



Easter 2020



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 Monday-Friday,
 9.00-13.00 hours.
 E: monkgibbonhall@gmail.com

For all **bookings** for
St Philip and St James' Parish Centre:
 T: 086-8157748 or 086-1780653

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

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

NEWSLETTER

So much has changed since the last parish newsletter was printed in mid-November 2019.

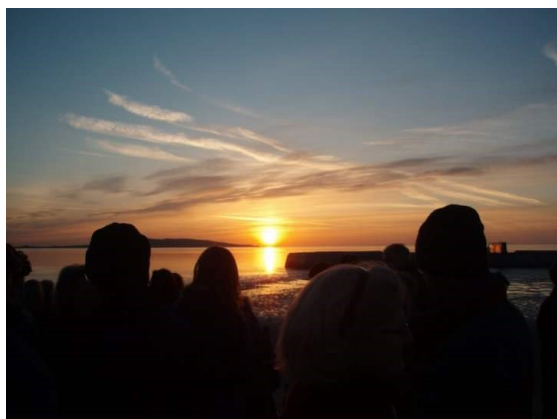
Due to the coronavirus Covid-19, our lives have changed utterly. The restrictions in place at this time have never been experienced before and even those who would remember World War 2, say that this is very different. During the World Wars, people could still meet and connect, and in fact, the camaraderie built between people within their communities at that time was the thing that helped them to get through. Worship still continued and gathering together to pray for their loved ones serving overseas in the armed forces or in the nursing corps, helped them to turn to their faith and to cope with all that was going on; it was essential to their wellbeing.

To be disconnected and isolated from each other is very strange, and not to be able to reach out and be in each other's presence at a time of difficulty is very counter-cultural to us. Technology has allowed us to connect but I am very conscious that many of our older parishioners do not have computers or smartphones and so cannot meet up via Zoom, or connect through social media or by email. Phone calls and talking to each other is so important, and even for those who text or email, to hear a voice and have a conversation means so much more and is much more personal. Thank you to those parishioners who keep in touch with others by phone and especially those whose only means of having a chat is through the phone. Thank you to too to those who have offered to do shopping, pharmacy pick-ups, etc for those who are cocooning.

I am very grateful to Michael Lee, who as a recently retired camera-man from RTÉ is able to look at things with a professional eye, and has been helping me to record the short services that go up on the parishes' website Facebook pages, and my own Facebook page Sunday, and the reflections which will be 'up' each evening during Holy Week. I am also very grateful to Graham Hayes, who posts the videos on the parishes' website, and who worked on the Front Page to make it more easily accessible and who, indeed, will be posting this newsletter onto our website! As I am very limited technically, it is fantastic to have people in the parishes with this expertise and who are so willing to help.

We have had two select vestry meetings—one for each select vestry—by via Zoom which worked pretty well, and I am looking at other ways that we could use Zoom for our parishes at this time.

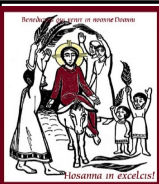
As Christians, we are an Easter people... but that does not mean that we deny or gloss-over the reality of devastation; it means that we look we look to a new dawn, a new era, in times of hardship and pain. The horror of Good Friday is real, but so too, is the light, hope and possibility of Easter Day. We look for God in the darkness and the devastation; we strive to be the voice of God and the action of God in times of difficulty, to help transform the darkness into light and hope. As in this photo taken at the ecumenical Sunrise at dawn on Sandymount Strand, we look to the Sunrise for newness and for life.



Happy Easter to you all.

Gillian

HOLY WEEK and EASTER



This year, everything is very different for our observance of Holy Week and Easter Day. Each evening, during Holy Week, I will put up a short reflection on the parishes' website and on the parishes' Facebook pages as well as my own Facebook Page.

On Easter Day, there will be a short Easter Day service, again, on the parishes' website and on the three Facebook pages mentioned above.

EASTER CARDS

Thank you very much to the parishioner who 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.

