



# KILTERNAN KLIPS

Building community, strengthening worship, growing in service

The quarterly newsletter of Kilternan Parish, Co. Dublin

The Rector on ...

## Community, consolation and transformation

A few years ago a good friend gave me a book by local Irish author, playwright and newspaper columnist John Waters called *Beyond consolation: how we became too 'clever' for God and our own good*. Waters describes himself as a lapsed agnostic. In modern Ireland, he argues, our turn away from religion has left a cultural emptiness and has taken away the tools that enable us to face some of the challenges of life. Religion offers us the provision of hope, construction of meaning, belief in an absolute and in living beyond death, and the foundation for behaving ethically. Take religion away and you'd better have a plan to put something in its place!

The book is interesting, but I think it lacks something. It emphasises two of the central ideas of faith. The first is 'consolation'—that is, the idea that faith is good for us because it gives us comfort in the face of struggle and even death. Consolation is important. Critics

'We will be reminded that our faith is always primarily other-serving. We will note that our faith is personal but never private.'

argue that it turns faith into a 'crutch' that shields us from the harsh realities of life, but a crutch isn't a bad thing, especially for those who recognise that they have difficulty walking.

The second is community, and community is important. We live in a world where people are becoming increasingly isolated. We need places where we gather and learn to know one another at a deeper level. We hope that our new parish centre will be a gathering ground for

community to develop for people of all ages.

But community and consolation are not enough without transformation. Consolation and community without transformation become self-serving, and, sadly, our churches have been all too self-serving throughout history. That we are comfortable and feel good in ourselves is never enough.

Transformation takes two shapes. First, there is personal transformation. When we experience God, something happens to us. God loves us as we are, that is true, but He loves us too much to let us stay as we are. If our religious habits are not changing us, then we need to review our religious habits. In Kilternan I would like to see us deepen our life of prayer and our love of Scripture. I would like to see us deepen our conversations about God. The theme this Easter is 'Experience Easter'. My prayer for us is that God will transform us as we experience the Risen Christ.

But the second shape is the transformation of the world. The Christian faith demands that we fight for social change and speak up against injustice wherever we see it. In this edition of *Klips* we will speak of Direct Provision, of climate justice and of the Eighth Amendment. We will be reminded that our faith is always primarily other-serving. We will note that our faith is personal but never private.

May God give us grace to live lives of community, consolation and transformation.

Rev. Rob Clements



The Christian faith demands that we fight for social change and speak up against injustice.



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## CHURCH SERVICES

Communion Service at 8:30 unless noted otherwise;  
10:30 services as below.

March 11 All-Age Service: Mothering Sunday—let's pamper our mothers by celebrating them as part of our church service

March 18 Holy Communion with a reflection on the legacy of St Patrick

March 25 All-Age Palm Sunday

*See Holy Week services for times and dates.*

April 1 Easter day

April 8 Service of the Word

April 15 Holy Communion: this is a special service for those who were confirmed on Saturday 14th, as it will likely be the first time they have received communion in their home church

April 22 All-Age Worship with baptism

April 29 Holy Communion using the liturgy from the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

May 6 Morning Prayer with Sunday Club

May 13 All-Age Worship with baptism

May 20 Holy Communion: Pentecost Sunday; everyone is invited to wear red

May 27 All-Age Holy Communion

June 3 Morning Prayer with Sunday Club

June 10 Holy Communion

June 17 All-Age Father's Day Service; this is the day to make sure that dad makes it to church, as we celebrate fatherhood and what it means for us to be men of faith

June 24 Valedictory Service

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## PARISH TEAM

The Reverend Rob Clements

*Rector*

Carol Barry

*Parish Reader*

Kevin O'Sullivan

*Organist*

Una MacConville

*Church Warden*

Ann Walsh

*Glebe Warden*

Irwin Johnston

*Church Warden*

Bruce Fitzsimons

*Glebe Warden*

Jonathan Holt

*Secretary of the Vestry*

Harry Simpson

*Treasurer*

# PARISH NOTICE BOARD

## REGISTER

### Condolences

Patricia McCluskey died peacefully at St Vincent's University Hospital on 1 February. Beloved wife of the late John and loving mother of Suzanne, David and Simon, she will be sadly missed by her family and by her friends here in Kiltarnan.

## ROTAS

The various rotas of the church are managed by the following people:

*Cleaning rota:* Nikki Cox

(087 6868693)

*Flower rota:* Sarah Tilson

(086 8542967)

We are thankful for the work that they put into this. They are frequently looking for additional help. If you could assist in one of these areas, please let them know!

## WOMEN'S CRAFT NIGHTS

The women's craft night (see picture above right) continues to go from strength to strength, drawing in a mix of women of all ages with varying degrees of interest in craft but with a strong commitment to fellowship and friendship. Since our last *Klips* they have met to make Christmas decorations and Valentine cards.

We meet on 20 April, 18 May and 15 June. Call Julie on 087 2039516 for more information.

## WHAT ABOUT THE MEN?

I'm very aware of the success of the women's craft nights, and of various women's groups that have emerged because of Messy Church, amongst other things. It has made me think: what about the men of the parish?

Rather than just come up with something and hope for the best, I'm sending out a call to men of all ages in the parish to join me for a drink in the Golden Ball and think of a few projects or initiatives that we could develop together. What are the issues that face men today? What are the issues facing dads that don't get attention? What sorts of things could a parish community

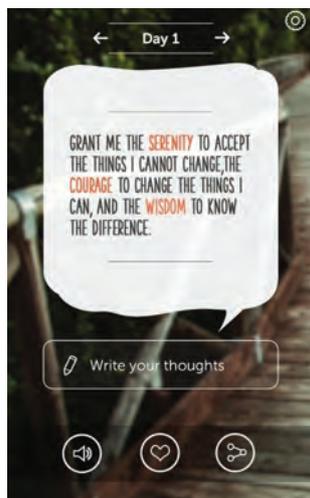


The women's craft night in the rectory.

do that might be helpful?

