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DIOCESAN MAGAZINE



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DOUGLAS ROAD, CORK



Dear Friends,

Last month's letter which I published online was written the day after An Taoiseach announced that gatherings were to be limited to 100 people indoors and to 500 people outdoors. Since then we have had a whirlwind of change. Many have faced disappointments and great challenges. Still others find that the normality of their lives has been upended. For too many, illness they have already been living with has been complicated, and great numbers have struggled with or are suffering from COVID-19. We have not been able to give loved ones who have died in these times the funerals we would like to have arranged for them.

Those working in what have been classed as 'essential services', especially those in all branches of healthcare, are working in a new normality that is at the limit of human endurance. Most of us are being asked to make our contribution by heeding the message: 'Stay at home'

These are traumatic times for everyone. They are unknown territory for all of us in our Diocese too as parishes and faith communities. We have not been able, in the same way, to do what the Church is all about doing - gathering around God's word and the Lord's Table to worship together, and going out to encounter face to face those who we need to care for and serve in God's name. That is our normality as a Church and it too has been dislocated: abruptly.

As Bishop I ask that, as of first importance, we continue to do in whatever ways we can, what the Church is meant to do: to worship God; to pray steadfastly; to reflect on God's word; to reach out in any way we may to those who depend on our pastoral care; to offer our practical help and solidarity with anyone who needs it; and to play our parts as responsible members of society.

All of our clergy and lay workers, with their own unique gifts and different approaches have been doing this. On your behalf, I want to thank each and every one of them. Everyone has been working harder than ever in the most stressful of situations. We are not trying to replicate our regional parish system online. This is a time for sharing gifts and helping one another. We are truly discovering the value of pooling our energies and talents. Not everyone has to do everything the same way. This recognition of each others' gifts and dependence on one another is what Saint Paul calls 'a still more excellent way' (1 Cor. 12.31) and which he describes at length in the following chapter, the famous one about love.

I pray for God's blessing on each and every one of you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Cork'.

† Paul Cork

A PRAYER DURING COVID 19

Dear Heavenly Father,

You are the God of all compassion and comfort. We thank you that you listen to our prayers. We pray today for our world, our nation, our city and our church as the Coronavirus spreads. Please bring help to all our communities according to their needs. Heal those afflicted and strengthen all who have the responsibility for care. In your mercy, please provide a cure and give wisdom to those seeking to develop a vaccine for this condition.

We pray, too, for ourselves. Enable us to walk by faith. Help us to be careful and wise in taking whatever precautions are necessary to limit and contain the spread of this virus. Strengthen us to remain calm while vigilant; responsible citizens seeking the welfare of others above ourselves.

At times of uncertainty and anxiety, help our world to look to security in your Son, Jesus Christ. And give courage to Christians as we point others to the One in whom there is always hope.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<https://sydneyanglicans.net/covid19prayers>

Diocesan Web Site <http://www.cork.anglican.org>

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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.

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. 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.

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Bishop Paul Colton ~ 'The Easter Sermon I would have Preached' but didn't

*They have taken away my Lord,
and I do not know where they have laid him.'*
John 20.13b

Since I was ordained in 1984 I've only missed being at church on Easter Day one other time; I was sick. I'm not sick this year but like most of you, other than frontline workers, I am staying at home. I'm not gathering with other people outside my own household, as we have been asked to do.

'Stay at home' is the message. So I invite you to read at home this 'Sermon I would have preached' this Easter.

Naturally I am sad that, for the first time in my 21 years as Bishop, I am not preaching in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork this Easter. As the Lutheran pastor and writer Nadia Bolz-Weber tweeted '... it's also now a pandemic of human disappointment ... a lot of grieving on top of sickness.' But needs must, and sadness is relative. So much is now on the back burner, and the one thing we all long and hope for is a return to normality, whatever that new normal will be.

Some sadness, such as mine today, is as nothing compared to the deep, heart-rending sorrow and struggle that many people are going through at this time, especially those who are ill - those with COVID-19 and those ill in other ways, as well as those who are bereaved.

Lives, families and communities here and the world over are in trauma - staying at home is a small price to pay, and I urge everyone to do it. 'Just do it'

as the 'ad' says. 'Stay at home.'

So this is the sermon I would have preached, if I could have been across the road in the Cathedral this Easter Day.

It is the strangest of feelings - surreal even - to be a participant in such obvious 'history in the making.' We would much rather not be history-makers of this kind, but, just as our forebears did what needed to be done to meet great challenges in their day, so we too will dig deep and discover the human spirit and resilience that is needed, together, to do what needs to be done now.

The Corona Virus has become, understandably, our all-consuming preoccupation; it has displaced the weather as the subject of Ireland's small talk. We are all either dislocated from normality, or we find that our usual normality is hijacked by ways of doing things that we never before anticipated. Many are overwhelmed.

Our thoughts and emotions are like a swirling flood - a vortex - of confusion, stress, bewilderment, anxiety, frustration all tugging at the coat strings of our hope and pragmatism. We fluctuate between being resigned and unsettled. Many feel most intensely the experience of separation from loved ones, in spite of new technologies holding us together. It is not the same. As someone said to

me 'I miss the hugs most of all' This intense separation from human contact outside the home is what characterises the angst of this time, especially for those who live alone.

As far as our religious faith is concerned this experience is multi-faceted too; it is both renewing and unsettling of faith for starters. We are renewed - in our desire to pray and to be prayed for. We are unsettled about the many unknowns and mysteries. We have big questions.

For me, celebrating in this unusual way this Easter morning, this year, and for us all, I see across the centuries common ground with the experience and the message of that first Easter morning.

All week we have been retracing the steps of Jesus and his community of followers in the last days and hours of his life. We have been drawn in, not only to their world, but also into the world of their opponents, questioners, enemies, also the authorities and officials, civic and religious, and there have been individuals and great crowds drawn in too, sometimes on the side lines, other times central to what was going on.

Elicited and manifest have been every emotion and human characteristic under heaven - profound love, false promise, weakness, intense loyalty, failure, betrayal, cowardliness, watchfulness, neglect, belief and disbelief ... these and more; they are all there.

And we come to this morning. To say the least, looking at all the accounts, it was a morning of strange events. Parts of the accounts are extraordinary

and puzzling: strange goings-on. We raise our eyebrows and there's much to reflect on and to study with the help of biblical scholars. There were questions, mixed emotions, doubts and convictions, confusion, individual loneliness as well as collective concern. We are told of fear and trembling, of every emotion and reaction: surprise, shock, grief, fear, terror, disbelief, hope, and intense love.

There is darkness, then half-light and mystery.

There is lots of activity. Some of it purposeful, some of it futile; people running around to one end or another - some 'headless chickens' and some pragmatists. Cross words are spoken. There are words of love, assurance and resilience too.

In St Mark's account the women are so afraid that they are stunned into silence. They say nothing. Numb! Perhaps that is how we are too.

All of this is why I chose the text I did this morning from St John's Gospel: They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.
John 20.13b

The emotional intensity of Mary's question seems to sum it all up in that one person and that one exchange. We have seen such 'summing up' in recent days too in hosts of ways: the man on the garden bench looking in the hospital window to say goodbye to his dying brother is one that many refer to.

All of the accounts of the first Easter leave us with questions but they also proclaim what Christians the world

over repeat today with confidence, with joy and with hope:

Christ is risen!

Christian's have always believed that the good news of Good Friday and Easter is a message for every time and place and that supremely, taken together with the incarnation the birth of Jesus as they are meant to be, two sides of the one coin, the good news is about light and life. Referring to the Word of God, Jesus, as 'the life' and 'the light of all people' Saint John tells us that the '... light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.' (John 1.5) That is what shining the lights in the darkness as we did in countless numbers here in Ireland last evening was such a powerful articulation of our hope.

In his Gospel, Saint John also invites us to see the events we commemorate this weekend - the crucifixion and resurrection - as signs of God's love for us. It is this theme for which St John's Gospel is perhaps best known - God's

love: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3.16)

In Mary's deeply agonised question this Easter, we see ourselves, perhaps, during these days:

They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.

John 20.13b

Today as we proclaim that 'Christ is risen!' we are invited again to discover the timelessness of the first Easter experience. We are invited to embrace and hold on to the enduring truth of the Easter message, It gives us confidence and hope: God's presence with us, the message of God's unchanging and immovable love for us which, like Jesus himself, is the 'same yesterday today and forever.'

Bishop Paul Colton takes part in New COVID-19 Community Response Forum established by Cork City Council

At the request of Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy, T.D., a COVID-19 Community Response Forum (CRF) is being put in place in Cork City and will be co-ordinated by Cork City Council. A similar initiative will be set up in County Cork.

Bishop Paul Colton, accepted an invitation from the CEO of Cork City Council, Ann Doherty, to be a member of the CRF and, he joined nearly 30

others for the first meeting yesterday held using an online meeting facility.

From today, Monday 30th March a **dedicated community support helpline** will be running from 9-5pm seven days a week to help ensure that vulnerable members of the community or those living alone can access deliveries of groceries, medicine and fuels and can avail of social care supports, if needed.

The new phoneline is just one aspect of the Forum's work. Its core aim is contributing to the community-wide effort to limit the spread of COVID-19 by ensuring a co-ordinated community response. The Council's COVID-19 CRF will work to ensure that local community resources are getting to the people that need them including social care support and social contact.

Tusla, Bishop Paul Colton, Catholic Bishop of Cork and Ross - Fintan Gavin, the Age Friendly Network, Alone, Cork Education and Training Board, Migrant Forum, Citizens Information, the Cork City Volunteer Centre, the Red Cross, Civil Defence, the Order of Malta, An Post, An Garda Síochána, the Defence Forces, and the IFA amongst others.

Taking part in the Cork City CRF are Cork City Council, the HSE, GAA,



Archive of the Month

www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive

The 200th Anniversary of the First Performance of Handel's *Messiah*, 13th April 1942

13th April 1742 saw the first public performance of Handel's *Messiah* in Neal's Musick Hall, Fishamble Street, Dublin, in the shadows of Christ Church Cathedral. Given the strong religious nature of the oratorio, it is perhaps no surprise that its first performance drew so heavily from the two cathedrals in Dublin in particular, as well as the Established Church in general. This relationship between the Church and Handel's masterpiece was marked by a special celebration on the 200th anniversary of its first performance, on 13th April 1942.

George Frideric Handel, was born in Halle, in Germany, in 1685 but would eventually become a naturalised British subject in 1727. Handel always had close ties with the religious authorities where he resided, both in a personal and professional capacity. It is no surprise that upon his move to Great Britain, he developed strong ties with

the Established Church and worked extensively with religious bodies to showcase his new works. In 1741, the decision was made to give a season of concerts in Dublin towards the end of this year, and in to early 1742. These were performed in the Musick Hall, Fishamble Street, but did not feature *Messiah*, nor any version of the oratio. These concerts proved phenomenally popular and Handel continued to work in Dublin during the spring of 1742.

While Handel's *Messiah* originated from his time in London, it matured and was appreciated in Dublin. Handel wrote the music for *Messiah* during a frenzied period of inspiration the previous year, in late August and early September, continuing to revise the work prior to its performance in Dublin in 1742. It is said that Handel, writing to the librettist of *Messiah*, Charles Jennens, during Christmas 1741, noted 'the politeness



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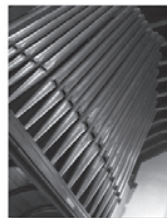
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of this generous nation cannot be unknown to you'. Handel himself was residing in a house on the corner of Abbey Street and Liffey Street, and used this premises as a residence and ticket-office.