HEALER PRAYER GROUP

Obviously, the Healer Prayer Group has not been able to meet but the members of the Group are continuing to pray for everyone on the Healer Prayer List.



REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

Theo Graham Gully, the son of Sita Ramkissoon and Graham Gully, was baptised in St Thomas' Church on Sunday 8th December 2019. Theo's godparents are Shashi Ramkissoon and Liam Buckley. Theo's godfather Liam, family friend Rachel Fraser and his cousin Arabelle Wymes did the readings. His cousin Sophie Buckley read all about the Advent Candles, whilst the candles were lit by his cousins Emily Buckley and Archie Wymes, and lots of the children helped to pour the water into the font!!!!

Liam Mervyn Plant, the son of Anna (née Ridley) and Philip Plant, was baptised in St Philip and St James' Church on Sunday 5th January 2020. Liam and his family live in Sydney, Australia but his parents wanted him to be baptised in St Philip and St James' Church where his parents were married, whilst they were visiting Philip's family over Christmas. Liam's godparents are his aunt Elizabeth Callaghan (née Plant) and Francesco Puzzuoli. His uncle Kenneth Plant did readings and his cousins Ben, Nicole and Tarryn took up collection and they, along with his cousin Dulcie, helped Liam to pour the water into the font. We wish Liam every blessing on his journey of faith.

We wish Theo and Liam every blessing on their respective journeys of faith.

Confirmation

The Archbishop administered the rite of confirmation in St Philip and St James' Church at 10.30 on Sunday 2nd February 2020. Fourteen people were confirmed and one reaffirmed their confirmation vows. Of the fifteen candidates, fourteen of the candidates were from the parishes, and one candidate from Holy Trinity Killiney Parish.

Please continue to keep them in your prayers:

**Alexander Abbott, Hubert Cogan, Pippa Cole,
Theodore (Theo) Davis, Amelia Flanagan,
Jack Flanagan, Ellen Hiles, Calum Keeley, Elizabeth
(Lizzie) Killeen, Martin Molloy, Victoria Robinson,
Dara Smyth, Lucy Trotter, Ellie Walker and
Charlotte Wride.**

Thank you to the parishioners who cleaned and decorated the church, who stewarded and assisted at the service, and who prepared and served the refreshments afterwards.





REGISTERS *continued*

In Memoriam

Marjorie Rosemary (Jill) Hipwell (née Pringle) died on Monday 25th November 2019 in Brabazon House. Jill's late husband, Canon Trevor Hipwell was Rector of Mount Merrion (1956-1994), and the Hipwell legacy in St Thomas' Church is still felt in the parish. It was because of the contribution by the Hipwells to the life of the Parish of Mount Merrion that it was decided to rename the St Thomas' Rectory as Hipwell House last year. Jill's funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Canon Roy Byrne – as the Rector was away – in St Thomas' Church and the Ven. Ruth Elmes – a relative of Canon Hipwell – preached.

We extend our sympathy to her daughters Ruth and Rebecca and their families, and her extended family and friends.

Pauline Elizabeth Sylvia Barr (née Johnston) died on Saturday 7th December 2019 in Newtownpark Nursing Home. Pauline's late husband, Canon Osborne Barr was Rector of Booterstown and Carysfort (1965-1992). Over their twenty-seven years in St Philip and St James' Church, Osborne and Pauline made a significant and lasting impact on the parish, and Pauline, through her teaching in Glengara touched the lives of her pupils. Pauline's funeral took place in Christ Church Dun Laoghaire, led by the Rector, the Rev. Ása Björk Ólafsdóttir, assisted by the Rev. Canon Gillian Wharton and lay reader Alan Rhodes. Pauline's ashes were interred in St Thomas' Garden of Remembrance, by the Rector of Dun Laoghaire, the Rev. Ása Björk Ólafsdóttir, on Wednesday 12th February 2020.

We extend our sympathy to her daughters Phyllida and Nicola, and her extended family and friends.