I'm putting a provisional date out there of Tuesday 24 April at 8:00pm. Put it in your diary. If for any reason that date changes, I'll send out an email and announce it in the church service.

## PRAYERS ON THE MOVE



An exciting new ecumenical campaign, Prayers on the Move, which encourages everyone to give prayer a go, has been running in Dublin, February–March 2018.

Prayers on the Move is aimed at travellers, especially stressed commuters. Advertising posters on public transport and the prayer app aim to make it easier for people to pray while on the move. The SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge) has already successfully tried out Prayers on the Move in London, Newcastle and Birmingham.

The Prayers on the Move campaign has been funded by a number of individuals and churches, in particular St Patrick's Cathedral, the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Archdiocese of Dublin, the Carmelite Order and the Society of Jesus. It includes advertising panels, displaying three different prayers, in 144 DART carriages, 150 buses and twenty poster sites in rail stations for a whole month; a booklet containing 31 simple prayers aimed at commuters of any faith background which can be downloaded as a free e-book or ordered on-line; an app containing the 31 prayers in audio, prayer alerts to remind users to pray and help them to get into the habit of regular prayer; and a website, [www.prayersonthemove.com](http://www.prayersonthemove.com), Twitter feed and Facebook page.

The SPCK found that 42% of the UK population say that they pray but that only 10% have a daily habit of prayer. Thinking about how time-pressed many people—especially commuters—are, and how stressful and even unpleasant commuting can be, the SPCK devised a prayer app which commuters can use on the go to help them get into a habit of daily prayer. This app is like a prayer guide in your pocket, designed to be an unobtrusive invitation into something more. The Prayers on the Move app is available to download for free on both Apple

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A selection of the Junior and Senior Choirs at Christmas.

and Android devices. Just search your relevant App Store!

Why not download this on your phone and take some time, even in the midst of your busy day, to pray?

### CHOIR NEWS

After a busy and successful Christmas, the church choirs are now back in full swing.

We're very busy working on music for Lent and Holy Week, but more importantly we're preparing for a televised Easter Sunday Service. It's extremely exciting, as it will be the first time on TV for many of our younger choristers.

Fortunately, now that it is Lent, there is even more opportunity to experience our wonderful choirs besides watching the TV service on RTÉ player. The Parish Choir is leading the music in our weekly Compline Service at 7:30pm every Tuesday this Lent. We're also preparing a wonderful selection of Anthems for the Tuesday to Friday evening services of Holy Week.

As mentioned, we had a very successful Christmas in and out of the church. The Parish Choir took part in a concert in Glencullen, helping to raise €2,180 for the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Victoria Johnston sang a truly wonderful 'O Holy Night' with the choir at Christmas Midnight Eucharist.

And, as anyone who knows the Parish Choir knows, they're a group of friends who love a bit of fun, so we had a wonderful dinner

up in Geoffrey Willis's, and even had a surprise Skype with David and Isabel.

If you are at all interested in joining the Parish Choir, please contact Kevin. We meet weekly on Tuesdays (7:15pm during Lent/8pm outside Lent).

### KILTERNAN ON TV

On 11 March (Mothering Sunday, of all days!) we were invited to lead a service on RTÉ 1. This is always a great privilege, with an audience of tens of thousands. This was a particularly important one, as it was a service to be broadcast on Easter Sunday.

I admit that it felt quite strange to be planning an Easter Sunday service early in March. Nonetheless, we decided to lead the service as an All-Age Holy Communion service, with contributions from the Junior and Senior Choirs.

We were mindful that the audience for such services varies widely. Some of those who tune in have little connection with any denomination and spend Sunday morning at home. Some will tune in almost by accident and stick around to see what is going on, and therefore an element of what we do is evangelistic. Some will be regular viewers unable to get to church themselves, and therefore another element will be familiarity for those seeking comfort and spiritual nourishment.

The theme of the service was 'When the impossible happened!' We hope to have you in Kilternan

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES IN KILTERNAN PARISH

The theme this year is 'Experience Easter', with a reflection on six stations. Experience Easter is a journey through Holy Week to Easter and beyond. I've linked each day with a Bible text for those who might choose to use it for their own devotions.

**Palm Sunday, 8:30am and 10:30am:** Hopes and Dreams—the story of Palm Sunday (Lk. 19: 28–44). An all-age reflection. We gather outside the church with palm branches and process in.

**Tuesday 27 March, 8:00pm:** Jesus washes His disciples' feet (John 13: 1–20).

**Wednesday 28 March, 8:00pm:** A Service of Healing and Wholeness. We will be joined in this service by our friends from Rathmichael Parish.

**Maundy Thursday, 8:00pm:** Remember Me (Matt. 26: 17–30). Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the Great Three Days of Easter. It is a Communion Service and is traditionally followed by the Stripping of the Sanctuary in preparation for Good Friday.

**Good Friday Morning, 10:00am:** The Garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26: 36–56).

**Good Friday Evening, 8:00pm:** Sharing our sorrows (Mark 15: 21–41). This service traditionally involves periods of prolonged silence and the processing of the cross.

