chapel to practise at lunchtime on every Tuesday and Thursday for 10 weeks before Christmas.

We offer our sympathy to his sisters Breda, Mary and Jane (his twin) and their families and to Eamonn and all Gerry's friends, and his colleagues.

MONSIGNOR SÉAMUS CONWAY

Monsignor Séamus Conway, former parish priest and most recently pastor emeritus of the Church of the Assumption on Booterstown Avenue, died on 26th August 2020.

Séamus was a man of deep faith, compassion and gentleness, who was committed to ecumenism and to building relationships within the local community. As well as a colleague, it was also was a privilege to call him a friend. He had the most wonderful sense of humour, a twinkle in his eye and a great hearty laugh!

Many lunches were enjoyed together in Gleeson's as we shared stories, planned ecumenical services and ecumenical events including the Ecumenical Lenten Talks over the years. In fact, the first series of Lenten talks required 9 lunches to get them organised!!!! The Rev. Denis Campbell (former Minister of St

Andrew's Presbyterian Church), Monsignor Séamus Conway and I had our regular table in Gleeson's! Séamus was a man of habit... always the soup of the day followed by the roast of the day! As we entered or exited Gleeson's, Séamus could not walk more than 2 metres without stopping or being stopped for a chat!

We used to call him the Lord Mayor of Gleeson's!!!



On one occasion, a number of years ago, Séamus was trying to cover all six masses over the weekend in the Church of the Assumption as his then curate was having a medical procedure. I said to him, "Seámas, I could..." and then I laughed and when he asked me what I was about to say, I told him that I was going to say "Séamus, I could do the Saturday evening mass for you as we don't have a Saturday night service." Such was the relationship it was just one colleague trying to help another. We both laughed and he said, "If only it could be so, but I think that I might be hauled up to the Archbishop's House in Drumcondra so quickly that my feet wouldn't touch the ground!"

We offer our sympathy to his siblings Patricia, Seán, Bridget, Paddy, Peter and Tom and their families and our neighbours in the Church of the Assumption.

THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST



TRUST, now known as **THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST** continues to do extraordinary work in difficult circumstances.

In our two parishes, we have an ongoing working relationship with **THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST**. **TRUST** was founded in 1975 as a private charitable trust (Charity No. CHY7014), and since then has been working with people who are homeless in Dublin. It is a non-political, non-denominational voluntary body which provides medical and related services for people who are homeless, operating out of a premises provided at a nominal rent by the Iveagh Trust. Up to 50 men (mostly men) and women call each morning, the majority of whom are sleeping out (aged 18 to 85 years).

TRUST is urgently in need the following items:

MEN'S CLOTHING

Jeans, Track-suit bottoms, Jumpers, Water-Proof Jackets, Strong, Sturdy Shoes

THEY ALSO NEED

Cup-a-soups, Mini-bars (chocolate, etc.), toiletries

Whilst our churches are closed please leave any items at the back of **St Philip and St James' Church on the second Sunday of the month at 11.30-12.00 (after the live-streamed service)** —these will then be taken into **TRUST**.

Parishioners have been very generous over the years to **TRUST** and it is very much appreciated. But we would ask you to think carefully about the items that you donate; these items must be appropriate and suitable for people who are living on the streets. High-heel shoes, cocktail dresses, bikinis, etc. are all items that have been left at the back of our churches and these are **NOT** suitable.

Thank you to Sheila Chamberlain from St Thomas' and Viola Brady and Denise Richards from St Philip and St James' who sort the items and to Viola Brady who liaises with **TRUST** and takes the items into them.

Please continue to help—your generosity is much appreciated—but please ensure that you give suitable and appropriate items, as listed above.

Thank you!

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

The Parishes' Panel is the Rector, Jill Lacey and Damian Phelan.

Our triennial audit took place on Thursday 8th October 2020 via Zoom. There was a huge amount of work to be done prior to this audit to make sure that everything was as it should be, and with COVID-19 many of the things that would normally have happened during the year, had not happened, and we had to find new ways of doing them. With new legislation with regard to child protection at the end of 2019, all our policies had to be reviewed afresh.



The audit also gave us an impetus to work on our Health and Safety document and requirements. Thank you to Gordon Richards and John Hudson who put in a huge amount of hours and attention to detail on our Health and Safety documents, risk assessments, etc.

As Damian has moved house from Mount Merrion Parish to Booterstown and Carysfort Parish, we now need to replace him on the Safeguarding Trust Panel with a member of Mount Merrion Parish, and to ensure gender balance, that person must be male. If you think that you could help in this area, please contact the Rector.