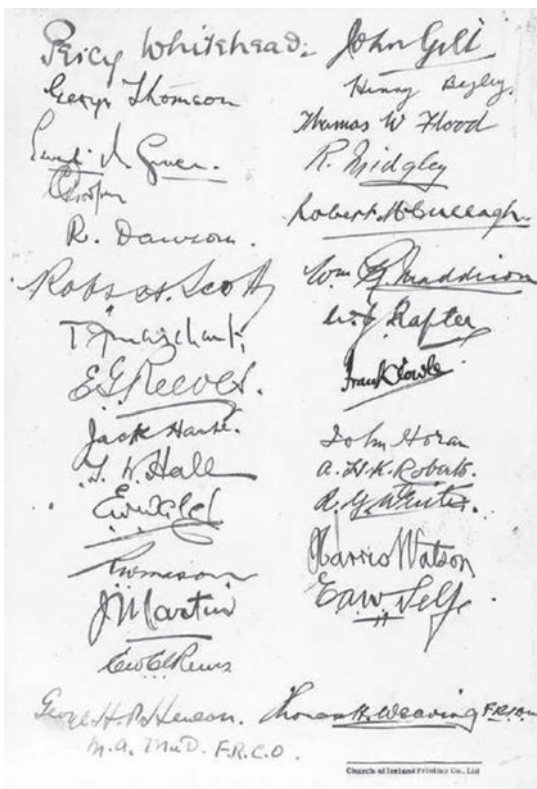
By early March 1742, contact was made with St Patrick's and Christ Church cathedrals to explore the use of their choirs for the forthcoming concert. Permission was granted to utilise the services of 16 men and 16 boy choristers from both cathedrals, with some of these men performing solo parts. It is a testament to the high standards associated with both choirs that so many were chosen to be part of such an eminent production. Despite the high reputation that Handel had throughout Europe at this time, there was some reticence on the part of the cathedral authorities to have their members associated with a performance in a secular venue.

It might be said that such concerns dimmed over the following 200 years, and on the occasion of such a momentous anniversary, the cathedrals decided to celebrate the event, by performing two concerts to be held on 13th April in St Patrick's Cathedral and the following day in Christ Church Cathedral.

The RCB Library holds extensive collections with regards to both cathedrals, and there are detailed important accounts relating to the choirs. One such example is RCB Library C2/9/1, which is a booklet produced in the 20th century showing the original

octavo edition of Handel's *Messiah* in vocal score, edited by W. T. Best (London: Novello and Company). What makes this such a unique item is that the notice for the cathedral concerts in April 1942 is included, along with a full list of those who performed originally, as well as those performing in the 200th anniversary celebration.

Also saved is a page, on Church of Ireland Printing Co., Ltd., paper showing the signatures of those 'gentlemen of the choir' who performed in 1942.



The signatures of the members of the cathedrals' choirs who performed in the 200th anniversary celebration of Handel's *Messiah*. From RCB Library C2/9/1

So when I said in last months report that I was loving being at home and being spoilt by my two little men and that they were never allowed to leave home...I didn't think that it might actually happen!!!! Then again when they both stated at the start of Lent that they wanted to give up school for Lent, they got more than they bargained for too! As the saying goes, "be careful what you wish for!"

But in saying that, I am still enjoying being at home with them and the 'home-schooling' isn't as bad as I thought it would be. But to be fair, they are still in national school, so the homework is manageable – Google Translate is great!! I am also very much aware, especially for a lot of teens and college students, that it is a real struggle. Trying to make sense of homework assignments that might not have been looked at yet in class. Trying to keep on top of studies when you don't even know when the exams might be. Trying to keep motivated, positive and active when it can be all too easy to stay in our PJ's all day and chill.

Over the last few weeks, I have tried to stay in touch and connected as much as possible with our teens. Emailing and Facebook is great but to really reach out to them, I have stepped into the group who have fallen in love with the on-line conference video app called ZOOM! At first, I was using it to keep in touch with my own family, but I soon discovered that it would be great for work too. So I upgraded my package and got going on it!

As we had to cancel our Annual Quiz

this year, I got in touch with the LIT group and asked them if we would give it a go on ZOOM. So a few nights later, 19 teams logged on and took part. It was a bit chaotic at first but once we found our feet (and the mute button!) it all went very well. Thank you to the LIT group for all your hard work in putting it all together.

It went so well that we planned for another games night the week after. This was a "Guess Who?" night. There was lots fun and laughter and everyone seemed in high spirits. It was great to see all the young people enjoying themselves and seeing the excitement of meeting their friends again. But it was also evident that because of the games, it gave them little time to talk to each other.

So this week, we tried out a 'Tea & Chat' night. It was an hour of chatting and an opportunity to see how everyone is getting on. It was a very relaxed night, with some people dressing up for the occasion!

I will definitely keep in touch as much as possible but I am also very conscious that our young people are getting very fed up and frustrated. I am trying to come up with activities and fun through the CDYC Facebook and Instagram page as much as possible. But if your teen is struggling in any way or if you have any ideas/challenges for us, please do send an email and I will see what I can do.

This isolation time is hard on us all and it affects everyone. But I encourage you all to stay at home and stick to the



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rules so that we can beat this and start getting back to some bit of normality. As Isaiah 26:20 says, *“My people, go into your rooms and shut your doors behind you. Hide in your rooms for a short time until God’s anger is finished.”*

Hopefully, by the June edition, everything will be a bit more relaxed and I will have lots of news for you! But until then, STAY SAFE & HEALTHY.

Keep an eye out on the CDYC Facebook page or our **NEW** Instagram page *Cdychilda*, for any updates. If you would like more info on anything please contact me on dyo@corkchurchofireland.com or (086) 8790623 and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Bye for now,
Hilda Connolly.
(Diocesan Youth Officer)

Hope and Shared Solidarity

President Michael D Higgins has called on Irish people to place a light in their windows on Saturday to symbolise “shared solidarity” and hope in midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

In his Easter message published on Thursday night (09.04.20), President Higgins said that lanterns will be placed at the doors of Aras an Uachatarain and asked the public to place lights in their windows in an effort to show “shared solidarity” and offer a “beacon of hope in a time of darkness”.

“Irish people are being asked to place a light in their window tomorrow, the Saturday before Easter Sunday, a time so important in the symbolism of our Irish Independence,” he writes. “Sabina and I will light lanterns and place these at the doors in Aras an Uachtaráin, symbolising our shared solidarity and offering a beacon of hope in a time of darkness.”

The president said that once the coronavirus passes, it will be a “legacy” that “we gave our best” and “continued to save lives”. “The days ahead may continue to be difficult, and for some

I recognise they are more difficult than others,” he said.

“But what a memory it will be, and legacy too, when the virus has passed to know that we gave of our best. “What a valuable memory it will be that we continued to save lives that would otherwise have been lost by co-operating and working with the measures suggested to us for the good of all.”

The president writes that this Easter will be a “challenging” time for “so many” due to “unimaginable” restrictions which have posed a “challenge to our resolve, to our way of life”.

He expressed his condolences at those who have lost family members and friends due to the virus and thanked frontline staff for their work. “Sabina and I are greatly aware of the pain and suffering so many of you are experiencing. “We know, too, how difficult it is in so many ways for those who would wish to be with loved ones for whom they are concerned, but whose protection requires that they stay at a distance.”

He said that Irish people have rarely been “tested” like they are now and wished solidarity, vigilance and tenacity in his Easter message. “I send you Easter greetings wherever you may be, and wish you well in your solidarity,

vigilance and tenacity during these difficult times when we are tested like few other times in recent memory,” he adds
(Accessed from Independent.ie on 09 April, 2020)



Scouting Ireland

Douglas and St Fin Barre’s Scout Group

Scouting Ireland ceased all normal activities on 6th March, Scout halls and campsites closed, summer camps were cancelled as were competitions and all other events.

Leaders have been trying to keep in touch with their members by electronic means, being easier for the older sections where meetings have been held using Zoom and other means.

Scouting Ireland has also joined the national campaign for local support so that where feasible Scouts can help local communities by assisting the elderly through delivering medical or other supplies and other services as needed within the local community. This largely depends on availability and willingness of parents and leaders.

So an Easter like no other we have known, Easter was always a great time for Scouting activities being the first break after the winter.

Back in 1958, I can remember taking my scout patrol on a 30 mile cycle around Lough Gill in County Sligo. It was a beautiful day and we stopped near Dooney Rock (for those who remember ‘The Fiddler of Dooney’, at school). A fire was lit and we cooked sausages and made tea. I can still smell the wood smoke. We still had to

be home for 7.30pm to go to the Holy week service at 8pm. Changed times indeed!

Many of the Scout groups in Dublin had campsites at Powerscourt Estate and it was where they always camped over Easter - from Good Friday to Easter Monday. On Easter Sunday they would all assemble in front of Powerscourt House, be inspected and then march off to church or mass in Enniskerry complete with Scout band.

As Scout Leader of the Scout Troop at boarding school in Enniskillen, we used to take the troop to camp at Crawfordsburn, Co Down, from Easter Monday to the following Friday. It was always freezing up there. Tents were frozen solid on one occasion, and there used to be a Scout Gang show in Belfast Opera House that week, which we used to go to.

Then of course there was Bob-Job week, to raise funds, if we did it now we would be arrested under the child protection laws! Easter was always special for us in Cork, we ran the Venture District Night Hike Competitions the weekend after Easter, all great memories.

Now to the photo of chairman, Paul Colton of 2nd Cork, St Fin Barre’s



Venture Unit taken outside the old Grammar School building at Ashton in July 1979.

The Venture Unit had been formed in 1968 and met for a number of years in the Cathedral Hall in Dean Street. The numbers in the Venture unit being small so this was not very suitable. We were offered the use of the flat over the kitchen in the old school by Mr Victor Bond, after negotiations by George Treacy a member of the school staff. We gratefully accepted.

We remained there until 1979, when the flat was required by the school. On that fateful day the last of the camping gear was being removed and transported to the new Venture rooms under St Luke's Church. The former Scout HQ of the 1st Cork St Luke's Group, which had closed in the 1950's.

We moved into St Luke's kindly provided by Canon Salter and the Select Vestry and remained there until the Church closed in 2002.



Midleton College teachers, Ms O'Riordan and Mr Fleming, who were married on the steps of the College



SCHOOL NEWS

Ashton School

The Ashton School community has continued to meet together for our weekly school assemblies - albeit in a virtual capacity. Our online assemblies have been viewed by hundreds of students, staff and parents live each Wednesday morning, with more tuning in later to watch a recording of the proceedings. Coordinated by the principal, Mr. Landen, guest speakers representing the students, teachers and the board of management have addressed the viewers on topics ranging from wellbeing to online learning and beyond. The regular meeting of the school community has proved to be an important place of connection during this time of separation.

As a welcome break from the demands of online teaching and learning Ashton ran its first ever Easter egg design competition. Students and staff submitted their photos of painted eggs on the theme of Easter. Some participants took the competition more seriously than others and the judging panel had their work cut out for them in choosing the prize winners.

The following service took place on 15 March:

RTÉ
Sunday Service
15 March 2020 at 11.10am

Bilingual service with Cumann
Gaelach na hEaglaise
Rev Tony Murphy, Celebrant
Canon Gary Hastings, Preacher
Choir from Ashton School, under the

Musical Director, Mary G O'Brien and
Antoinette Baker, Accompanist.