**Easter Sunday**  
**6:00am:** 'Sunrise Service' at the Lead Mines Chimney.  
**8:30am and 10:30am:** The Resurrection: the Empty Tomb (John 20: 1–18).  
The 10:30 service will be followed by an Easter egg hunt in the rectory grounds (weather permitting!).

on Easter Sunday, but do tune in to RTÉ player afterwards to see the service.

It was a long day for all involved, and we are grateful to everyone who contributed. We hope that it was a fun experience.

**FOUNDER’S AND THINKING DAY**

On 25 February a great gathering of Scouts, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Ladybirds turned out at church for the annual Thinking and Founder’s Day. Well done to everyone who participated, and a big thank-you to all the leaders, who do such a great job.

**FÊTE: 28 APRIL 2018**



The time of year is again upon us for planning the Kiltiernan Country Fête—how quickly time flies!

Allocating a date for the fête around all that happens in the parish and school has been a challenge, and hence we see the fête this year moving to SATURDAY 28 APRIL!

With this earlier date, we envisage that we may lose some of our dedicated team, so we need all hands on deck and would ask you to come forward and offer a few hours before or on the day. It is vital for the success of the fête that we get the support and involvement of the entire parish. Funds generated from the fête assist both the school and the parish and make up the shortfall which occurs.

Please remember that the fête is not only a day to raise funds but also an opportunity for parishioners, parents, family and friends of the school and the wider community of Kiltiernan, Sandyford and further afield to come together and share a cup of tea, purchase an item from the bric-a-brac stall, bring home some treats from the

cake stand, purchase a plant for the garden . . .

As we can all see, the new parish centre is coming along nicely but, sadly, it won’t be ready for our fête and hence we will be curtailed as regards space. Thankfully we have the full use of the school and school grounds again this year.

If you have any ideas, recommendations or suggestions, please don’t be shy: come and share your thoughts with us.

Over the next few weeks we will be sending out flyers asking for help in different areas of the fête; please help where you can. We badly need people to come and assist with the running of stalls. We cannot rely as always on the same people every year. Please contact the parish office or the email address below:

olive.walker@obeeco.ie or  
grainnedarlington@eircom.net.

In the meantime, keep your fingers crossed for a dry and warm day on 28 April 2018.

Yours in fête organisation,  
Olive Walker (086 220 0153).

**EASTER VESTRY**

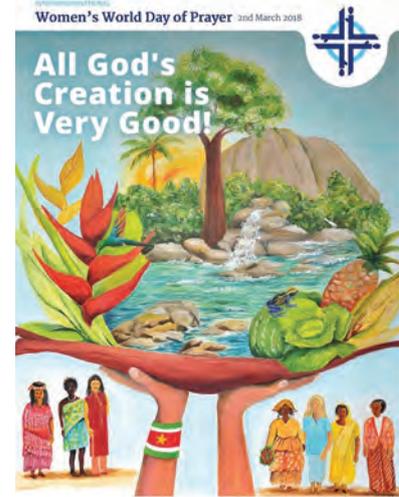
The Parish Easter Vestry—its AGM—will take place in the school hall on 17 April at 8:00pm. Refreshments will be served.

The Easter Vestry is an opportunity for the parish at large to hear something of the life of the parish—its mission and vision, as well as a résumé of the past year. These are exciting times within the parish, as we slowly get ever closer to commencement of the development of a new parish hall facility.

Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday 17 April at the Easter Vestry meeting.

**WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

The origins of the Women’s World Day of Prayer date back to the nineteenth century, when Christian women in the USA and Canada initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women’s involvement in mission, at home



Women’s World Day of Prayer as captured by Alice Pomstra-Elmint.

and abroad. In Ireland the first service was held in 1934, and services have taken place annually ever since. The service is prepared by women from different countries each year, and in 1982 women from Ireland, both North and South, produced the service for worldwide use.

This year the service has been prepared for us by the women of Suriname and they have chosen as their theme ‘All God’s creation is Good’, confirming our responsibility in caring for this wonderful world we inhabit. We will be reminded of the relationship between God and creation, and between God and humanity.

We will join with an estimated three million people in 5,000 locations around the world to celebrate this service, which has been translated into 95 languages and 1,000 dialects. This will be a day of prayer not simply for women but for everyone who cares about our world and those who live in it.

For a number of years the churches in our locality have hosted the Women’s World Day of Prayer, and this year we will have the pleasure of holding the service in Kiltiernan. Along with parishioners from our neighbouring parishes of Glencullen, Wayside, St Mary’s and Balally, we join together to celebrate the gifts of creation,

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with readings from Genesis. We will also hear messages from seven Surinamese women, representing the cultural and ethnic diversity of Suriname, and have an opportunity for prayer and quiet reflection focusing on John 15:5:

*I am the Vine, you are the branches.  
Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit,  
Because apart from Me, you can do nothing.*

Our service was due to take place on 1 March but was postponed because of the snow and freezing conditions. A new date will be confirmed as soon as possible.

### CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is the rite by which those who have been baptised seek the blessing of the Holy Spirit for their growth as Christians. The confirmation candidates first confirm the promises of their baptism. By making a public affirmation of faith the candidates take responsibility for themselves as members of Christ's Church.

We are pleased to have nine candidates for confirmation this year. They have been working with me in preparation. We have seven sessions looking at the basics of the Christian faith. We emphasise that faith is caught not taught, so time is spent on experiential learning. This year we have had a pre-confirmation day organised by the diocese under the guidance of Susie Keegan, the new Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Youth Ministry Development Officer.

The confirmation date is 14 April in Christ Church, Bray, and the following day they will receive communion in Kiltarnan.