30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

In May 1990, the Church of Ireland General Synod voted in favour of women being ordained to the priesthood and the episcopate, and on 25th June of that year, the Right Rev. Samuel Poyntz, Bishop of Connor) ordained the Rev. Irene Templeton (nee McCutcheon) and the Rev. Kathleen Young to the priesthood in St Anne's Cathedral Belfast.



The Rev Katharine Poulton who was ordained a deacon in June 1987.

Three years previously, the Rev. Katharine Poulton (nee Noble) was the first woman to be ordained to the diaconate in the Church of Ireland, following the vote at General Synod 1984, in favour of women being ordained to the diaconate. However, the Bishop of Down and Dromore at the time, the Right Rev. Gordon McMullan, would not ordain Katharine to the priesthood in 1990 as she was pregnant and there was a fear that the baby could be deemed to be ordained if Katharine was ordained whilst pregnant, and so, she was not ordained priest until after she had given birth, in 1991. Such an idea defies comment!!!

In 1970, the Church of Ireland House of Bishops, in response to the 1968 Lambeth Conference request that every national church give careful study to the question of the ordination of women to the priesthood, agreed among themselves that there were no theological barriers to the ordination of women but it would be another twenty years before the Church of Ireland would make the decision.



The Rev Irene Templeton (left) and the Rev. Kathleen Young (now Brown) who were ordained priests in June 1990.

In 1972, the first two women were licensed as lay readers in the Church of Ireland in the Diocese of Clogher, by the Right Rev.

Richard Hanson, Bishop of Clogher, and three years later, the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Rev. Alan

Buchanan licensed five women as lay readers in the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

At the General Synod 1976, the resolution was passed 'that this House approves in principle the ordination of women' and in 1977, the General Synod's Select Committee on Women's Priesthood was formed. The various Diocesan Synods of 1979 were asked to discuss and vote on the question of women's ordination with an aggregate result of 223 clergy for and 126 against, and 622 laity for and 160 against. This vote was an 'indicator' as the decision-making body of the Church of Ireland is the General Synod. Whilst the clergy 'indicator vote' narrowly failed to achieve a two-third majority, the lay vote in favour was by a majority of 80%. This trend continued at the General Synod of 1980, with the clergy vote failing by seven votes to achieve a two-thirds majority, whilst the laity voted 77% in favour.

In order to progress the ordination of women at any level—as ordination to the priesthood seemed a step too far for some—a Bill was brought to General Synod 1984, permitting women to be ordained to the diaconate. It passed, and women would be accepted as ordinands at the Church of Ireland Theological College.

It was not all plain sailing after that. Some thought that the ordination of women to the priesthood would happen easily and quickly, but there was much debate at subsequent General Synods. Some of that debate surrounded the idea that if women could be ordained to the priesthood, they should also be permitted to be ordained to the episcopate. Others, who may have agreed with this, were concerned that by 'adding in the ordination of women to the episcopate' the Bill would be defeated and they felt that the Bill would have a better chance of passing if the Bill was just to allow women to be ordained to the priesthood, and that the

30th ANNIVERSARY *continued....*

debate about women being ordained as bishops could come at a later stage. Some felt that some of those pushing for the inclusion of women being ordained to the episcopate were doing so, in the hope of it leading to the Bill being defeated.

At the General Synod of 1990, there was discussion as to whether the Bill permitting women to be ordained to the priesthood and the episcopate should be debated that year or the following year. Bishop John Neill requested that the Bill be debated and voted upon in 1990, and it passed, achieving the required two-thirds majority of both the clergy and the laity separately: 126 clergy for, 55 against (69.6% majority); 172 laity for, 29 against (85.8% majority). The House of Bishops also voted although their vote was not formally declared, but it was considered to be 9-3 or 10-2 in favour. Subsequent to the Bill being passed by a two-thirds majority, all the bishops accepted the outcome of the vote, that it was conclusive and that it was the mind of the church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



The Rev Janet Catterall who was ordained a priest in September 1990.

Following on from the ordination in the Diocese of Connor in June 1990, the Rev. Janet Catterall was ordained to the priesthood on 21st September 1990 in St Fin Barre's Cathedral Cork by Bishop Roy Warke. Janet, who is originally from Wigan in England was a deaconess in the Church of England from 1981 and was ordained as a deacon in England in 1987. (The Church of Ireland has never had an order of deaconess). Janet moved to Ireland in 1988 when her husband, David, was appointed as an Incumbent of Fanlobbus (Dunmanway) Union in West Cork. Janet became the Curate of Bandon Union, and was ordained to the priesthood two years later.