Here are some photos taken on the day:



MIG^{ie}



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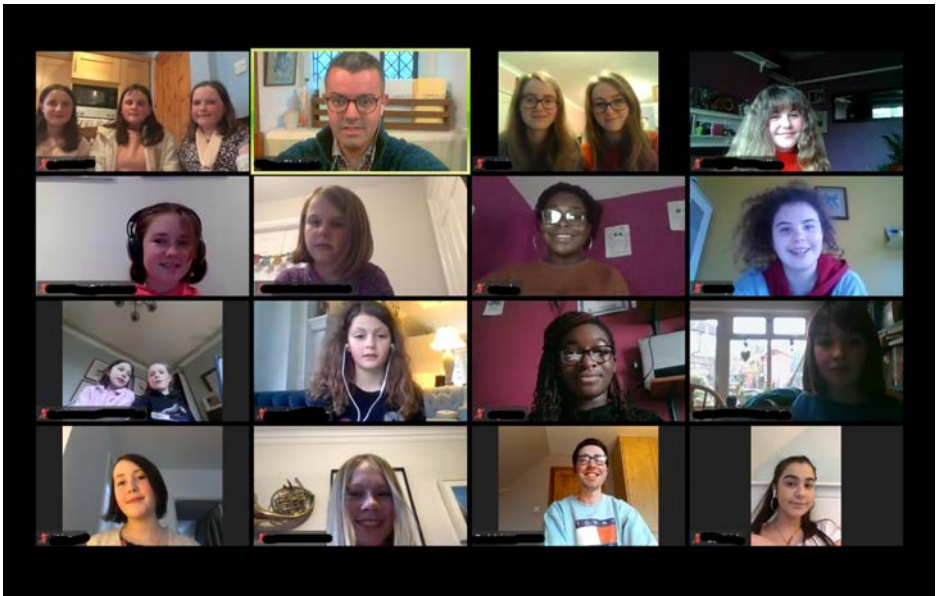
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RTE bilingual service on 15 March - see Ashton School notes



St Fin Barre's Cathedral Choir practice on Zoom



Bandon Grammar School

Since our notes last month, schools have really had to embrace the digital age and conduct all of our tasks online. We were fortunate that the Incorporated Society Scholarship examinations had just been completed on Thursday 12th March as An Taoiseach announced the closure of all schools by that evening. The whole school charity Soccer Marathon run every third year had been completed a week earlier. The senior boys hockey team had little time to celebrate success as their Munster Senior Cup win by 4-0 against Newtown School had taken place earlier in the week. However tours to Italy and Belgium had to be called off. The school had established an emergency planning team that organised Covid-19 safety and prevention measures over previous weeks. On the day of closure, teachers met again to plan digital based teaching and embarked on that the next day. Our Google classroom platform and school app have been vital in keeping the flow of lessons and information going. Standard email is very useful for submitting homework too, while YouTube, Zoom and Studyclix add interaction to lessons. State examination classes, especially Leaving Certificate students, are particularly stressed by

the uncertainty of when it will be possible to complete assessments. Care and support for all of the students is more essential than ever and our thanks go out to all teachers and staff members providing that to the most vulnerable. Parents of new pupils due to join us in September are assured that planning for the new school year continues and we will keep you informed of the next steps during May.

Our thoughts and prayers continue for all who are ill and those on the frontline services battling Covid-19, including so many of our parents and past pupils. Medical staff and all those involved in essential services take huge risk on our behalf and their dedication is hugely appreciated. Our chaplain, Rev Anne Skuse and Bishop Colton have prepared thoughtful and uplifting assembly addresses and short liturgies for the school community. These have been received via our app and website, being much appreciated at this troubled Easter time. The unprecedented challenges are binding us together and enabling us to re-establish core values. Let us work for a fairer, cleaner and better world to emerge from this.

Midleton College



Following a very busy March, we are celebrating the many great achievements of our students. Congratulations to Laura Cosgrave (Form VI) and Thomas Cosgrave (Form IV) who qualified for the final of the All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad. Congratulations also to Ben Richardson, (Form IV) who qualified for the next round of the German Olympiad. Ben will compete with students from other secondary schools for a place to represent Ireland in the International German Olympiad, which takes place in Dresden, over the summer. Laura has also qualified for the European Girls Maths Olympiad, which is now being run virtually and will take place in the coming weeks. We wish them well as they represent Midleton College and Ireland in these competitions.

We are also very proud of Kerrie Fitzgerald, (Form III), who won gold in her competition at the Wesley Music Festival in Dublin. Well done also to Willow Allen, (Form VI), who came 2nd in her competition and also to Eimear Boyle, (Form IV), and Grace Hernan, (Form III), who both placed highly in their competitions.

Midleton College's first Science Fair Scifest was recently held at the College, where our Form 1 Science students showed off their scientific knowledge. SciFest is a national STEM fairs programme for second-level students, encouraging a love of STEM and inquiry-based learning. Fairs take place locally in schools, regionally in the Institutes of Technology, TU Dublin (3 venues), DCU or St Mary's College Derry, culminating in a national final. More than 10,000 students participated in SciFest 2019. A list of our winners and project titles: The Ray Power Science Award - Rhys Morgan – Bioplastic; SciFest Best Project Award - Aidan Figueredo and Sean Curtin - The Evolutionary effect Technology has on Humans; SciFest Runner-up Best Project Award - Suzanne Barrett, Clíodhna O Connor, Alex Stuart - Investigating the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide within the school; Allergan Young Innovator Award – Eoin Mc Auliffe - Extracting Heat from Compost. Society of Irish Foresters (SOIF) - What effect does Aloe Vera juice have on the Moulding of the Strawberries?. Our winners and some other Science club projects are due to go on to represent the school at Scifest@College in CIT. Well done to all.

On Wednesday March 18th, 2020, was a momentous day in the lives of two the College's

teachers, and for the school. Ms O'Riordan & Mr Fleming were due to be married in the coming weeks, but with the global pandemic their well laid plans had to be cancelled. However, love conquers all and Mr Fleming stood on the 300 year old school steps, surrounded by immediate family and watched as Ms O'Riordan arrived up the driveway (on time) in a vintage red car. They both looked radiant! On the steps, they exchanged their vows, exchanged rings and were declared husband and wife! It was a beautiful day for a beautiful couple and a day that'll go down in school history. The whole school community wish them the very best for their lives together.



Midleton College have been busy thinking of ways that the Midleton College community can stay fit, keep active and entertained at this time. The "Friends of Midleton College" Facebook page hosts a variety of videos where members of the College staff and student body have been very creative. The Midleton College Horticulture group are running a Sunflower Growing Competition while Ms. Flood facilitated the 'Create Don't Contaminate', At Home Bakeoff. Mr Nugent has prepared a series of workout videos of him giving tips and doing demonstrations of workouts. The Music department have kept us entertained with a number of performances of our very talented students (and staff), while Dr. Gash, Rev. Orr and Mr. Sexton have kept us informed and with their weekly 'Virtual Assembly' live on Facebook every Thursday. Check out the "Friends of Midleton College" Facebook page, for all this activity.

We hope that all stay safe in the coming weeks and that we will see all back in Midleton College during better days in the future.

News from the Parishes



ABBEYSTREWRY UNION (Skibbereen, Castletownshend, Caheragh,
Baltimore)
Rev. John Ardis

Parish Website

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Email: abbeystrewryunion@gmail.com
www.abbeystrewry.com

Christ is Risen. The Lord is risen, Alleluia.

I wish you all a very happy Easter, in these most unusual circumstances. On one level, this is a greatly reduced contribution from Abbeystrewry Union, well because really there is not much news! Due to Covid 19 all parish activities have been shut down until further notice. There have been no services in Churches in weeks, and all Church buildings have been locked. The Easter Vestry has been postponed (this means all vestry members remain elected!). However, just because the church buildings are closed, this does not mean the Church is closed, in fact it is very much open. The Church, as the people of God have been praying and supporting each other in very imaginative ways, from simply ringing each other up to viewing wonderful liturgies produced from around the Diocese. In fact one of the parishioners said it was the most prayerful and moving Holy Week he had ever participated in.

Parish Liturgical Resource Booklet I hope parishioners enjoyed your parish liturgical resource booklet that was posted or emailed to you. The liturgical practice of 'spiritual communion' was not something I had ever thought about before the outbreak of Covid 19, but I hope people felt able to 'spiritually receive' on Maundy Thursday as well as Easter Sunday. I know those parishioners who were able to view diocesan services through YouTube were very glad of those, and I particularly pay tribute to St. Fin Barre's Cathedral for providing wonderful 'virtual' Holy Week and Easter liturgies. The rector was delighted to have been involved in the dramatized passion gospel with other clergy, as well as the beautiful Tenebrae liturgy. I look forward to the time when it is safe for us all to meet for Church services again!

Confirmation Morning One of the last events before restrictions due to Covid 19 were put in place was the confirmation morning. All candidates enjoyed this greatly, yet regrettably the parish confirmation that was scheduled for May 24th has now been postponed. The 10 candidates look forward to getting back to classes as soon as it is safe to do so.

Paschal Candle One of the most powerful memories I will have of this Easter is lighting up Abbeystrewry Church on Easter Eve with the paschal candle and leaving the lighting on all night. This was an ecumenical diocesan initiative, and locally we were united in lighting our churches with our sister churches of St. Patrick's cathedral in Skibbereen and the churches in Rath and the Islands parish. This was in itself a powerful symbol, but walking back through Skibbereen and greeting so many people had lit candles and had come out of their homes waving torches and greeting each other (from a safe distance) was a truly inspirational experience. For me it spoke of the great hope that we have, that this time will pass, and the Easter light gave strength to that great hope. May Christ's light continue to shine into our hearts, and give us strength and hope to persevere through these unsettling times.

RIP As a parish, we offer our deepest sympathies to the family of John Bidwell whose funeral and burial took place at Creagh cemetery on Wednesday 25th March. May he rest in peace, and rise in Glory!

BALLYDEHOB UNION (Ballydehob, Aughadown)

Rev. Steve McCann

028-37117

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Email: ballydehobrector@gmail.com

www.ballydehobunion.com

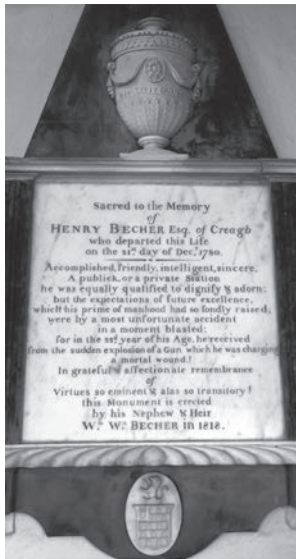
Condolences for the Kingston and Dukelow Families Val Kingston, of Newcourt, Church Cross, Skibbereen, died on April 1st 2020 peacefully at Skibbereen Residential Care Centre. Sarah Elizabeth Valentine "Val" Kingston (nee Dukelow) was the beloved wife of John and sister of the late Alice. She will be sadly missed by her loving husband, brothers Ernie and Bobbie, sister Emily (Freda) Jones, nieces, nephews and many friends.

Val was buried privately on Friday the 3rd of April in Saint Matthew Church yard in Church Cross in her parents' family plot. John continues to reside in Skibbereen Care Centre. As we have commended Val, our sister, to the mercy of our Lord, we pray for Val's family and all those who mourn her loss, that we together might take confidence in the promise of our Lord that we are to "be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Thursday Mornings At Saint Matthias Church on most Thursday Mornings there is a gathering for Holy Communion at 11:00am followed by refreshments at the rectory. This service has grown in popularity in recent months and is a great way to get to know others within the parish and local community. We welcome all people who wish to come and join us in prayer, a time of reflection and a chance for fellowship. It is a wonderful opportunity to either reacquaint yourself or introduce yourself to parish worship. If you would like to come and join us, we look forward to seeing you.

Saint Matthias National School Saint Matthias National School is receiving forms of intention for the next academic year, and already several families have

expressed their intentions to enrol their children for the 2020-2021 school year. Should you be interested in enrolling a child in Saint Matthias National School, please contact the school on, 028 37500.



The Memorial Plaque in Saint Matthew Church, Church Cross, of the late Henry Belcher, Esquire, of Creagh, Co. Cork.

The Memorial Table of Henry Belcher As mediums of remembrance and expressions of heartfelt grief... historical pointers to lives once led...windows into parish life in generations past...the Memorial Tablets that adorn our churches are especially interesting. But, in certain cases also, their appeal in terms of word choice and message composition can be especially fascinating and attractive.