We, as a church, have a responsibility to them as they continue to grow in faith. We begin by holding them in prayer. So, in your personal devotions, please remember Lily and Poppy Reid, Brooke Brownell, Alex Gordon, Peter Walker, Harry Corrigan, Aaron Murphy, Matthew Darlington and Evan Fitzsimons.

### COMMUNITY AGE-FRIENDLY GRANT AWARD

In January 2018, Kiltarnan was awarded a grant by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to provide services to older persons in the local area.

In the new Kiltarnan Centre, it is our ambition to offer regular soup and cheese lunches for those who are of retirement age. On the one hand these are simply social opportunities, but on the other they also provide a focal point for people to access information on local services and to hear presentations on topics of interest. We foresee opportunities for older citizens to engage in storytelling and possible musical events.

While the grant is primarily for older people, the awarding body is encouraging successful bodies to think intergenerationally, which we may be able to do through our strong connections with the school.

The grant will cover the costs of coffee and tea pots and soup kettles, as well as covering some of the publicity and facility costs.

We hope to start this in September when the new Kiltarnan Centre formally opens, so pass the word around! We have plenty of time to get organised, but if this is something you might like to help with, please let us know.

### KILTARNAN PARISH LAWN TENNIS CLUB

With electrical power restored to the floodlights and the clubhouse, we have been able to keep our club activities going, although the poor weather in recent weeks and the lack of toilet facilities have not helped! School Tennis has resumed also, when weather permits. We are pleased to have received enquiries from a couple of potential new members, in spite of our location in the middle of a building site.

We entered one Ladies' and one Men's Team in the Dublin Lawn Tennis Council Winter League, both competing in Class 6. All our matches have to be played 'away'. While we could provide the usual after-match refreshments in our Log

### DAFFODIL DAY COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF THE IRISH CANCER SOCIETY



**Friday 23 March,  
9:30am–12:30pm  
At 22 Glenbourne View,  
Leopardstown Valley,  
D18.**

house, the lack of toilets (not to mention showers!) on site would be unacceptable to visiting teams. Our Ladies are doing well, winning three of their four matches, with one left to play, and are currently in second place in their section. The Men, however, have struggled, losing all four matches, but have some chance of winning their last match against one of the weaker teams in their section.

On a recent Saturday morning, six willing members and one helpful spouse gathered at the courts for a different activity—the twice-yearly clean-up. This involved cutting back the hedge along the school boundary and topping the section at the (now unused) practice wall, beside the clubhouse. All cuttings were cleared away and leaves and debris removed from around the courts. We were fortunate to be blessed with relatively mild and dry weather on the day and much work was done. We were also very grateful for refreshments provided by some of the ladies.

As always, we are ready to welcome new members, particularly from the parish, but we also expect to attract new members from the expanding population in our area.

Enquiries to: Mary White, Hon. Secretary, KPLTC, 087 99877377, famwhite@eircom.net.

**THE IRISH CANCER SOCIETY'S FREE TRANSPORT SERVICE**

The Irish Cancer Society operates a free transport service for patients attending hospital for chemotherapy treatment. Volunteer drivers pick the patient up at the door of their home, drop them at the hospital door and then after treatment, will pick them up and drop them home. Volunteer expenses are paid. Patients wishing to avail of this free service should contact their healthcare professional, visit the Society's website at [irishcancer.ie](http://irishcancer.ie) or contact the Irish Cancer Society for more information on 01 2310 522.

**MEAL TRAIN**

Meal Train is a food ministry in Kiltarnan parish. What does this really mean?



When a friend is in need, everyone asks 'What can I do to help?' The answer is always to make a meal. When many friends make and deliver a meal, this is a meal train. Meal Train will provide meals for fellow parishioners in need (we all have times of need!). This could be following a birth or a bereavement, during convalescence after surgery or illness, or just to give someone a break. Meal Train is an international programme organised through a web-based platform.

If you know of anyone who might find some food support helpful, please let Julie know, or contact the Parish Office.

**SCHOOL NOTES**

**Pyjama Day:**

Past pupils Jack, Anna and Megan would like to thank you for all of your kindness and support during their recently held Pyjama Day in aid of Habitat for Humanity—just over €530 was raised.

On behalf of the school, I would like to wish Jack, Anna and Megan a safe and successful trip.



Fourth class all dressed up for Pyjama Day.



Some sleepy girls from 1st Class!

They have promised to come back and tell us all how they got on and we look forward to that.

**Upcoming Tag Rugby Blitz**

Since just after Christmas, 4th, 5th and 6th Class have been enjoying some tag rugby coaching with



Participants in De La Salle Palmerston Rugby Blitz.

Jonathan Sharkey, Club Community Rugby Officer with Dún Laoghaire Rathdown and Leinster Rugby. Following this, the same classes accepted an invitation to take part in an inter-school tag rugby blitz in De La Salle Palmerston on Wednesday 21 February from 10am to 12pm. A great day was had by all.

**Look at Myles O'Riordan!**



A very proud, and rightly so, Myles came to school with a cup with which he had been presented at his GAA club, Ballinteer St John's. Well done, Myles, keep up the great work!

**PASTORAL CARE**

If you would like a pastoral visit at any time, please contact the rector directly, or leave a message with the church office. If you would like to receive communion over Easter, please let us know so that we can make arrangements.

# TEA AND HISTORY

By Rob Clements



Left and above: parishioners examining the treasure trove of documents.

At the end of last year Anne Walsh and I were doing a bit of a clear-up when we found a treasure trove of old Kilternan articles tucked away in a box at the back of a cupboard in the church. Many of the documents go back to the late 1800s, though most are from the war years (including a wonderful collection from the Great War and from the formation of the State).