Marjorie Honor Stuart died on Thursday 12th December 2019 in St Vincent's University Hospital. Honor, who would have been 102 years old on 17th January 2020, moved to Brabazon House in May 2019. Not only was she a remarkable



age, but was healthy in every way until the day before her death.

Honor did not 'do old age'; she had "no time to be old" and she continued to grab life by both hands and seize every opportunity to travel, explore and try new things. At the age of 94, whilst on an archaeological dig, she jumped across a trench, fell and broke her hip. Rather than let this get the best of her, Honor was instructing others in the Rehab Department of the Royal Hospital Donnybrook how to do their exercises!!! She taught in Alexandra College for her entire teaching career and she was ever the teacher, whether it was instructing her fellow-hippees in the Royal Hospital Donnybrook or the Rector on her grammar or Irish! She was delighted to receive so many cards and greetings for her 100th birthday and wrote a Thank You to every single person who sent her a birthday wish, and she really enjoyed the special service held in St Thomas' Church for her 100th birthday and the reception afterwards—see photo. She really was an extraordinary woman!

Honor's brother Robert died in England on 1st December 2019 and his funeral took place on Wednesday 18th December 2019, which meant that Honor's funeral was not held until Saturday 21st December 2019 in St Thomas' Church. Her funeral service was followed by cremation in Mount Jerome. Honor's ashes were interred in St Thomas' Garden of

Remembrance, on Sunday 19th January 2020, two days after what would have been Honor's 102nd birthday.

We extend our sympathy to her brother David, her extended family and to her many friends, particularly Mary Ashmore, Aphra Maclaren and Jan Atkinson, and their families.

George William Tilson died on Monday 16th December 2109 in St Vincent's University Hospital. George was born and brought up on a farm in Butlersbridge in County Cavan, and his love for his home-place never diminished over the years. He worked in various parts of the country with Hibernian Insurance, before becoming head of the Dublin office, 45 years ago, and moving to Booterstown at that time. George was a gentle-man and a gentleman. George's funeral service took place in St Philip and St James' Church on Thursday 19th December 2019, and was followed by burial in St Patrick's Church, Powerscourt Graveyard, Enniskerry.

We extend our sympathy to his wife Doreen, his children, David, Brian, Alan and Lesley and their families, and to his brother Fred, and all the extended family.

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

A NOTE FROM SUZANNE



Easter greetings to everyone in these strange times we are living in and prayers for you and your loved ones in these difficult days.

I am delighted to be given the opportunity to sincerely thank Gillian and all of you for the wonderful years that I spent with you in ministry and for the very happy memories I have of the many occasions we shared together.

I also want to sincerely thank you for the fantastic goodbye at the Songs of Praise Service, the beautiful framed photos and the incredibly generous Blue Book voucher which I am really looking forward to spending.

Thank you for the wonderful reception after the service; delicious chocolate cake and the amazing “knitted curate” which is still in the kitchen window!!!

I had started my new placement in Rush, Skerries and Balbriggan with Rev Anthony Kelly where I received a very warm welcome but it did feel very strange not to see all the familiar faces and friends. However with this period of isolation all church activities are now online which is a new experience for many and especially me!!!

Thank God, he knows the future and it is in his faithful hands.

Jeremiah 31v 17 - “So there is hope for the future“ declares the Lord.

God’s blessings and stay safe ,

Love,

Suzanne



GENERAL SYNOD



This year, the General Synod was due to meet in Croke Park, Dublin, on Thursday 7th May, Friday 8th May and Saturday 9th May 2020. But like everything else, this has had to be postponed. There is no date yet for the re-scheduled General Synod 2020. This year is the final session of the Triennium, which means that those who were elected by the members of the respective Diocesan Synods in 2017, will finish a three-year-term, 2018-2020 inclusive.

The clergy of each Diocese elect a representative number of clergy to General Synod, and the laity of each Diocese elect two laypersons for every clerical member. The clergy of Dublin Diocese elect eighteen clergy to General Synod, and the laity of Dublin elect thirty-six laypersons to General Synod; Glendalough Diocese elect four clergy and eight laity to General Synod.