Consider the Tablet placed in St. Matthew's Church, Aughadown that is dedicated to the memory of the late (and somewhat unfortunate) Henry Belcher of Creagh who departed this life on the 21st day of December 1780.

In acquainting us of the events leading to his death, the Tablet's author takes us on a tour through the English language. Thanks to his or her choice of simple words, arranged in quaint yet dramatic sequence, readers are given a wonderful sense of the deceased and of the person that he was as we are transported in time to that single one occurrence that robbed poor Henry of his life.

Erected in 1818 by his nephew and heir, Wm. W. Belcher, in grateful affectionate remembrance of virtues so eminent and alas so transitory, it describes Henry as accomplished, friendly, intelligent, sincere.

Patently a talented and capable person, a public or a private station he was equally qualified to dignify and adorn

May Henry rest in Peace. May the writer of his Memorial Tablet be forever praised. May those who read it be enthralled by the thought that: the expectations of future excellence, which his prime of manhood had so fondly raised, were by a most unfortunate accident in a moment blasted for in the 22nd year of his age he received, from the sudden explosion of a gun which he was charging, a mortal wound.

Service times for the Ballydehob Union

(the types of services listed can be subject to change, so please check the website for updates)

Sunday 10 May 2020; The Fifth Sunday of Easter

St Matthew, Aughadown: Morning Prayer; 10:00am

Saint Matthias, Ballydehob: Holy Communion; 11:30am

Sunday, 17 May 2020; The Sixth Sunday of Easter

St Matthew, Aughadown: Holy Communion; 10:00am

Saint Matthias, Ballydehob: Morning Prayer; 11:30am

Sunday,24 May 2020; The Seventh Sunday of Easter

St Matthew, Aughadown: Morning Prayer; 10:00am
Saint Matthias, Ballydehob: Holy Communion; 11:30am

Sunday 31 May 2020; Pentecost Sunday

St Matthew, Aughadown: Holy Communion; 10:00am
Saint Matthias, Ballydehob: Holy Communion; 11:30am

Sunday 7 June 2020; Trinity Sunday

St Matthew, Aughadown: Holy Communion; 10:00am
Saint Matthias, Ballydehob: Morning Prayer; 11:30am

BANDON UNION (Bandon, Innishannon, Rathclaren, Brinny, Ballinadee)

Rev. Denis MacCarthy 023-8841259

Parish Office (Tuesday & Friday mornings) 023-8841259

Parish Web Page www.bandonunion.ie

Parish email parishoffice@bandonunion.ie

Thank you I hope you all had as good an Easter as was possible under the current circumstances. We would like to thank Bishop Paul for all his support during this period and for the hours and hours of work he put into producing, editing and developing the various liturgical services and prayer services that were up loaded to Diocesan Channel on Youtube and on the Diocesan webpage. A shout of thanks goes out also to my fellow clergy and members of the diocese who produced and broadcast some spiritually up lifting services via the internet in during these trying times.

A Historical Perspective Normally we would give an account at this time about the Easter happenings in our Parish. Things being as they are I decided to check on Easter Celebrations past which took me to 31st of March 1907 and the parish notes of April that year stated - Our Easter Services were very bright and joyous and befitted the great Festival – the Queen of Festivals, as the early Fathers loved to call it. There was a large congregation at Matins and Evensong, and many Communicants at the early and midday Celebrations. Our Choir which has been greatly augmented since Christmas, rendered the music of the services reverently and heartily. At Choral Evensong the Rector and Rev. M.W. Day intoned the office. The latter preached an excellent sermon on the resurrection of Christ. The Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis were sung to a composition of Bruce Streane's. The anthem was tuneful and effective. The bass solo was taken by Mr. H. R. Poole. We greatly missed our Choir Leader, Mrs Cooper, who was absent in England. Our sopranos always sing with great confidence when she is among them. The collections throughout the day were given to the Ballymodan Parish School Fund. Two other interesting things I came across while checking up Easters of the past were firstly on Whit Sunday 19th May 1907, the Lord Bishop of Cork, preached in St. Peter's, Bandon at the 11.30am Service. While at Evensong at 6.15pm in Kilbrogan Church he dedicated a new pulpit to the Revd. B. C. Fawcett. This wooden pulpit is currently at the back of St. Peter's Church, the late Canon Paddy Hewitt in his time as Rector tried very hard to move it on without success. When

Paddy retired he decided to research his family tree and in doing so discovered the Revd. Fawcett was his granduncle. I did offer to send it on to him!

Secondly, last month in the parish notes we offered our sympathy to the family of the late Thomas Gervais Rentoul Brown, whose Funeral Service was held in St. Peter's Church, Bandon on the 12th of March. Thomas' father and grandfather were former Presbyterian Ministers in Bandon. The Parish Notes for March 1907, tells us that the long talked about amalgamation of the Presbyterian School with our Boys School finally took place. Our notes go on to say that on Monday the 11th February 1907, Rev. Thomas Browne, M.A. , Presbyterian Pastor Loci, accompanied by Mr. McKibbin, Presbyterian Teacher, arrived at our Boys school on Cavendish Quay, bringing all their pupils with them. They were received by our Rector and Curate, and cordially welcomed. After making satisfactory arrangements for religious instruction, an excellent photograph of the whole school, including Manager and Teachers, was taken by Rev. Thomas Browne. There are now three excellent teachers on the staff of our Boys School, viz, Mr. Buttimer B.A., Principal, who instructs Senior Classes. Mr. McKibbin, Senior Assistant, who has charge of middle classes; and Miss Edith Aiken, Junior Assistant, who is over the Juniors. There are over seventy boys on the roll. The extra subjects taught are Latin, Greek, French, Drawing, Euclid, Algebra, Trigonometry, Experimental Science, Mensuration (measurement of length, area, or volume). An excellent education is imparted. The school is well furnished with requisites, including all the apparatus for laboratory work. Now, I understand why my Professor of Scripture, Killarney John, maintained that the last of the Greek and Roman civilisation settled in Cork and Kerry!

Go safe and we see you all again next month, when please God I will have something more up to date to report on.

CARRIGALINE UNION (Carrigaline and Monkstown)

Canon Elaine Murray

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Canon Elaine writes ... These are very difficult Parish Notes to complete as I am writing this on Holy Saturday 11th April, not knowing what if anything will be happening in the Parish in June never mind May! The latest news is that we will



have this lockdown now until at least May 5th. The Confirmation Service, Easter Vestry, the Parish Fete and the Summer BBQ have now all been postponed until later in the year. The Select Vestry continues in its present form until the Easter Vestry can take place and thank you to all of

them for agreeing to keep going in their roles. Thank you to all the children who worked on the activity sheets at home over Easter (and sent in lovely photos - see below).

Keep sending in photos of what you are doing at home during this time. As I mentioned in a Pew Sheet email, Brenda Haubold had the lovely idea of putting together a book of what the parish got up to during the lockdown which we might even publish as a much needed parish fundraiser! Until we meet up in person again, God bless us all.

Youth & Children's Ministry Leaders write ... to all our youth and Sunday clubbers. Just a quick message from your leaders and Sunday Club teachers. We are all missing you very much and are hoping you are keeping safe, well and busy at this time. It is a strange and unusual time for everybody. This will pass soon and we all be back together again to have fun and enjoyment through our ministry. Keep safe and sending prayers to you all. (From Tracey, Rachel, Peter and Brenda).

The Honorary Treasurer writes ... These are the strangest of times where we find ourselves catapulted into the unfamiliar lifestyles and much is uncertain. One of the certain things at this time, however, is that the Diocese of Cork Cloyne and Ross under the guidance of our Bishop Paul and his faithful band of clergy-people we are all still the Church. Canon Elaine has been diligently keeping contact with parishioners in a number of ways and has been successfully reaching us in our homes each Sunday by live streaming the 11.00am Service to our home via modern technology. This reaffirms that the Church is still open for business and we are all grateful for that.

Of course to keep us open for business we need to continue to pay our bills which include the next instalment of our Fair Share contribution due at the end of May. Because we have virtual services, we of course do not have the benefit of a weekly collection including plate and envelope giving. It would be great, if you are a regular giver by either of these ways, to forward your envelope/contribution directly to me or to Canon Elaine via the post or alternatively to the Parish account – details of which are included in the weekly Pew Sheet. This will ensure we can continue to meet our outgoings during these strange times.

I know that by working together we can rise to the challenges facing us all here in Carrigaline Union and the entire Church and remember these strange times will end. I hope that by the time you are reading this the 'lockdown measures' which were extended to May 5th can start to be lifted and we can begin to return to more familiar lifestyles and activities. In the meantime, please stay safe and as always thank you for your generosity to the work being done here in Carrigaline. (Helen Arnopp).

Mothers' Union We had a very enjoyable and moving Women's' World Day of Prayer organised by the women of Zimbabwe, on Saturday 7th March at 10.00a.m.

in the R.C. Parish Centre. One lady who came was from Zimbabwe herself and this was special for us since she read from the service booklet and told us that her friend in Zimbabwe had helped to put that together for all M.U. members around the world. She and her husband also brought a flag and other special items to show us more about the people and customs there. We were given a lovely cuppa and scones and biscuits after the service and it was a great opportunity for those there (20 approximately) to meet others from each community and make or renew friendships. Thanks to all those who participated with the readings and prayers. Sadly due to the Corona Virus we have had to cancel the remaining meetings that were to happen: 3pm Wed. 25th March - Ladies' Day/Bring and Buy sale for the "Make a Mothers' Day" Fund. Also for Sunday 5th April the Famine Lunch couldn't take place since we have no normal Church service these Sundays. Wednesday 22nd. April @ 8p.m. was also cancelled when we were looking forward to learning How Guide Dogs Change our Lives, when a visually impaired person was to come with her guide dog to speak to us.

We had hoped to have a Summer Outing as well at the end of May, but that has been postponed till 2021. I wish you all safe and healthy lives going forward until we meet again we hope, in September. Dates will be confirmed as soon as we are able to make plans again.(Deirdre Whitley).

Monkstown Chamber Choir The Choir had a lot of things planned for March and April. We were all set to sing at the Diocesan St Patrick's Eve service in St Luke's Church, Douglas on 16th March and also our fundraising event in Dorothy



Haubold family Baptism

Roberts' home on 28th. Our usual Choral Evensong in St John's Church, being on the second Sunday of the month, was going to be on Easter Sunday. But the "C" word put a stop to all these. Much more important to stay safe! When we returned to practice in February 2020, the choir set up a WhatsApp group, so that we could all keep in contact and updated with events. As things happened a few weeks later,

this group just blossomed with the daffodils and tulips! We were having daily competitions online to share the best baking; then a favourite choir memory; next a spring scene; all sorts of things. We shared stories about the on-going situation and videos to keep us smiling even though we were apart. There were times when I was sat by the fire and found myself laughing out loud from some of the silly links! We learnt a lot about each other in a way that we could never have imagined before. Instead of Thursday evening practice, I now send the choir two YouTube videos of hymns for the following Sunday to sing along to. Like many other groups and parishes in the Diocese, we stay connected in a new way. We know that we will soon be together again, doing what we enjoy. As one of our choristers

commented recently..."When this is all over, we will never take anything for granted ever again". Wise words. (Roger Ellis, Choirmaster).

Green Matters We had a very positive response to our offer of Oak Saplings, the majority of which have been planted in the Carrigaline area. Thank you to all involved in the parish and the wider community of Carrigaline. The importance of tree planting cannot be overemphasised. (Valerie Andrew).

If you have any items on any aspect of our parish life that you would like included in the June Magazine, please email them to the rector (emitincork@gmail.com) before the 7th May please.