Eventually these things belong in the Representative Church Body, where they can be archived. However, before they were submitted to the RCB they were opened up for Kilternan folk to look at. A healthy number of parishioners gathered over tea and cake (thanks to Sarah Tilson and her team) and worked their way through all sorts of documents. Some of them were quite mundane—old receipts and bills. But others were quite fantastic.

- Wonderful handwritten letters, particularly from the Rev. O'Morchoe as far back as the

turn of the 1900s. Indeed, a few of them contain rather colourful exchanges!

- A delightful Kilternan Christmas poem from 1882 written by the Rev. Hughes.
- Early documents from the life of the school and old parish registers, with wonderful insights into how much the parish has changed. Back in 1920 the parish list had 50 households. Now it's close to 300.
- Old school attendance books. Some of our older parishioners were able to look back and check what their school attendance was like.

It was lovely to read some of the old parish magazines, some from over 100 years ago. If you

think the print is hard to read today, you would be amazed by how small it was then! You might also enjoy articles on 'Sunday Clothes: A Pretty Blouse'; 'The Lure of Drink'; 'Summer Pastimes for Wounded Soldiers'; 'A Country Love Story'; and 'Letters to Men: On Creed and Conduct'.

In future editions of *Klips*, we might look at publishing some of those articles.



The cover of our parish magazine c. 1909.

I'm hesitant, at best, as I begin to write this article, but as we go to the polls in May to vote on the repeal of the Eighth Amendment, it is important that we feel that we can discuss contentious issues about which many feel deeply.

There is a great deal of concern about how the debate has shaped up so far. There is a danger of entering into a type of cultural and religious trench warfare, or what one journalist referred to as 'the mother of all battles'. With all the shouting, and the deficit of listening, there is a worry that a post-referendum Ireland will be a deeply divided and wounded Ireland. Anti-abortion activists will accuse pro-choice people of being 'murderers' in all but name, while pro-choice people will accuse anti-abortion people of being anti-the-mother and/or misogynistic.

I sit on the Church and Society Commission of the Church of Ireland, where our conversation has been dominated by how we as a Church should respond. The bones of that discussion are captured in the statement by the

# THE EIGHTH AMENDMENT DEBATE

two archbishops below. How should we respond?

The first thing we might say is that we must respond with love and grace. No good will come of treating people as deplorable, of yelling over the fence at those who may see things differently from ourselves. We must prioritise Godly listening and seek to build bridges, not stoke fires.

Secondly, we might want to seek context. As the debate currently stands, we seem to have plucked this issue out of the air without looking at the context in which it sits. Would it be helpful if we could lead a debate on gender equality, on equal access to sexual health and support services? Would it be of value to look at changing

attitudes towards sexual habits?

Thirdly, we might note that the Anglican way is to celebrate our diversity and the place of conscience in decision-making. Of course, the wording of the referendum is still emerging, but it is likely that Church of Ireland people will sit on different sides of this debate. That is fine. In fact, it's very Anglican. We recognise that this debate is not black and white but filled with nuance. The Bible expresses a God-given dignity to life within the womb but does not define the beginning of life. Similarly, Christian tradition does not have a consistent response to this.

**Revd Rob Clements**

## **Statement from the Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, and the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland**

The tradition of the Church of Ireland would reject an unrestricted access to abortion, while being concerned to ensure provision for hopefully rare circumstances and in a secure medical setting. Where individuals draw such a line will inevitably differ. Instances where the life of the woman is at serious risk have long been regarded within Church of Ireland teaching as situations where termination of a pregnancy would be justifiable. For some, pregnancy after sexual crime or the medical certainty of fatal foetal abnormality might also be seen as circumstances where abortion could be considered as justified. In every situation, however, the church seeks to offer pastoral care sensitive to the physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of women and families who find themselves in such difficult situations.

With respect to current proposals:

- We favour a modification of the Article 40.3.3 in such a way that allows for the Oireachtas to have legislative responsibility to address termination of pregnancy, any rights of the unborn and the rights of

the pregnant woman within clearly defined boundaries and parameters.

- We recognise the dilemma faced both by legislators and by medical, nursing and healthcare practitioners with regard to access to unrestricted abortion during the early months of pregnancy. However, unrestricted access to abortion in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, or indeed at any stage, is not an ethical position we can accept.
- We would suggest that current legislation should be strengthened to ensure that the needs of pregnant women facing difficult situations can be addressed quickly and comprehensively through improved support services. This will require significant and sustained investment in both medical and mental health services.
- We acknowledge that too often in this debate the voice of women has not been heard. The church will seek to continue to care for and pastorally stand alongside women, and their partners and families, who face immensely difficult situations and dilemmas.

# 'WE'RE WORKING



Clockwise from top left:  
Preparing the old hall.  
A view from inside the main hall.  
On goes the roof.  
A view from the kitchen into the welcome area.  
Another view from the main hall.

# ON A BUILDING...'



TARGETS OF HAVING the centre up and running by Easter were possibly naive but, for those paying attention, the build has been making excellent progress. As I write this the roof timber is almost completed! Our expectation at this stage is that the builders will be finished by the end of May, giving us the summer to fit and furnish the centre and complete the landscaping work.

Of course, having a building is one thing; having it full of services and activities for all the community is another. We are seeking to develop a creative list of programmes to start in September for people of all ages. We are exploring a possible café in the centre's reception area that can be used by people of all ages. We are encouraging people to approach us with innovative ideas for programmes that can be offered that help us achieve our mission of building community, strengthening worship and growing in service.