The Rev. Virginia (Ginnie) Kennerley was ordained to the priesthood on 21st October 1990 in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin by Archbishop Donald Caird. Ginne had been ordained to the diaconate in 1988, having previously worked as a journalist. She became a lecturer in Applied Theology at the Church of Ireland Theological College and served in the Non-Stipendiary Ministry in Bray, until she moved to Stipendiary Ministry in 1993 and became Incumbent of Narraghmore and Timolin with Castledermot and Kinneigh.



The Rev Ginnie Kennerley who was ordained a priest in October 1990.

Despite the Church of Ireland voting in favour of women's ordination to the episcopate in 1990, it would be another 23 years before a woman would be ordained or consecrated a bishop. The Electoral



The Most Rev Patricia Storey who was ordained/ consecrated a bishop in November 2013.

College for Meath and Kildare (called for a second time in 2013) failed to elect a bishop and voted to ask the House of Bishops to make the appointment. The Rev. Patricia (Pat) Storey was appointed by the House of Bishops on 19th September 2013 and was ordained or consecrated on 30th November 2013 in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin. At the time of her appointment, Pat was Incumbent of St Augustine's Church in Derry/Londonderry.

To mark the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Church of Ireland, a short video is being launched at the end of November 2020, and RTÉ is televising a service of Holy Communion on Sunday 13th December 2020 at 11.00 (or 11.10) on RTE One at which the celebrant will be the Most Rev. Pat Storey and the preacher will be the Rev. Katharine Poulton.

DUBLIN STAGE SCHOOL

(FORMERLY STAGECOACH)

We, at Dublin Stage School, are delighted to be part of this community and our part-time Theatre School is on weekly in St Philip and St James' Parish centre. We have had to adapt to the COVID-19 restrictions and so we have been running classes outdoors, and online more recently! We have a number of gazebos and fortunately, the weather has been kind to us, apart from Storm Aidan!



After the first lockdown, the government consulted with young people on the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions on their lives and out of the consultation came the feedback that children and young people needed activities for their health and wellbeing. Hence, the government, allows certain non-contact activities for children and young people, as per **Guidance for Youth Work Organisations | Informed by the Government's Resilience & Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19 (27 Oct 2020)**.

We believe in the potential of every student once they are happy at our school, and we are delighted to be able to continue with our classes, albeit in a different way, to enable children and young people stay well and healthy.

Junior Classes are for **4-6 year-olds**, and **Senior Classes** which are for **6-18 year-olds**, are broken down into smaller classes determined by age, and in compliance with government guidelines.



We are hoping to be able to return to our regular classes for 4 to 18 years on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre for our Spring term 2021.

Our Summer camps were sold out this year and you can book online for July 2021 soon.

www.dublinstageschool.ie to book or enquire.

Evan Holton and Emma Holton

Advent – the Dawn of Hope

An online retreat for lay people and for clergy
Organised by the Commission on Ministry



Saturday 28th
November 2020
9.30 am -1pm

Held online by Zoom – free of charge
For booking or further information, contact Catherine
Smith: catherine.smith@rcbdub.org

ADVENT RETREAT

Saturday 28th November 2020

9.30 am – 1.00 pm

Held online by Zoom – free of charge. For booking or further information, please contact Catherine Smith at catherine.smith@rcbdub.org

Speaker: The Rev Ruth Patterson is a Presbyterian minister, and for the last 29 years has been Director of Restoration Ministries, a non-denominational, Christian organisation committed to peace and reconciliation.

In 1976, she was the first woman to be ordained in Ireland. She was the recipient of the Alumna of the Year 2000 award (Edinburgh University / Royal Bank of Scotland), in 2001 an honorary doctorate from the Presbyterian Theology Faculty of Ireland, and in 2003 was awarded an OBE for her efforts in reconciliation.

She has authored five books and numerous articles stemming from her commitment to unity and peace.

She is one of four church representatives to L'Arche International and holds the post of Ecumenical Canon in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. She is on the Board of Oneings, a bi-annual publication of the Centre for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

25TH DUBLIN (MOUNT MERRION) SCOUT GROUP



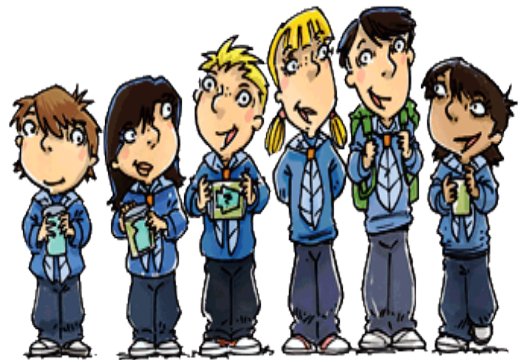
25th Dublin Scout Group COVID-style!