The Rector has been a member of General Synod for a number of years and Stephanie Morris who is a member of Booterstown and Carysfort Select Vestry, was elected to General Synod in 2017.

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.

FUNDRAISING! FUNDRAISING! FUNDRAISING!



ST THOMAS' CHURCH SUMMER FÊTE!!

**At this stage, it is very unlikely that the
Summer Fete will take place on**

**Saturday 23rd May 2020
12.00—15.00 hours,**

**but just in case things such as this are allowed by then... you have
been warned!!!!**

*And if we are able to go ahead, we need donations and people to
help with the following:*

Cakes – Hilary Turner

Bric-a-brac - Pam McGurdy and team

Lunches/Teas – Sheila Chamberlain and team

Plants – Julie-Anne Hudson

Books, etc. – Philip Bagnall, Will Robertson

Bottles – Denis Beare

2nd Outing (Clothes, Bags, Shoes, etc.), - Suzanne Harris

BBQ – John Telford, Monickam Thanaseelan

Toys – Garrett Miller and Simon Spence

Gate money – Alan McGurdy

Tea money – Alec Bell

Raffle – Myrtle McWilliam

**Please note: We are unable to accept any
Electrical Goods or Furniture**

We need as many people as possible to help erect and
strike tents, to set up and clear up, to help on stalls,
and lots of other things...! Please consider offering
your help, it will be very gratefully appreciated!



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Hopefully, 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 hours.

The usual plea applies! Please keep your wonderful creature(s) under control! Birds, guinea pigs, hamsters, etc. to be kept in cages, out of the way of cats, and cats and rabbits to be kept in cages, out of the way of dogs, and dogs to be kept on a leash at all times! We don't want any unplanned and tragic eating episodes!!! Pooper scooper rules apply too! All sorts of animals are welcome. And if you don't have an animal, but you want to bring your toy animal, well, that is just fine too!

ARCHBISHOP-ELECT OF ARMAGH



The Rt Revd John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher, has been elected by the House of Bishops as the new Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland. He succeeds Archbishop Richard Clarke who retired on 2nd February this year.

Bishop McDowell (aged 64) was ordained in 1996 and has served as Bishop of Clogher since 2011. He was previously Rector of St Mark's, Dundela, in East Belfast (2002–2011), Rector of Ballyrashane (1999–2002), and Curate of Antrim (1996–1999). He has also served as an Honorary Secretary of the General Synod (2008–2011) and is currently Chairman of the Church of Ireland's Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue.

Speaking on his election, Bishop McDowell said: 'I am overwhelmed by the confidence which my fellow bishops have placed in me to fill this ancient office. I look forward to working with them in the time to come and to serving the people of the Diocese of Armagh and the Church of Ireland in whatever way I can.'

The translation will take effect from Tuesday, 28th April 2020, and the enthronement date will be announced in due course. Upon taking up his responsibilities as Archbishop of Armagh, Bishop McDowell will be the 106th in the succession of abbots, bishops and archbishops of Armagh since St Patrick.

BISHOP-ELECT OF CONNOR

On 17th February 2020, the Episcopal Electoral College for the Diocese of Connor elected Archdeacon George Davison as the new Bishop of Connor. He succeeds the Rt Revd Alan Abernethy who retired at the end of December 2019.

The Venerable George Davison is the Archdeacon of Belfast in the Diocese of Connor, Rector of St Nicholas' Church, Carrickfergus, and an Honorary Secretary of the Church of Ireland's General Synod. He was previously Archdeacon of Kilmore and Rector of Kinawley, in the Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh.

The Rt Revd Patrick Rooke, President of the Electoral College and Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, said: 'I congratulate Archdeacon George Davison on his election as Bishop of Connor. I am confident that he will be a popular choice and a wise and caring leader in a diocese he knows well. I look forward to working alongside him in the wider Church and wish him well as he prepares for this new phase of ministry.'