\* The wonderful Carter Family—old-time American Country and Gospel singers—recorded a great tune called: *I'm a working on a building*. It can be heard on Youtube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEQgL85tpkU>

# FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY



## MESSY CHURCH

Since our last edition of *Klips* we have had a Messy Advent and a Messy Lent. We continue to be thrilled with how many people are engaging with Messy Church, and with the large number of people who put time and effort into making it possible. What about the months ahead?

**Messy Easter:** This Easter we aren't going for a traditional Messy Church, but what we are going to do is build a Messy Church around the service on Easter Sunday. Come along to the school at 9:45am and we will have a short time of crafts, making some Easter streamers etc. that we can bring to church. After the service, everyone is invited for tea and coffee. There won't be a Messy Church meal, but we will have an Easter egg hunt in the rectory grounds!

**Messy Pentecost:** May 20th is Pentecost Sunday, so let's celebrate



with a special Messy Church. The colour of Pentecost is red, so we'll fill the school with red and have all sorts of red crafts and foods as we think about the day that the Spirit came.

## KILTERNAN SCOUTS



February has been a busy month for all our sections as we prepare for Founder's Day. What Baden-Powell wanted most for all Scouts was for them to be outside as much as possible, and we have done just that.

Venture Scouts did a bivvy in Fernhill gardens, sleeping in hammocks overnight. They also collected ten large bin bags for cans and bottles, helping to make Fernhill a more enjoyable experience for our local community.

The Scouts did an overnight in the Adirondack shelters in Larch





Hill, sleeping outdoors on a chilly February night and learning to put up tarps and hammocks on the Saturday. It was cold but enjoyable.

The Scouts have had an intense few weeks, with each patrol working hard to brush up on their Navigation, Backwoods, Camping and Pioneering skills. As a reward for all their hard work they paid a visit to the Rink roller disco.

The Cubs managed two hikes in February, in Crone and Djouce woods. They were particularly muddy coming back from Djouce—more muck than Cub in many cases.

The Beavers were also out hiking and exploring Massey's estate and the newly opened Fernhill gardens.

We had our annual Founder's Day cake sale in the school on Sunday 25 February after the Founder's Day service where we remembered Baden-Powell and thought about what scouting means to each of us.

Yours in Scouting,  
10th Kiltiernan Scout Troop.

## REND COLLECTIVE

Rend Collective (formerly known as Rend Collective Experiment) are a Christian experimental rock band originating from Bangor, Northern Ireland.

An inherent desire for something spiritually substantive in our increasingly artificial world is what brought the movement of friends together. United by a common purpose, they began



exploring the intersection between life, community and faith. A number of successful albums later, the Rend Collective have been selling out venues all over the world.

On Sunday 20 May 2018 @ 7:00pm they will be playing in the Olympia Theatre, Dublin. If there are some of our teenagers or young adults who would like to go, please let me know ASAP and I'll book tickets. Tickets are €20 (or just under) and are selling out fast!

If you want to have a listen to some of their most recent work, you can find them on Vevo at <https://www.vevo.com/artist/rend-collective>.

## SAFEGUARDING TRUST

Children are a fundamental part of our Church family and we embrace 'Safeguarding Trust' (the Church of Ireland's child protection policy) as a way of creating and maintaining a safe environment where all our children are protected from any type of abuse and feel happy and safe in exploring faith and sharing life as we learn to follow Jesus together. It is important that they understand how to raise any concerns they may have with members in our community.

In following the policies and practices of 'Safeguarding Trust' we are ensuring that all of our members involved in children's ministry are appointed and trained to operate within good-practice frameworks and are protected from unfounded allegations.

Our panel members responsible for implementing 'Safeguarding Trust' are: Rev. Rob Clements, Minister in Charge, with Jane Newell and Jonathan Holt.

In recent years there have been improvements in this area, particularly with regard to Garda

vetting. In the year ahead, we predict that there will be more changes, as we seek to ensure that our practices are held to all necessary standards.

From 29 April 2016 it became a criminal offence, other than in certain limited circumstances, for an organisation to commence the engagement of an employee or volunteer without first obtaining a vetting disclosure from the Bureau in respect of that person. Employees in post prior to 29 April 2016 are also required to be vetted under the retrospective requirements of section 21 of the Vetting Act. We are confident that all of our volunteers have been vetted or are in the process of being vetted.

This year our parish will complete its fourth triennial Safeguarding Trust audit, due to take place by the end of June 2018. We will be looking at all of our files to ensure that everything is up to date and training offered where necessary. This is an area of our ministry that we treat with the utmost seriousness. We rely on the goodwill of people to attend trainings as necessary and to complete all necessary paperwork.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NETWORK AND SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIETY WEB TRAININGS

A number of on-line trainings are about to appear on the Children's Ministry Network on the topics of All-Age Worship, Creative Prayer, Storytelling and 'Make yourself at Home' (Church and how we welcome). This is a joint initiative by the Children's Ministry Network and the Sunday School Society for Ireland, and it is being funded by the Board of Education NI and the Sunday School Society.

The videos were shot on 21 February and will hopefully be posted soon as a resource for those involved in working with children come the summer. If you visit, you will see your rector try to give a four-minute feature on how to deliver All-Age Worship!

# COMMUNITY AND WIDER CHURCH

## DIRECT PROVISION AND THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Gathering in the Golden Ball  
*Unite your servants in the bond of unity.*

*Come, Holy Spirit!*

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from 18 to 25 January. The suggested theme, which was produced by Christians in the Caribbean, was 'That all may be free'.

There are 1.4 million Christians living in the Caribbean region, across a vast geographical spread of island and mainland territories. They represent a rich and diverse tapestry of ethnic, linguistic and religious traditions, with a complex variety of governmental and constitutional arrangements.