Aware that Scouts are expected to be resourceful, we have done our best since March, to keep our programme going, despite the changing and often unpredictable restrictions imposed on both indoor and outdoor gatherings. Cubs were sent an online daily challenge for the first month of the first lockdown when schools were closed. These included arts and crafts, Scouting skills, cooking and camping in the back garden! Most of the Cubs earned a very striking Virtual Challenge badge for their efforts. Scouts met on Zoom on several occasions and challenged one another with quizzes, pioneering and culinary tasks!

Since September, we are not yet allowed to meet indoors and as we must meet in smaller groups, we have subdivided each of our sections, so that they meet separately, always outdoors, in groups of up to 15. Cubs and Scouts have managed, within these guidelines, to hike in Tibbradden and go orienteering in UCD. We are indebted to the parish for allowing us the use of the garden on occasion behind the hall and this allowed the Cubs to celebrate Hallowe'en in style on Friday 30th October 2020 with a fancy dress parade, ghostly lanterns (made from milk containers with glow sticks inside) and toasted marshmallows.

In the coming weeks, Scouts will meet to focus on fire lighting and outdoor cooking, one patrol at a time and the Venture Scouts who have regrouped are showing a particular interest in developing their pioneering skills. Beavers have run into difficulty this year due to a lack of available leaders so their meetings have been put on hold for the moment.

From now until the spring, Cub meetings will probably change to a Sunday afternoon so that we can do daylight activity while the Scouts and Ventures are happy to continue their outdoor evening meetings.



We are delighted to welcome several new leaders to the Scout and Venture sections. Cedric and Declan have moved from Cubs to Scouts, Shane (a Scout dad) and Rachel (a student from Sligo, studying in UCD) are in training and our former Scout members, now over 18, Seán and Ciara have just been Garda-vetted and are awaiting an online training opportunity. Maggie has returned as Scout Communications/Liaison officer to assist Neil and Oliver who keep the Scouting spirit alive in the troop. Johanna has returned to supervise the Venture unit with Neil.

We are blessed with our volunteer leaders in all sections. Thanks to Lyndsey, Beatriz, Dave, Kevin and Donal who make Cubbing in 25th so much fun too!

Best wishes to all parishioners in these strange and challenging times!

Lesley Rankin
(Group Leader)



GDPR—PARISHES' PRIVACY POLICY

Thank you to all those who have completed and returned their GDPR Forms. There are still some forms outstanding. If you have not done so, and you wish the parishes to be able to keep in contact with you, please complete and return a GDPR Form now. Forms are available from the Rector.



For further information on our GDPR policies please see www.booterstownchurch.ie or www.mountmerriionchurch.ie. Click *About Us* and then on *Parish Privacy Policy*.

If you do not return the completed form we will be unable to continue to keep your contact information on computer and hard files and we will be required to cease communication with you. Personal information held as part of the public records of the parishes (e.g. parish registers) will continue to be permanently held.

The Parishes' GDPR Sub-Group

ORDINAND ON PLACEMENT

We are delighted to welcome Arthur Sweeney who will be joining us for an eight-week placement as soon as restrictions allow as part of his training for ordination. Arthur is from Kilmoremy (Ballina) Union of Parishes in County Mayo.

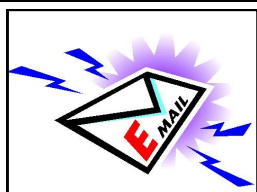
LETTERS of REFERENCE and WITNESSING of SIGNATURES

Clergy are frequently asked to write letters of reference; to complete forms of reference; or to witness signatures. Some forms (including school application forms and SEC grant forms) are quite specific in what they ask, such as...

is the person/child is personally known to the rector;
does the person/child attend the church;
or clergy are asked to confirm that the person/child is a member of the parish, etc.

As I am sure you can appreciate, it is important that the information given is accurate and true.

EMAIL! ... EMAIL! ...EMAIL!



Email is an efficient, economical and environmentally friendly way in which to communicate and get information out from the parishes to the parishioners. But, inevitably people tend to change their email addresses from time to time, and we also do not have email addresses for some parishioners who are on email. It would help us ENORMOUSLY if we were able to email you. It would cut down on paper and reduce our costs as well as making our communication more efficient. We do recognise that some people are not on email and we are happy to communicate with them via paper and/or phone. But if you do use email, please, email the Rector so that we can have your email address on our records and use it to communicate with you. Please also complete and return a GDPR Consent Form—see above article.

The Rector's email address: booterstown@dublin.anglican.org