The bishop-elect said: 'The members of the Electoral College for the Diocese of Connor have done me a great honour in electing me to serve as the next bishop of the diocese. I am very conscious of the great responsibility that is being entrusted to me. I am immensely thankful for the gifted colleagues who serve the Church in Connor Diocese and look forward to serving with them as we seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in the years ahead.'

It is hoped that George will be consecrated as a bishop in St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh on 1st May 2020 which is St Philip and St James' Day, however, this looks very unlikely at present and the consecration may have to be postponed to a later date.



BOOTERSTOWN 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.

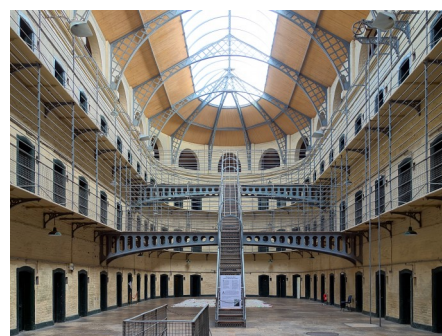
Aisling Byrne completed her final school placement with 5th and 6th class, we really enjoyed seeing her methodologies in work!

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 fit 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, as can be seen from the photo!!!!



The PTA continued to fundraise for the installation of a Trim Trail in the school garden. Aileen O'Donoghue led a gang from the PTA to organise an Art Exhibition of the pupils' art work in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre. Tea/coffee and delicious goodies were served, and a raffle was also held. The Exhibition which was opened by Josepha Madigan T.D who is the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The PTA also fundraised to have the classrooms painted, this was

completed over February midterm break and they look so fresh and clean. We were lucky enough to get a Department of Education grant for new classroom desks too, so we have lovely bright classrooms to look forward to on our return to school.

I am so proud to be the principal of a school where I get reports daily of how well the children are applying themselves to their study at home. It's a great privilege to work with a staff team who so quickly got their heads around preparing lessons from home and delivering them to the children; our SNAs and school secretary have also gone above and beyond in ensuring continuity in our school in this time of uncertainty. I am truly grateful to all who rallied in our little school community and for all the support of our parent body.

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

Happy Easter to all!

Rachel Fraser
Principal





Hopefully, we will be able to go ahead with the **Autumn Fair**

in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre and church grounds on

Saturday 10th October 2020

Put the date in your diary!

You will be hearing more about this during the summer, assuming that the restrictions for Covid-19 will allow us to go ahead!

RAFFLE PRIZES

But we need prizes for the raffle at this stage, so that we can apply for a permit from the Garda Síochána.



EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES

Our Easter General Vestries have been scheduled as follows:

Mount Merrion Easter General Vestry on Monday 27th April 2020 at 8pm in the Monk Gibbon Hall

Boooterstown and Carysfort Easter General Vestry on Thursday 30th April 2020 in the Canon Osborne Barr Room of St Philip and St James' Parish Centre

Needless to say, whether these go ahead or not on the scheduled dates is very uncertain. Under the constitution of the Church of Ireland, the last date for holding an Easter General Vestry this year is Saturday 2nd May 2020, but we may hold a meeting by that date and adjourn it until Monday 18th May 2020.

But the Charities Regulatory Authority, have said that our charitable status will not be affected if we do not comply with our own regulations due to Covid-19. Those currently serving as Churchwardens, Glebewardens, Select Vestry members, Parochial Nominators (and Supplementalists) and Diocesan Synodspersons (and Supplementalists) remain in place until such time as an Easter General Vestry meeting for a parish may be held.

GDPR—PARISHES' PRIVACY POLICY

As you are aware, regulation with regards to the holding and storing of personal information came into force on 25th May 2018. Thank you to those who have returned completed forms, but we do still have some outstanding forms to be returned.

As a group of parishes, we are obliged to adhere to these new regulations affecting the storage of your email and home addresses, personal information and other contact details. Therefore, we now need to ask that you **opt into** our communications system so that we may continue to contact you, hold your details and count you among our number.