The contemporary context is deeply marked by the history of the colonialism which stripped people of their identity, dignity and freedom. During 500 years of the colonial system, Scripture was used to justify the enslavement of the indigenous people. In a dynamic reversal, those same Scriptures became the inspiration and motivation for people to reclaim their liberty. Recognising the hand of God in the ending of enslavement, the Caribbean Christians offer Exodus 15, a song of triumph over oppression.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has become a stable feature of our church year but, as with all things, unless we think progressively it can become rather stale. This year, we celebrated our Christian unity in the back room of the Golden Ball.

Over 30 people from Kiltiernan, Balally and St Mary's, including the rector of Kiltiernan, Mgr Dermot Lane and Fr Peter Byrne, gathered to pray. The reason for meeting in the pub was twofold: firstly, it provided a more informal format for discussion; secondly, it provided a public witness to our Christian unity.



Lissywollen Direct Provision Centre for asylum-seekers in Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

It certainly worked, as the night turned towards things that we could do together. Reflecting on the scriptural passage from Exodus, Mgr Dermot Lane drew our attention to the experiences of those living in Direct Provision.

### The Problem of Direct Provision: Moving from Faith to Action

Direct Provision is surely one of the travesties of our age. Many have observed that Direct Provision will be seen by generations to come as the Magdalene laundries of our time. It was noted that:

- Direct Provision is made up of some 34 accommodation centres around the country;
- that these centres hold around 4,500 people, of whom 1,600 are children;
- that asylum-seekers are not allowed to work or to participate in third-level education;
- that asylum-seekers are expected to live on €20.10 per week;
- that a number of asylum-seekers have been in Direct Provision for up to eight years, in the course of which some have died and others have committed suicide.

At the meeting, it was

recommended that we, as a united body of churches, might write a letter that would be sent to our local government representatives, expressing our discomfort with this situation from a human and Christian point of view. From a human point of view, Direct Provision

- violates basic human rights in relation to education and work;
- tramples on the dignity and respect due to every individual regardless of race, sex or religion;
- denies freedom of movement to individuals.

From a Christian point of view, Direct Provision

- negates the Christian conviction that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God;
- offends the great commandment of the love of God and the love of neighbour;
- ignores the belief that 'as often as you did it to one of these My least brethren, you did it to Me'.

As concerned citizens of Ireland, as people living in your constituency, and as committed Christians, we wish to request respectfully:

- an urgent review of Direct Provision that is in keeping with the above human rights and Christian values;
- that, as our local representatives, you will bring the contents of this letter to the attention of the Minister for Justice and An Taoiseach;
- that you will report back to us on progress in relation to this urgent matter in due course.

Mgr Dermot Lane has taken the lead on this, with an ambition to send letters signed by the three churches.

### GRANT AVAILABLE FOR TEFL TRAINING

From 2018, the Bishop's Appeal will be funding a limited number of people who wish to receive a TEFL qualification so that they can provide English-language classes to refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants living in Ireland. Each person who avails of the grant will be asked to contribute one tenth of the cost themselves and will commit to volunteering some hours with refugees once qualified. You can find out more from Bishop's Appeal at [bishopsappeal@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:bishopsappeal@ireland.anglican.org).

### EARTH HOUR 2018

Around the globe, millions of people, businesses and landmarks set aside an hour to host events, switch off their lights and make noise for climate change action. Over the years, Earth Hour participants have helped make amazing things happen. From changing laws to funding solar-powered homes, volunteers have made a real, positive impact on our planet. This year Earth Hour is at 8:30pm on 24 March 2018. Deirdre Lane is Ireland's Earth Hour ambassador for the third year—[shamrockspring@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockspring@gmail.com). Lots more information is available on the Earth Hour website.



## THANK-YOU FROM 264,636 CHILDREN!

Once again you have been incredibly generous and, as a result, last Christmas 264,636 children in thirteen countries received a gift-filled shoebox from Ireland!

Your gifts have brought hope into lives that looked hopeless, joy and laughter where there was only sadness, and a tangible expression of God's love and interest in the marginalised and often forgotten children of our world.

One such child is Timor, a little boy whom I met a couple of weeks ago in Belarus. He is five years old and he lives with his mum, Veronica, and four sisters; the youngest is six months old and the eldest is eight years old. Timor's dad left the family a couple of months ago. Timor's granny, who is very ill, lives with them in a small two-roomed house, and the family have to try and survive on her very small pension. In Belarus children's allowance is only paid until a child is three years old. Timor's granny is a diabetic and has really bad psoriasis. She hopes that she will live another two years to see her grandchildren grow up but, sadly, she cannot afford any medication.

Timor was super-excited to get his shoebox from Ireland! Despite



Timor and his shoebox.

his really bad cough, he sat there smiling from ear to ear all the time we were there. He loved the sweets, and the little mouth-organ and toy cars! The shoeboxes brought some joy and hope to this little family.

Once again, thank you for all your support. It's a big team effort and together we can make a difference!

For further information see [www.teamhope.ie](http://www.teamhope.ie).

**Carol Hennessey**  
National Christmas Shoebox  
Appeal Manager



Timor and his family in Belarus.

# POSITIVE THINKING

By Benita Murinda

When we think of someone being wounded we instinctively think of scars, bleeding and bruises—anything that is reminiscent of physical pain—but unfortunately we forget that wounding can manifest itself mentally and emotionally.

To ask someone to describe mental illness is asking for the impossible, as everyone reacts in different ways. Some are more subtle; they are able to conceal the turmoil occurring in their head and participate in everyday activities like nothing's wrong. Others are much more overt, like a famous singer who had a mental breakdown live on Facebook, crying 'I'm all by myself and there's absolutely nobody in my life except my doctor and my psychiatrist'.