CARRIGROHANE UNION (Carrigrohane, Blarney, Inniscarra)

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Youth Workers: Matt and Katie Gould

From Dry Bones to Resurrection Life! Instead of growing, waiting. Instead of community, separation. Is that life without Christ or is that COVID-19? Before Good Friday 1992, I can now say that by comparison life was sterile and like Ezekiel's dry bones. God took the dry bones of my earlier life, the aridity and waiting of my life without Him, social distancing on a life scale, and started to show me what it could be.

The utter sorrow at my self-centredness and the sense of His overwhelming love is with me still, the beginning of new creation. Then, through an Alpha course and a thorough infilling of the Spirit, His life became enfleshed in me, the new creation called out of waiting, to walk, talk, worship God and reach out beyond myself. God's prophetic word became my personal experience:

This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: 'I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.' (Ezekiel 37:5,6)

In a like way, Covid-19 has forced many of us into waiting. Perhaps you, like me, feel like dry bones waiting for the call to live again. However, we know that in Christ a glorious hope and future awaits us the other side of Easter, literally and figuratively. A resurrected life comes, offering the assurance of closer relationships, joy filled opportunities, face to face community and growth. *'Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning'*. (Ps 30:5b)

Bill Lane, April 2020 (Team leader for The Carraig Centre Project)

Adjusting to the new normal Bill's story above appeared in our weekly Email update for Easter which is an important tool to keep members informed. It is

especially so at the moment to find God's grace as we adjust to the new normal. The "connectedness" most of us share is a godsend.

Ironically, I recall reading a letter printed in one of the Sunday newspapers as the impact of Covid 19 began to affect all our lives. The writer was saying how she had become very disillusioned with life, politics, negativity on social media etc, but because of what she was hearing about the care of so many her outlook had changed completely. I wonder how she views social media now!

Social media with other platforms has become a remarkable tool for good. It is hard to imagine otherwise how we would have stayed connected. Not least in Carrigrohane Union thanks to Robert who has steered and produced our online worship to keep a sense of fellowship and worship. Personally, and I am sure Robert would say this, thank you for the encouragement I have received over this time from many. We also have much to be thankful for Bishop Paul's leadership as he guided us clergy with daily on-line briefings about the situation from a local to a national scale. We couldn't have been better resourced for Holy Week and Easter services.

On Easter morning I was preaching at our live service, and I found myself (I hadn't intended to) describing the brokenness of the first disciples after Jesus died. Peter had wept tears of bitterness and yet he went back to the group he had travelled with for three years. There one broken man found 10 others. Peter found acceptance in a fellowship of failure. So it is all more astonishing they became agents of transformation by the resurrected Lord, and full of the Holy Spirit they set about preaching that Jesus was Lord and calling everyone to repent – to change their ways. But in doing so Peter had to face a complete mind and culture shift in the way he saw others. He had to take risks. *

We move forward as His church with all gifts he has given us, be they personal or technological. But ultimately we should never forget that failure is never final. Our very vulnerability is the place where God wants to reach us, to draw us out and take risks for Him. It keeps us humble as we try to connect the hope of Christ crucified and risen to those who will be facing the new reality of post Covid19. For there is no rewinding the clock back to the January 2020. Like Peter there will be significant culture shifts for the better and for the worst. Like Peter God's grace comes to change and to truly find ourselves – this is the new normal. Not simply an adjustment.

Ian J

***Risk**

The greatest risk of all is to risk nothing. The person who risks nothing does nothing, has nothing and is nothing. He may avoid suffering and sorrow, but he cannot learn, he cannot feel, he cannot change, he cannot grow and he cannot love. Chained by his certitudes, he is a slave. Only the person who risks is truly free. (William Arthur Ward)

The Carraig Centre Easter Day was to have seen the first official use of the Carraig Centre. As it happens we are still waiting for the fire cert, so the start would have been stalled. In the meantime we pray that the issues will be dealt with so we can start using the building when we are allowed to gather. Special events which had been planned for May are definitely shelved.

Services For the latest broadcast service and online fellowship in Carrigrohane Union of Parishes please look at the website www.cupcork.ie.

CLOYNE UNION (Midleton, Cloyne, East Ferry, Corkbeg)
Very Rev. Susan Green

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!Alleluia! Christ is risen
He is risen indeed Alleluia!

Welcome to our diocesan magazine for May!

Congratulations to all the team involved in putting this magazine together under such heavy restrictions as we are now experiencing. As we all get used to our temporary way of being, we are glad that this connection will be getting through.

Holy Week and Easter this year were as we have never known them before. Our churches were empty save for a few clergy and organists who live nearby accompanied by a camera. Thank you to all the people who so flexibly took to online liturgy, which is a very different experience that being together in church. Here are a few photos:



For those of you who are not online, well done too for staying in touch with each other by phone.
It's been quite a task to get to grips with online ministry, there have been some

technological hiccups along the way, and my home computer while fine for normal parish use does not really have enough oomph for editing and streaming... Thankfully, my mobile phone has a good camera and that is what has been being used.

Unfortunately, it is hard to plan ahead just now, and all planned and forthcoming events are uncertain, we will just have to wait and see how things go.

For now do please keep in touch, The weekly parish newsletter goes out by email, do sign up for it <https://mailchi.mp/e93f389cba81/cloyne-union>
At the moment all services are on Facebook, at 10.30 on Sundays and remaining on the page afterwards. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/CloyneUnion>.

COBH & GLANMIRE UNION (Cobh, Glanmire, Little Island)

Rev Paul Arbuthnot

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Parish website: www.cobh.cloyne.anglican.org

At time of going to press, public worship is suspended in line with Government Public Health guidelines

At this stage we do not know when public worship will resume again in our churches.

In the meantime, stay in touch with all that's going on in the parish by joining our email list. Email the Rector (paul.arbuthnot@gmail.com) to be added to it.

The parish is also on Facebook, where regular updates about church life are given. Log on and click 'like' on the page to stay in touch.

Our website also is frequently updated with parish news.

When the governmental restrictions are relaxed, and a return to public worship is feasible, news of this return will be given via email, social media, and on the website.

We look forward to returning to the regular pattern of worship as soon as is feasibly possible.

The Rector continues to pray for the needs of the parish, diocese, and wider world through the Daily Offices and celebrations of the Eucharist.



St Mary and All Saint's Church, Glanmire

DOUGLAS UNION WITH FRANKFIELD (St. Luke's, St. Michael's,

Frankfield, Marmullane)

The Ven. Adrian Wilkinson

Rev. Hazel Minion

Parish Office (Friday morning)

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Parish Website:

The Rector Writes... Writing notes for the Diocesan Magazine deadline of the 13th of the month always presents a challenge. I am conscious of the gap between the time of writing, and the time of reading three or four weeks later. This time I sit at my computer on Easter Monday. All the events and activities listed in my diary for May are cancelled or postponed. There is not just a gap, but a yawning chasm between me sitting at my computer to tap out these words, and the time you will eventually get the print copy delivered into your hand via the church distributors. I have no way of knowing what lies ahead for any of us, so I send this contribution into a vacuum.

Despite all the disruption due to COVID-19, pastoral care continues through phone and email contact and the worshipping life of the parish has been maintained through technology to send people liturgy sheets and recorded services. We continue to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and his resurrection in this season of Easter.

Condolences We are very sorry to record the death of a much-loved parishioner, Joan Cassidy on 2 April in the loving care of her family at home. Joan was widely known and involved in so many aspects of parish life and worship. Had her death

occurred at any other time, St Luke's Church would have been packed in tribute to her. She was someone of humour, kindness and sincere faith. We pray for her husband Fred, daughters Carol and Susan, grandsons Ben, Luke, Josh and Sam as well as her son-in-law Brendan, sister-in-law, Joan Miller, Edward Mills and her family circle. Due to the government restrictions, a private burial took place in St Luke's Churchyard on 4 April. It is hoped that when permitted a fitting memorial service will be held.



Laura Welch and Padraig McSweeney on their wedding day

Wedding Celebrations On St Patrick's Day, the Bishop officiated at the wedding of Laura Welch and Podge McSweeney in St. Michael's Church, Blackrock. The rector assisted at the intimate and beautiful ceremony in the presence of immediate family members and a few guests. Laura teaches at St Michael's School in Blackrock. While the pupils and staff could not

be present on the day, they look forward to giving Laura a great welcome back when the school reopens, and the current restrictions are lifted.

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Cox's Hall Bookings Hilda Deane 023-8845959
Liz Patterson 023-8855612
Newsletter & Diocesan Magazine Notes Carol Ross 086-0853062
Email: fanlobbus@gmail.com
Lay Reader: Sam Jennings 023-8845470
Website: www.fanlobbus.ie

What a difference a month can make. Last month we were going about our usual church services and parish activities, and now they are all stopped as we are cocooned in our homes because of the Coronavirus. We have had to re-imagine church, parish and community life so that can function in these changed and challenging circumstances.

Keeping in Touch We have been doing all that we can to keep in touch with our parishioners. Phone calls, text messages, Facebook and a mailing with an Easter cards and a revised newsletter sent out with palm crosses in Holy week. Our main effort has gone into developing an Online format for worship on Sundays. We took what we were already doing in our all-age service and translated that to be accessible for the church and wider community. We really wanted our services to bring the sense of community into people's homes. Our services are accessible by anyone who has an internet connection and can also be accessed by ordinary telephone call for those who are not online. Involvement through participation with video conferencing as well as inviting parishioners to email in photos all help the parish to see what each other are doing while they are staying apart has helped foster a sense of belonging together.

Thanks We would like to thank Bishop Paul has given us energetic and encouraging leadership, with clear guidance and instruction during this time of disruption. After an initial period of disorientation with many of our usual activities cancelled, this crisis has fostered great creativity in our diocese. We have had some fantastic resources generated, including stations of the cross by Rev. Anne Skuse, a service of Tenebrae by Canon Paul Willoughby, Liturgies for Holy week and Bishop Paul's Chrism Eucharist and Passion Reading by members of the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Clergy. It makes you wonder that when we are too busy, the opportunity to use our imagination can be suppressed and we do not take the opportunity to learn and try new approaches.

Events On-line In Fanlobbus we have tried a few other events on-line. Our Youth Group have met twice, first to play Pictionary and the second time to have a YouTube evening, where the young people emailed their favourite YouTube clips,



Susan Salter who did a cookery demonstration for our Parent and Toddler Group online

which were played at random and the young people had to guess which video clip was the choice of which member. We have also tried to hold our Parent and Toddler Group online, with only a small group participating in a time to chat with a bible story, prayer and songs ... hopefully this will pick up in the weeks ahead. The second week of Toddler Group, one of our leaders did a cookery demonstration from her home, which was very well received.

Also, our online service is being (re)broadcast by West Cork FM at 6pm every Sunday. West Cork FM is a digital radio service, availability on the internet <https://westcorkfm.ie/>



Fanlobbus Youth Group playing Pictionary online

Sympathy We express our sympathy to the family of Rebecca Beamish from Ballyhalwick in Dunmanway who passed away in Fairfield Nursing Home in Drimoleague on the 29th of March. Her funeral was the first funeral that was conducted in our area under the new guidelines. Not being able to have their extended family and friends supporting them was difficult for her family. Rebecca was a gentle lady, who loved family and farm life, was committed to her church and had great skills in baking and jam making. On the recommendation of a clerical colleague, we offered to video the funeral and give it privately to the family so that it could be sent on to family and friends who could not attend under the new restrictions. We remember her children, Tom, John, Valerie Deane and Jennifer Calnan and their families as they come to terms with their loss.

FERMOY UNION (Fermoy, Ballyhooley, Glenville, Knockmourne, Mitchelstown)
Rev. Gary Paulsen 025-310616
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I do not want to talk about the terrible and unusual time we live in as so many will probably remind you of this but can only encourage you to stay at home and enjoy your space and place. Many people always live in isolation and often never speak to anyone for days and sometimes weeks. This time of isolation brings into our consciousness and does makes us all the more aware of some of our number for whom isolation and silence is the norm. It is the way they live each day. In our business we can forget about the lonely or aged. So maybe beyond this time we

in the future will be aware of those who are alone and make the effort to change their situation.