Please be assured that your data will be kept and managed in full accordance with the requirements of GDPR legislation. For further information on our GDPR policies please see www.boooterstownchurch.ie or www.mountmerrionchurch.ie. Click *About Us* and then on *Parish Privacy Policy*.

A covering letter and consent forms were distributed to each household, but should you need forms, please contact me and I can email or send you forms. The forms should be returned to The Rector at The Rectory, Cross Avenue, Boooterstown, Blackrock, County Dublin A94 W7R6, as soon as possible.

The Parishes' GDPR Sub-Group

ST PHILIP and ST JAMES' SUNDAY CLUB



As we approached Christmas, the focus of our Sunday Club was the story of Jesus' birth and getting ready for the Christingle Service, at which the children did a poem called *A Song was Heard at Christmas* by Timothy Dudley-Smith.

The Sunday Club leaders made over seventy Christingles, and it was wonderful to have so many families with their children at the service.

At the end of March, the Rector asked the children to make cards which were sent to some of our older parishioners, particularly those who live alone, or who are not able to keep in touch via social media.

I hope everyone is managing these difficult days. As we will not be able to hold Sunday Club in the foreseeable future, I am setting out some useful websites that could come in useful for the children. I can imagine it is not easy to keep them healthily occupied. The following websites may be useful. There is also an app called Children's Ministry Talk-Starters and Lynn Storey (lynnstorey2@sky.com) is terrific and knows all the websites below:

www.cm.ireland.anglican.org
www.going4growth.co.uk
www.pinterest.com

www.flamecreativekids.blogspot.com
www.daniellesplace.com
www.sundayschoolkids.com

We look forward to being back in action as soon as possible and seeing the children again. We hope that everyone stays safe and stays well.

June, Michelle, Joanne and Karina.



ST THOMAS' SUNDAY CLUB

The children from the St Thomas' Sunday Club were extremely busy in the run up to Christmas! Not only did they perform a Christmas poem at the service in St Thomas' on Sunday 15 December 2019, but also at the Christingle service in St Philip and St James'. The children were all superstars and made us, and their parents and Sunday Club leaders, very proud!

After Christmas, the children returned, with enthusiasm, for the first meeting of 2020 on Sunday 19 January.

We decided that we would reflect on our proudest moments of 2019 and to think about some resolutions for the year ahead. The children made cards to take home, on which they had written several resolutions-one for around the house, one for school, one for church and one more which they could decide for themselves. We talked about the Bible, considering how it offers us guidance on how we should live, so we can be the best versions of ourselves.

In February, we met on Sunday 16th, just after St Valentine's Day; we read stories from the Bible that expressed to the children how wide God's love is. Then we played Bible Bingo which was a huge hit - we replaced the exclamation 'bingo' with 'Jesus loves me!' and it was such fun and taught the children all the different ways Jesus loves them. We finished up with some colouring, which was so captivating for the children that they all came back to Sunday Club after church to finish off their masterpieces!



We missed meeting with our Sunday Club children in March but the Rector asked the children to make cards which were sent to some of our older parishioners, who really appreciated them and sent us some lovely thank you texts and messages.

We very much look forward to seeing you all again soon. In the meantime, we are thinking about you and hoping that you and your families stay safe and well.

Katy, Rachel and Claire

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.)

These items can be left at the back of either Church and are then 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 who liaise with **TRUST** and take the items into them, are then left with having to dispose of these unsuitable items.

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

Thank you!

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

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

We have met on a number of occasions including with the Sunday Club Leaders of both Sunday Clubs. We are currently working our way through the list of responsibilities for the panel and for the select vestries, to ensure that we are compliant.

An Audit by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team was scheduled for the end of April 2020 but this has now been postponed due to the Coronavirus Covid-19 and will be re-scheduled when the restrictions are lifted.



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 parish office so that we can have our email address on our records and use it to communicate with you.

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



SCOUTING IN MOUNT MERRION

When we think back to that wonderful Founders' Day service of Thanksgiving for Scouting in St Thomas' on February 23rd 2020, little did we know that that only three weeks later all our activities would be forced to cease for the foreseeable future.