Many people are dying and will die during this time of the virus. St Benedict in his rule tells us to hold death ever before us as our reality. He says this so that we are also aware that this state of life is not permanent but temporary. Knowing this as a fact that once we are born we will die as part of our circle of life. Sometimes people live a long life but without any quality of existence or even oblivious of reality especially in this time of electronic pollution. We should enjoy each and every moment that we do have so that when death arrives at our door we will welcome it because we have lived life to the full.

We all have such an opportunity not to feel rushed but to pause and take it all in. To feel and experience life to its full without the thought of the next thing to do and experience moment by each beautiful moment. It is said when people know they going to die or told that they have only a few more weeks to live they appreciate every moment of life. This time in isolation is a wonderful time given us to be with ourselves and discover truly who we are and who we have been created to be. So use this time well and enjoy it for what it is and don't wish it away. Life is a wonderful gift given to us and we should not be anxious about what will happen but live as people of hope and faith.

Jesus died but overcame death. The opposite of faith is not unbelief but anxiousness. Don't be anxious about life or even death,....Jesus reminds us when he says in Matthew 6.. look at the birds of the air they do not worry they are not anxious but they trust...there is always Resurrection and that is what we are reminded of this Easter..We are never isolated but we are where God is....

I read this poem and share it with you; it is written by Mary Oliver

When death comes
like the hungry bear in autumn;
when death comes and takes all the bright coins from his purse
to buy me, and snaps the purse shut;
when death comes
like the measles-pox
when death comes
like an iceberg between the shoulder blades,
I want to step through the door full of curiosity, wondering:
what is it going to be like, that cottage of darkness?
And therefore I look upon everything
as a brotherhood and a sisterhood,
and I look upon time as no more than an idea,
and I consider eternity as another possibility,
and I think of each life as a flower, as common
as a field daisy, and as singular,
and each name a comfortable music in the mouth,

tending, as all music does, toward silence,
and each body a lion of courage, and something
precious to the earth.

When it's over, I want to say all my life
I was a bride married to amazement.
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.
When it's over, I don't want to wonder
if I have made of my life something particular, and real.
I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,
or full of argument.
I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.
--Mary Oliver

KILGARRIFFE UNION (Clonakilty, Courtmacsherry, Timoleague, Kilmalooda)
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Lay Pastoral Assistant: Sylvia Helen 086-3230805
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Website: www.kilgarriffe.ross.anglican.org
Facebook: Kilgarriffe Union of Parishes

New Arrival Many congratulations to Ian and Sorcha Buttimer (of Knockskeagh) on the arrival of baby Thea on the 17th February. Thea will be a lovely friend for her sister, Willow.

Timoleague Restoration Project Leaking roof, slipping slates, wet walls and damp floors have all necessitated a major restoration project to be started on the Church of Ascension, Timoleague. A professional Conservation Report has been drawn up, prioritising the works that need to be carried out along with an estimation of the costs involved. As hopefully many of you are aware, the inside of this special little Church is unique. All the walls are covered in entirety with fine intricate mosaics, and it has many beautiful stained-glass windows too. Unfortunately, because of the roof being in such bad repair and the walls allowing water ingress, the mosaics and the windows have now reached a critical stage. In order to preserve this special building for future generations a small group has been set up in Timoleague Parish to get this project moving and help begin to raise the €400,000 that will be required. Log onto timoleaguemosaics.ie to see all the details of the project. There is a donate button which will direct people to a "Go Fund Me" page. It is hoped that people will feel the need to preserve what is a beautiful building and will spread the word widely about the project, encouraging as many as possible to donate generously. If everyone gives a little, it will help a lot. Thank you.

Bereavements There have been quite a number of bereavements amongst our parishioners over these last months. Frank Appelbe (Carrigroe), brother to Albert Appelbe and Gladys Kingston, died in Clonakilty Community Hospital on 2nd March. Kathleen Teape (Rathrout, Ballinadee), the mother of Beryl Abbott

passed away on the 5th March. Hessie Buttimer (Enniskeane), sister of the late Eleanor Buttimer (Timoleague) and aunt of Young Deane passed away on the 5th March. Gladys Shorten (Bealad) and resident of Clonakilty Community Hospital for many years away passed on 7th March. Gladys Kingston (Garrendruig, Kilbrittain), sister to Frank and Albert above, and mother of our church warden at Kilmalooda Gordon Kingston, passed on from Clonakilty Community Hospital on 9th March. It is never easy to see a loved one pass away, no matter if we are expecting it or not, a big void is left behind. We pray that God will help to fill that emptiness with his love. Our faith in God is the connection with our loved ones from which we will never be separated.

Kilgarriffe National School Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the Bingo for Kilgarriffe National School on Sunday 8th March such a great success. It's hard to believe we got this fundraiser in before the country started to lock down. We never managed to squeeze so many people into the hall on that occasion - it became a full house of fun and entertainment. Lily Stanley was as steady as a rock in calling out the numbers clearly and consistently. The break after seven games gave us a chance to replenish our thirst for more, plus a chance sell the raffle tickets. A huge thanks to all our sponsors and especially to the local businesses in Clonakilty. The final games resumed and after the raffle was concluded the grand final game of bingo was held. As the game was reaching its climax, the buzz of concentration and the increasing longing for the calling out of that last number to fill the panel - all came to a sudden end when Jim O'Driscoll down the back of the hall shouted 'check' and the €75 prize had been won! Well done Jim! A super afternoon and over €1800 was raised- and just in time before the Covid-19 restrictions came in five days later.

Confirmation Preparation Thankfully the Confirmation Retreat in the Carhue centre and the Bishop's Confirmation Morning in Douglas were not cancelled by the Coronavirus and went ahead as planned on Friday 6th and Sat 7th March. All eleven of our candidates engaged with the full weekend of activities and all reports back so far say that they thoroughly enjoyed it. It was great to gather with all the other candidates of the diocese and realise that they are all part of something that is much bigger than just the local church. They are being prepared to confirm their faith in God in the church universal. This really helps to secure our faith to something that is much bigger than ourselves. In this time of global pandemic, it is very important to rest secure in the fact that God is still bigger and better than anything that can happen. That's the sort of faith that brings Confirmation to life. As we await to hear from Bishop Paul as to when the Confirmation service can be held, please do keep our candidates in your prayers: Alison Brennan, Conor Creswell, Nicolas Deane, William Kingston, Colm and Lucy Kirby, Emmet and Justin Lucas, Zoe McLnerney, Emily Nunan, Sinead O'Mahony and Jonah Sutton.

Services for May Please keep up to date through our website www.clonakiltychurch.ie to know when our services can resume again. Every week since the lockdown, the Suttons as a family have recorded a podcast in Kilgarriffe church that is up online for everyone with access from late on Saturday night

through the website. The full texts of the services are also published on the church website. Links to the relevant pages can also be found on our Facebook page: *Kilgarriffe Union of Parishes*.

Do keep safe and well throughout this lockdown period and stay at home - for your own sake and for the sake of the lives of others.

KILMOCOMOGUE UNION (St. Brendan the Navigator, Bantry, St. James, Durrus, St. Peter, Castletownbere)
Canon Paul Willoughby 027 61011 Mobile: 086-8233399
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Diocesan Lay Reader: Mrs. Sandra Dukelow
Parish Lay Pastoral Assistant: Mrs Dorothy Beamish
Diocesan Magazine: Bantry - Mrs. Frances Jennings, Durrus - Jim Pyburn
Parish Website: www.kilmocomogue.info

Service Details

Every Sunday

St. Brendan’s Church, Bantry	8.15am	To be announced
St. Brendan’s Church, Bantry	10am	To be announced
St. James Church, Durrus	11.45am	To be announced

Telling the Good News I have almost abandoned reading the newspapers because every story appears to be about Coronavirus and the ‘enormous’ impact it is having and will have on our society! It’s as if each story is determined to outdo the other in building up the negativity. The best advice seems to be to avoid reading the news!

We have always spoken about finding ‘news ways of being the church’! Now it has been thrust upon us, rapidly. In this diocese there has been a great response. Most of the parishes have responded in ingenious ways to present worship and to keep the parishes connected. It has been a delight and a joy to participate. As is the case with the printed media being out of date as soon as it is printed, so too the church has had to respond very quickly in new ways in order to keep in touch. We are not going to revert, either, when this is all over. Having walked the pilgrimage of Lent and the Stations of the Cross in Holy Week, we are now celebrating the glorious Paschal mystery. Given the restrictions in place because of Covid 19 we have had to discover new ways to sing our Easter Song.

What one practical thing can we do? The most important thing we can do is to ensure that we and everyone is connected to the internet so that news, information, services and bulletins can all be accessed immediately. It is no longer a luxury but, as has been proved in this pandemic, it is an utter necessity.

Wonderful Heroes A huge ‘shout out’ to all the wonderful heroes of the HSE whose sacrificial acts of love deeply resonate with us. Also, our thoughts and prayers are for those who cannot physically be with their families at this time and to those who are



Bandon Grammar School is a Church of Ireland managed school with its own chapel, chaplain and liturgical programme working in a spirit of inclusion.

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Closing date for 2021 applications is 1st October 2020



Website: www.bandongrammar.ie

Email: office@bgsmail.ie

Phone: 023-8841713

Twitter: @bandongrammar 

**Check website for Application Forms
before 1st October 2020**

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PLEASE TELEPHONE US AND WE SHALL MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS.

Diocesan Magazine by Email

The Diocesan Magazine is available in an electronic edition. The pdf format, identical to the printed version, is sent each month to the emails of those who subscribe to this format.

Annual subscriptions for the electronic edition is **€20 per year**. To register and for payment details, please contact **ccrmagsubs@gmail.com**

This format may be of particular interest to those who no longer live in Ireland, but who may wish to keep in touch with news from the diocese.

ASHTON

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Principal:
Mr. Adrian Landen, B.Sc.H.D.E.

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Closing Date for First Year Applications: 30th September each year

studying for their Leaving Certificate. We remember and pray for all those who have died in faith. With them we are one in Christ for ever. This year is very different, and yet no different. Christ is Risen. Alleluia. Everything has changed forever. Alleluia.

The best of us

Do you have the 'best of Us'
I asked
I was looking for it and it's not
on the shelf.
It's an old one, that, the man said,
but
they are releasing it again with
new songs.
It's supposed to be
even better!

(PMW)

YouTube You will find our parish YouTube channel by searching for Kilmocomogue Union of Parishes

KILMOE UNION (Schull, Altar, Crookhaven)

Vacant

Rev. Paul Willoughby (In charge)

027 61011

Website: www.kilmoeunion.com

Diocesan Reader: Brian Studdert

Common Cause We are living in times and circumstances beyond our wildest imaginings. Global catastrophes and pandemics surely belong to the pages of the history books? In the midst all our personal worry, uncertainty and anxiety we can take comfort that humanity, instead of seeking to go to war to resolve conflicts, has come together in common cause. Globally and locally we are seeing acts of great kindness and generosity from neighbour to neighbour. While it is awful to think that it has taken such a dreadful global pandemic to bring about such changes it is encouraging and even heartening to see the changes. In our own community we cannot fail to be moved by the creative and imaginative responses of so many people to help others.

For the disciples the first Easter morning was not joyful occasion. It was the end out the world for each of them. Their friend had been crucified, and they were making there way back to their homes and their former lives as broken and shattered individuals. The realisation for them that Christ was risen came later. It was not an immediate thing. It was, if you like, a slow dawning of a new reality! They were confused and uncertain, hardly the great Christian leaders that we know of in the new Testament and in the early days of the church. Rather, they became those people through the love grace and mercy of the Father in heaven.