Our sincere thanks and apologies to those parishioners from St Philip and James' who came to support our fund-raising quiz in The Goat on March 12th 2020. The decision to postpone it came at the request of some of our parents who come into the vulnerable category and on behalf of their friends and neighbours who were probably among the first to realise the enormity of what was approaching. We have all the questions, scorecards and prizes ready to go, but when the quiz will be is anyone's guess at this stage.

Meanwhile the Cubs and Beavers are being kept active by tasks they can access online to challenge them in the Scouting SPICES programme, (Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional and Spiritual). This has resulted in Cubs learning a new culinary skill, building an indoor or outdoor shelter and doing an engineering project using all the household cardboard tubes and other dry recyclable waste! Some have completed some Mindfulness colouring, waffle-making and fort-building for younger siblings. Each day brings a new challenge!



We are trying not to forecast the future and still live in hope of getting to Iceland in late June/early July 2020. If it is not to be, perhaps we may postpone until 2021, like the International Olympics Committee have decided to do.

In the meantime, may we wish all parishioners continued good health and safety in the coming days.

Happy Easter to you all!

Lesley Rankin
Group Leader



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION



On Wednesday 22nd January 2020, we marked the tenth anniversary of the start of Christian Meditation in our parishes. This was started by Andreas Markusson with a session each Wednesday evening in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre. Irene Reid attended and she then started a session each Tuesday afternoon in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre. When Andreas moved to Swords, Irene continued both sessions, assisted by June Burgess.

The sessions are open to all, from within the parishes and beyond, and they have been a source of refreshment and renewal.

In Lent 2019, our recommended Lenten Discipline was for people to go to one of the Christian Meditation Sessions on a weekly basis, and during Advent 2018, one of our ecumenical gatherings was Christian Meditation which took place in the Church of the Assumption and was led by Irene Reid and Eithne White from the Christian Meditation Group in the Church of the Assumption.

It was lovely to welcome Andreas back as we marked the tenth anniversary. Thank you to him for starting it and to Irene and June who faithfully continue to ensure that it continues.

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.

We are very much looking forward to being able to resume when the restrictions for the coronavirus Covid-19 are lifted. Beginners are very welcome.

Contact: Irene 087-275542

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

COVID 19 – FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR BOTH PARISHES

These are difficult times for everyone and our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been stricken by Covid-19, and the doctors, nurses and healthcare staff who are tending to them. Heroes all.

The consequences of the “lock-in” are wide ranging and many parishioners will be feeling the pinch as their income suffers in a contracting economy.

Our parishes are by no means immune, and the ban on social gatherings has seen parochial revenue from both Parish Centres virtually dry up overnight. As such we are more reliant than ever on contributions from parishioners.

With no Church services for the foreseeable future, this revenue has also largely ceased to flow and, with outgoings remaining largely unchanged, both parishes are now running significant deficits.

While conscious that some households may be financially strapped themselves, it would be much appreciated if those who can afford to, and have the facility to do so through online banking, would either:

make a monthly transfer of an amount equal to what you would have put on the plate or in your envelope on the plate if there had been a church service

or

set up a Standing Order or recurring online bank transfer for a monthly amount through your online banking.

In either instance, we should be obliged if you would include your name and where relevant, your envelope number, under the payment reference. Please also advise the relevant honorary treasurer as reference numbers can get lost on occasion.

Contact and bank account details are as follows:

St Philip and St James' Church

Honorary Treasurer: Quentin Teggin (qteggin@gmail.com)

BIC: BOFIE2D

IBAN IE51BOFI90102887891634

ACCOUNT NAME: PARISH OF ST PHILIP & ST JAMES

St Thomas' Church

Honorary Treasurer: Ian Mullen (ianwmullen23@gmail.com)

IBAN: IE22 AIBK 9335 7015 2550 13

BIC: AIBKIE2D

ACCOUNT NAME: ST THOMAS' CHURCH

With many thanks,

Quentin Teggin and Ian Mullen