Hope While there are many reasons to be filled with despair there are also very

many other reasons to be cheerful. As we move forward together as God's people in these challenging times I encourage you with all my heart to seek out signs of hope in the current darkness. My colleague, Paul Robinson in Shandon, has used the expression 'knock holes in the darkness'. By staying at home and observing the national guidelines we are doing exactly that. We believe that Easter was the supreme action by God of 'knocking holes in the darkness' by raising his son from the dead to new life.

With every blessing to you all
Paul

KINNEIGH UNION (Desertserges, Farranthomas, Kinneigh, Kilmeen)
Rev. Cliff Jeffers (in charge) Mobile 087 2390849
Email: rector@fanlobbus.ie
Union Secretary: Colin Draper Email: colin1269@hotmail.com

Present arrangements will continue until we are notified that normal services can resume.

Desertserges National School During the March and April blogs we have included over 100+ activities for all children at home. Activities for inside and outside, both individually and as a family. These also included learning about other countries and other decades; fun things to do whilst at home. Please check our blog www.desertsergesns.com

A vary big thank you to everybody that has been involved in arranging all the services within the Diocese using various types of media, particularly covering Holy Week.

Our grateful thanks to the Rev Cliff Jeffers and his team for all their work in preparing and broadcasting the Sunday services to all in the union and beyond. It has been enlightening and a great comfort to everybody; especially to those who are unable to venture from their homes at this time.

KINSALE UNION (Kinsale, Ballymartle, Templetrine)
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No notes this month

MALLOW UNION (Mallow, Castletownroche, Doneraile)

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Reader: Mr Emmanuel Adebisi

Pastoral Care: Rev. Tony Murphy

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Facebook: Mallow Union of Parishes Twitter: @MallowUnion

Thank You Thanks especially to our Bishop Paul for his leadership at this very difficult time for his services from the Palace and all that he is doing. Also to Canon Alan Marley and Rev Tony Murphy for all they are doing for Mallow parish at the present time. Thanks for the phone calls, emails, and services being sent out to all our parishioners. And giving us updates of services that are on TV, radio and online.

Easter It is very unusual for everyone not to be celebrating Easter in the normal way and with family and friends. A lot of churches across the dioceses (including some of ours) where possible were putting on the lights within churches from Easter Eve until Easter Day. In this way it would act as a sign and witness to the wider communities, in which each church is located, that the light of Christ has dawned within the darkness of the world.

Sympathy Many of you will have heard the sad news of the death of **John Coulter**. John passed away, peacefully at home on Sunday 22nd March. He was a great servant to the Church, to which he devoted so much time, care and attention. Sadly, because of the health restrictions due to the Covid-19 virus, the funeral, held in St James on Wednesday 25th, had to be a small private service. When all of the restrictions are removed we will hold a memorial service to fully celebrate John's life and to give thanks for his contribution to the Church and local community. In the meantime we remember his sisters Margaret and Susan, and all his wider family, in-laws, nephews, nieces, and hold them very much in our prayers at this time. *May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen*

MOVIDDY UNION (Kilbonane, Templemartin, Kilmurry)

Rev David Bowles

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MoviddyUnion/>

Please note below Sunday Services for May (Restrictions permitting!);

10th May The Fifth Sunday of Easter

St Andrew's Church, Kilmurry

9.45am

Morning Prayer

St Mark's Church, Kilbonane

11.30am

Holy Communion

17th May The Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday)
St. Martin's Church, Templemartin 9.45am Holy Communion
St. Andrew's Church, Kilmurry 11.30am Morning Prayer

24th May The Seventh Sunday of Easter
St Martin's Church, Templemartin 9.45am Holy Communion
St Mark's Church, Kilbonane 11.30am Morning Prayer

31st May The Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)
St Martin's Church, Templemartin 11.00am Service of the Word

A Sense of Community These are strange times. I have put the dates above for services in May without knowing whether it will be possible to hold these services or not. At time of publication we may have a better idea, we can but hope and pray! All the things that we had planned to do in the parish have had to be cancelled. Times have changed considerably but what has struck me considerably is the sense of community that has emerged. The sense of a people together, sharing love and support, especially with those in need, those lonely and isolated, ensuring that everyone is looked after. When the chips are down, it shows us what we are really about as a Christian people.

Technology There have been all sorts of services taking place across the diocese, some on Facebook or YouTube or Zoom. Some service sheets sent by email. I have been blessed to be able to join with Reverend Cliff Jeffers in Fanlobbus Union with Kinneigh Union and to share in his impressive gifts and I am very grateful for that.

No matter how things are, please know that I will continue to support and pray for you at this time. In the meantime, stay safe across the diocese and we pray that we will be back to normal as soon as we can be.

Yours in Christ,
David

ROSS UNION (Rosscarbery, Leap, Union Hall, Castleventry, Glandore)
Very Rev. C. L. Peters 023-8848166
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Facebook: Ross Union of Parishes

*'God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.'* Psalm 46: 1

New Ways When the notes for April were being put together notice of proposed events, including Holy Week and Easter carried the proviso that it depended on the progress of Coronavirus. Well, the last service in our churches was on March 15th and since then, with much needed restrictions being put in place, all have been cancelled, including our Holy Week and Easter services, Easter Vestry,

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Easter Sunday Service on Fountainstown Beach - see Templebreedy Union notes

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Dean Susan Green on Palm Sunday



Rev Cliff Jeffers Rev. Cliff Jeffers packing up envelopes for the parishioners of Fanlobbus Union for Holy Week and Easter

Confirmation, General Synod etc. etc. The point has been made repeatedly that the work of the Church continues. We have had to work at new ways to keep connection with, and to care for, one another, and to maintain the lifeblood of the church which is worship and prayer. We have been given a great lead in doing so by the Bishop who has worked tirelessly to support the clergy and all who minister while at the same time reaching out to the whole diocese and beyond. To mention just one example among many, the Chrism Eucharist (which usually we have the privilege of hosting in Ross) was recorded from the Palace Chapel and was a great inspiration to us all.

Connectedness One interesting result of being restricted to one's home and relying on technology has been that I have felt far more connected to my colleagues than usual. This has been a blessing and sharing together in Morning Prayer via Zoom has been an encouragement and genuine expression of collegiality.

Pastoral Work Carrying on Pastoral work by phone, while no substitute for actual visiting, has proved an interesting experience and has resulted in many conversations I would otherwise possibly not have had. Hopefully the daily prayer sheets have also encouraged us in our fellowship of prayer.

All this is against a backdrop of this dreadful virus and the suffering it has caused right around the world. The like of this is something none of us has experienced before and perhaps it has shaken us out of the complacency that assumes everything will just keep going along fine. Much of life after Coronavirus will take a long time to return to normal and there is much that will not return to the normal we knew before Coronavirus. In these unsettling times I can't help but feel the verse I chose for this year has turned out to be particularly apt. It is at the top of these notes.

My Prayer So my prayer for all of us is that we would know God to be our refuge and strength and that through it all we might grow in faith and devotion to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and that we would know the comfort, help and strength of the Holy Spirit.

Practical matters of how we get organised again will no doubt fall into place. Extraordinary times require extraordinary means and a good deal of flexibility. Sometime all those postponed events will happen – our young people will be confirmed, Canon Murray will be installed to her prebendal stall in the Cathedral, we will elect a Select Vestry, we might even miss the now General Synod. But please God, we will not forget the lessons of this present time or imagine that we can simply go back to what we were and to what we did.

Thanks are due to Hilda Connolly who has been busy keeping in touch with young people and exercising her wonderful ministry of getting alongside them.

Our prayers are with those who are ill, those who have experienced hardship, those who have lost loved ones at this time and, of course, with that inspirational army of health workers who continue to care for the sick.

ST. ANNE'S UNION (SHANDON)

Rev Paul Robinson

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085-2687009

Rev Paula Geary (Assistant Priest)

Email : paul.robinson@stanneshandon.ie

An Easter Message From Paul

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

'Knocking Holes in the Darkness'

This has been a bit of a theme of mine since the 22nd March - the first Sunday of the 'lockdown'. It came from this:-

When Robert Louis Stevenson was a young child, he was sick much of the time. He couldn't go out and play like the other children so he spent a lot of time watching at the window. One evening he sat and watched as a man came down the street lighting the gas lamps. His nurse said to him, "What are you doing?" "I'm watching the man knock holes in the darkness," he replied.

For us, as Christians we believe that Jesus was and is, the One, who knocked holes in the darkness. He is the Light of the World who stepped down in darkness, to bring His light and love.

Like many, if not all of us, I am struggling just now. Whilst I am someone who values my time on my own, and re-charge my batteries in that way. I really prefer to be out there, sharing my day to day existence with other people. I don't know about you, and some of you may be pleased, but, for me, having to physically distance from everyone is hard - I like a cuddle, I like a hug, I like to shake hands, I like a re-assuring hand on the shoulder, touch is very important for me personally, as well as in ministry. In one of the English Common Worship Eucharistic Prayers - prayer D it says this:

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.

With signs of faith and words of hope

he touched the untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

What amazing words. This was Jesus, he came with signs of faith - so that we might believe, he gave - and he still gives words of hope so that we may be encouraged and inspired - he touched people with love - so that we might share that love with others - he freed us from our sin - so that we might free others with love. He came to be our light - to shine on us and through us and to enable us to be people of light. His love is like a mother's love, unconditional, live-giving, overflowing.

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Being a Christian, is about being a witness to this, demonstrating God's love in His world, being a beacon of light and a sign of hope.

In these days we need to reach out to others, because we are light, we live in the light and love of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song. We are light in a pretty dark Ireland just now - we are, or can be the light of love. As Christians we can play our positive part in all that is going on, supporting our health teams, our government workers, our suppliers and all who are pulling together, all who are doing the right thing. As Christians we can, within the safe limits, help our neighbours, do good for those who are in need. We should set the good example and as St Paul says

'Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness'.

In these days the role of the Christian is to show light and love and mercy, as we continue in this Easter season. It is up to us to 'Knock Holes in the Darkness' and share the light of His love, whose resurrection from the dead brought life, hope and light.

So as we continue to celebrate Easter, the great story of joy and hope, let us make our prayer and praise for the risen Saviour something that is alive and sincere. So that others who know what Easter is about may come to believe and that we all may be strengthened in the faith of a God who loves us.

May God bless you all as you witness to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

In Christian friendship

Paul

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Very Rev. Nigel Dunne (Dean & Incumbent)

Rev. Ted Ardis

Lay Pastoral Assistant Mr Howard Dunne

St Fin Barre's Cathedral

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E-mail: cathedral@cork.anglican.org

Website www.cathedral.cork.anglican.org

Sunday Service Times

8.00a.m. The Eucharist (said)

11.15 a.m. Choral Eucharist

3.30 p.m. Choral Evensong

Weekday Services

10.00a.m. Morning Prayer Monday - Saturday

12.00p.m. The Eucharist Monday - Saturday*

5.15p.m. Evening Prayer Monday - Thursday

6.15p.m.

Choral Evensong

Friday (during choir term time,
September - June inclusive)

** The Midday Eucharist on the second Saturday of each month is celebrated in Irish.*

Opening Days and Times for Visitors in April The Cathedral will remain closed until further notice, until at least 6th May by which time further government advice will have been issued.

Choristers Continue Practicing ... Online! As soon as the Cathedral had to stop singing by the choristers in early March the boys engaged with the first of a series of online experiments. A recording of the organ accompaniment was circulated to choristers' homes and each one sang and recorded their part at home. They were then put into sequence with the accompaniment. The video of the boys singing the Stanford in B flat *Magnificat* is available on our YouTube channel and has had over 18,500 views on Facebook alone. It also featured on the Six-One News on RTE.

On the back of that experiment, the music department is continuing to make full use of online meeting facilities. Although there are no services to rehearse for and no end to the restrictions in sight, Director of Music Peter Stobart has decided to keep going.

An email was sent out to each young singer's parents with the sheet music for a previously unknown song, and with a recording of the same song made by Peter and Assistant Director of Music, Robbie Carroll. Over 40 songs were selected and recorded in order that each Chorister had something to challenge them, but also something manageable according to their age and experience at the same time. The challenge is for all the choristers to learn the song and to perform it at a concert in the Cathedral whenever the current restrictions are lifted.

A concert of Handel's Messiah had always been planned for December as part of the Cathedral's 150th anniversary celebrations, so this seemed like a good opportunity to get ahead with the learning process. Whilst ensemble singing was never going to work online, Peter decided that simple note learning was fully possible. He said, 'I'm confident that by Christmas we will be back to normal, so Christmas is what we have started rehearsing for! I sit at the piano and sing along to my playing. The choristers can then join in with me in their own homes. I send them the music in advance so that they can read the notes at the same time. The children seem to be enjoying the new experience and are hopefully taking something away from it too. We won't know if it has worked until we all come back together and see how much they have really learnt.'

Assistant Director of Music, Robbie Carroll, who is also involved in the online practices commented: 'Despite the challenges of trying to get up to 20 different people with 20 different devices, and 20 different internet speeds to sing

simultaneously, we're doing this try to try and keep as much normality as possible for the kids, in these challenging times. So far they've really enjoyed it - as well as the benefit of still being able to learn new music (albeit not in the 'traditional' way), we've also been able to have some fun. We set aside five minutes at the end of one recent girls' rehearsal for them all to compare pets on-screen (the boys didn't seem so interested!).

'Post-Covid-19' Events As referred to above, the Choir will be holding a 'post-corona' or 'post-Covid-19' concert in the Cathedral.

We are already getting numerous requests to hold some kind of service of memory and thanksgiving once all restrictions on gatherings have been lifted. Some have asked for an opportunity to remember those who died from the virus and others have asked for a service to thank all those who have been working at the 'coalface' in our health and other public and voluntary services. This we will do as soon as it is safe to do so and see it as being an important part of the process of recovering spiritually and mentally alongside the very necessary expression of thanks to all those who will get us to that point.

Worship and Service - From Passiontide to Easter - From Affliction to Hope

The Dean reflects ...

Here at the Cathedral there are at least two key things that shape our life and witness: the provision of the highest possible standard of Anglican worship and being a place of outreach and welcome for all in the city and beyond.

With these in mind during these extraordinary and difficult times we have been doing our best to provide services online that give spiritual support and a message of reassurance to the whole community.



Our focus for Passiontide and Holy Week was on the Christ who knows what it is to experience frustration, suffering, and grief and therefore the one we call (particularly at Christmas) 'Emmanuel' - God with us. This God is not remote, far away, looking in from 'way out there'. This God is the God of Incarnation who draws alongside us most especially at times such as this.

Palm crosses mark the beginning of Holy Week at the Cathedral

The natural focus from that starting-point for the Christian shifts to the message of hope, the message of Easter. We ought to celebrate the wonderful acts of service which has come to the fore in recent weeks - our healthcare workers

at the coalface of the epidemic, those who are delivering food and medicine to the housebound, those who keep us safe, those working in retail ... to mention but a few ... all those who are practical purveyors of hope in so many ways.

This crisis will end, and I like to think that we will come out the other side having rediscovered some of the great strengths of our society that sometimes get pushed into the background - community, neighbourliness, connectivity, service, compassion ... reminding us that we are so much more than the economy. This will end, and despite the suffering of many (Passiontide and Holy Week) there will be much to give thanks for and reflect on for the betterment of our society, local and global. This will end - there will once again be hope and joy (Easter).

Worship in May As long as the current restrictions apply, Cathedral services will be uploaded/live-streamed on our YouTube channel:<http://www.youtube.com/c/SaintFinBarresCathedral>

Orders of service will be available on our website: www.corkcathedral.webs.com

All services and recitals will be announced via our website and Facebook and Twitter feeds including any changes to platforms or online addresses. We are very grateful for all the positive feedback we have received in response to our online provision - it has been a steep and time consuming learning curve!

Organ Recitals At the time of writing, it is hoped to continue uploading short pre-recorded Wednesday lunchtime recitals at 1.00pm each week.

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Resurrection

The tomb could hold Him no longer;

Death is strong, but life is stronger.

Stronger than the dark—the light.

Stronger than the wrong—the right.

Faith and hope triumphant say,

“Christ arose on Resurrection Day!”

Source Unknown

Holy Week and Easter This year our Holy Week and Easter Services were very different! I, like many clergy now have ‘YouTube’ channels- who would have thought! Ministry was very creative around the diocese, prayers and services were recorded and as the days went on the addition of other voices sharing in the readings etc. evolved. Recorded services in some parishes allowed us to visit the other LIVE services around the diocese on Sundays and mid-week, what a blessing! Recording for Easer Sunday service on Fountainstown beach and

recordings in the church reminded us of our beautiful surrounds and churches where we have celebrated Easter many times. Templebreedy recorded services are still available on Templebreedy Website- www.templebreedy.cork.anglican.org Templebreedy parishioners joined with Fanlobbus Union on Easter Sunday morning family service which included online visits to homes in varying parishes and Easter hens and eggs! Thank you to Bishop Paul for his leadership in these challenging days and to the clergy for their ingenuity and fellowship.

Children's Church Nohoval What a busy few months we have had in Children's Church in Nohoval. We learned about the Baptism of Jesus, welcoming the Holy Spirit into our lives and the story of Nicodemus learning to be Born Again. The Dove seemed to pop up a lot as a symbol of baptism, the Holy Spirit and in the Nicodemus story. Its lovely to have enthusiastic artists doing fantastic colouring, artwork and taking part in a disagree or agree debate. In the middle of all the bible learning we had Valentine's day so the usual cutting out of hearts and making them pretty for our loved ones was important.

We also talked about Lent and it was great to hear what the children had given up or in some cases taken on. Luckily chocolate wasn't one so the children could enjoy a treat. Until we meet again for more Bible readings fun stories and whatever else we can find to do Take care and stay safe.

Children's Church continues the second Sunday each month during morning worship at 10am. It is lovely to see all ages participate, and to see teen members of the congregation helping out. *The Children's Church Team.*

Templebreedy Children's Choir The Junior and Senior Choir, as you know, are on a temporary hiatus, due to the need for social distancing and self-isolation. We hope that this will end before the school year ends!

Both groups have come a long way, musically and cooperatively! The juniors are quick learners and have managed to stay on target for most of our rehearsal time! New songs, stories, and active movement are keeping them on their toes! We are looking forward to returning to choir and singing for our congregation.

Senior Choir has been spending much of the rehearsal time challenging themselves with harmony singing and round singing. This gives each member the opportunity to sing alone, gain confidence and satisfaction, knowing that they are growing musically! We have added an extra hymn to worship service whenever there is communion. This gives them the chance to get even more comfortable with their regular Sunday commitment. I hope everyone is keeping safe and that your health is the best. I look forward to seeing you all when this pandemic subsides. *Marianne Stone Choir Director.*

Templebreedy Church Choir After a busy Christmas, Templebreedy Church Choir took a break from practices and performances in January. Choir member Dorothy Verplanke very kindly hosted a "Come dine for Holy Trinity" on a dark January evening which was delicious again - as always! We use this event instead of having a Christmas party. Back to our usual Monday evening practice in February,

our first performance was on Sunday 9th. It was good to get back in to routine. We normally look at the hymns coming up in the months ahead for practice, and also any hymns that may be not that well known to the congregation. On the second Sunday of the month we normally perform an Anthem also. In honour of St Patrick, we polished up the full version of Stanford's 'St Patrick's Breastplate' (number 322 in the hymn book) and sang this with the congregation on Sunday 15th March. It is wonderful to have this in our repertoire now. The choir had, over the last few months, mentioned how useful some shelving near the organ would be. We have a lot of music books and folders now, as do the children's choirs. Subject to the approval from the powers that be, this looks like it will go ahead. One of the choristers has offered to fund this project in remembrance of her late husband. So onwards we pace into the summer...once restrictions have hopefully been lifted...!! *Roger Ellis Organist & Choirmaster*

Templebreedy School Spring is on the way, the daffodils are in full bloom, brightening up the entrance to the school. This spring is like no other however and school is currently closed because of Covid-19. It was a very busy term with a lot happening before we closed. The hockey tournament had just taken place. Congratulations to the Junior team who came in second place and the Seniors in third.

Our Board of Management ended its term of office, at the end of November. I want to say a huge thank you to Violet Chambers who retired after 20 years (see photo). Violet has worked tirelessly and supported all involved in the school in so many ways, and I know we can continue to rely on her support.



Among some of the events marked this term were Pancake Day, World Book Day and Seachtain na Gaeilge. The senior classes took part in the Limerick Choral Festival and then went to King John's Castle for a Jester Tour of this wonderful medieval castle. This term the children have also enjoyed T.Y. plays in Coláiste Muire and Ashton, and a visit from a portable planetarium from the

Blackrock Observatory. They have also had most interesting workshops in water and road safety, RNLI and Plastic Free 4 Schools and were introduced to orienteering.

We were delighted to have Jacqui Wilkinson from D.C.U. at our assembly one morning for the launch of her Book "Prayers for Assemblies".

The Senior children were in the midst of their Port of Cork Project themed Cork Harbour and the Importance of Our Marine Eco-system, and were also coming to

the end of a wonderful hands on science programme STEAM Science in a Box, very kindly delivered by parent Elaine Burns.

At the moment we're engaging with the children via email and supporting their learning in this way. It is a difficult and challenging time for everyone, the most important thing is that everyone remains safe and well until the school doors re-open. *Doris Bryan, Principal*

YOUGHAL UNION (Youghal, Castlemartyr, Ardmore)

Rev. Andrew Orr

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Alleluia! Christ is risen
He is risen indeed Alleluia!

I was looking back at the notes I wrote for the April Magazine, just as the restrictions were beginning to be brought in. What a difference a month makes! I'm writing now while we are in almost total lockdown, complete isolation. Who knows what will be happening by the time you read them? We naturally feel fearful, anxious, concerned for the future. Added to the health crisis is also an economic crisis, as many of us worry about our jobs and our businesses. In all of this, many are finding their faith to be a source of strength and a rock to which they can cling. We have confidence in God who is always with us.



St. Mary's Church in the spring sunshine

reading. It has been stressful but enjoyable too and I hope you have received some hope and comfort that we can be together even when we are apart.

Online ministry It has been a steep learning curve for all of us in online broadcasting and filmmaking. Zoom, Streamyard, Shotcut and other applications, which were unheard of until quite recently are now household names to many of us. Some of our efforts to put service together have been wobbly, blurry and even sideways, but we are learning all the time. Thanks to all of you have sent good wishes and thanks for this ministry. Special thanks to all those who have been willing to take part by

Coming up Unfortunately we cannot know what is likely to be possible in these coming months. This is especially disappointing for the Youghal 2020 committee and all our parishioners as we had a wide ranging programme of events planned. We hope that at least some will be able to go ahead in the Autumn, and otherwise we will celebrate the St. Mary's 801st anniversary!

HOLY BAPTISM

March

- 15 In St Mary's Church, Carrigaline - Jonathan Arthur Hegewald-McElroy, son of Bianca and Ed
- 22 In St Mary's Church, Carrigaline - Ewan Thomas Haubold, son of Nik and Brenda

HOLY MATRIMONY

March

- 17 In St Michael's Church, Blackrock - Laura Welch and Pádraig (Podge) McSweeney

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

March

- 27 In St Peter's Churchyard, Carrigrohane - Jean Withrington

April

- 3 In St Matthew's Churchyard, Church Cross - Sarah Elizabeth Valentine (Val) Kingston
- 4 In St Luke's Churchyard, Douglas - Joan Cassidy

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