This sentiment of loneliness is one, sadly, that is shared by millions of people around the world. Mental health is a major problem among teenagers. Approximately one in five people suffer from depression alone, which would mean that out of a group of ten friends two of them would be suffering from depression.

Mental illness is like a silent virus with which we can be infected, but it affects us in different ways. Among teenagers this is a frightening issue. We live in a world where we connect digitally very rapidly, but when it comes to connecting on an emotional level we seem to have taken many steps back. As teenagers there is a lot expected from us, and much of this pressure has proven to have adverse and significant effects on our mental health; these pressures include exams, bullying, family situations etc. Understandably, many

fail to cope; they develop suicidal thoughts and engage in self-harming activities.

In Philippians 4:8 the Bible instructs us in proper thinking: 'And now, my friends, all that is true, all that is noble, all that is just and pure, all that is lovable and gracious, whatever is excellent and

## 'Mental illness is like a silent virus with which we can be infected'

admirable—fill all your thoughts with these things'. This quote preaches the power of positive thinking in our lives. Within our society we are quick to brush the topic of mental illness under the carpet and to offer fixes in medical form, but we are slow to get to the bottom of the situation by talking openly and integrating the issue within our daily lives. I by no means believe that just reading a verse will alter the state of your mental health, but practising positivity as a society could help us go far. We are always working towards the end goal, which is important, but we forget about the endurance.

There is an alarming rise in teen suicide. Anecdotal evidence does suggest that positive thinking has a strong impact on the problem. Affirming faith and positive thinking is a good change, but it is not the end of combating mental illness and teen suicide. Despite the growing number of teenagers who have been diagnosed with a mental health issue, resources and support are still scarce.

As *Christians* the subject of mental health is taboo and is seldom talked about; we are told to have faith in God and in ourselves, but in doing so we fail to confront the actual crisis and feelings. We need to name the stigma, as it is a health condition caused by physiological changes in the brain and can inflict mental turmoil when left untreated.

The 'shame' of mental illness is carried by many in church; believing that their joy and strength should be found in the Lord, they keep their diagnosis secret. As a church, we can help by showing them that they are not alone and by being open to talking about it. We sometimes give mixed messages, caught between allowing our mistakes to define us and moving on from the past.

In the past it was believed that talking openly about mental illness encouraged self-harming, but research has shown that the more positivity we spread the likelier we are to combat this stigma. Discussions destigmatise mental illness and self-harming. We may feel inclined to believe that committing suicide is an act of selfishness or of giving up on life, but we need to reform our minds and language to acknowledge that the decision was born out of deep, persistent suffering. The very term 'commit' suggests criminal activity, when in retrospect it is an act of despair.

Facing and acknowledging this despair is hard, as humans tend to want to avoid talking about uncomfortable issues. This means that those suffering the most suffer in silence, when what they need is the comfort of others around them.

Followers of Christ are told to step forward and not away from those who need us and from the acknowledgement of their existence, no matter what their struggles.

Benita Murinda is a parishioner and a 5th year student at St Raphaela's Secondary School, Stillorgan.

## CRANMER'S CORNER



### LECTIONARY RAMBLINGS

In this edition's ramblings we continue to look at the Psalms, particularly the great Easter Psalms. The following is based on an article written by Anglican biblical theologian Mike Bird of Ridley College, Melbourne.

As one reads through the New Testament, it becomes clear that the authors detected in the Psalms various patterns and images which reminded them of Jesus, specifically who He was and what He achieved in His death and resurrection. It is hardly surprising, then, that the Old Testament texts most often quoted in the New Testament are all Psalms. What about the Psalms of Easter?

First, Psalm 22 is the heartfelt prayer of the innocent person who feels that he/she suffers unjustly and is threatened from all sides. It opens with the words 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?', which accentuate the sheer desperation of the speaker who feels alone and even abandoned by God. Jesus uttered these same words on the cross just as His life

was ebbing away (Mark 15: 34/Matt. 27: 46).

Reading Psalm 22 on Good Friday declares to us that Jesus became God forsaken for us. He made that cry of abandonment so that no child of God would ever experience Godforsakenness. What is more, just like the speaker in Psalm 22, Jesus looked ahead to the time when God would vindicate the innocent who suffer unjustly, because God is in the business of delivering those afflicted by the evils of this world.

Reading Psalm 16 on Holy Saturday reminds us that Jesus went to the place of the dead; He participated fully in the experience of death, and yet death could not hold Him. Therefore we can be like the psalmist and have complete confidence that God's faithfulness and goodness will follow us all the days of our life, He comforts us in our final breath, and He receives us into life everlasting.

Psalm 2 is an enthronement Psalm, celebrating how God had installed His holy king in Zion. Psalm 2:7, 'You are my son; today I have become your father', was a favourite text of New Testament authors for referring to Jesus' resurrection. Luke records Paul preaching a sermon in a synagogue with the words: 'We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors He has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: "You are my son; today I have become your father"' (Acts 13: 32-33). Paul is saying that all of God's promises to Israel are made good in the resurrection of Jesus.

Reading Psalm 2 on Easter Sunday announces to us that Jesus is raised to reign. Through the resurrection, Jesus is installed as Lord over all things and He will reign until all of His enemies are subdued, the wicked, evil tyrants, and even death itself.

One of the delightful things about Anglican worship is that it is beautifully infused with the Psalms. So, this Easter, I invite you read Psalms 22, 16 and 2 and reflect on the crucified, buried and risen Lord.

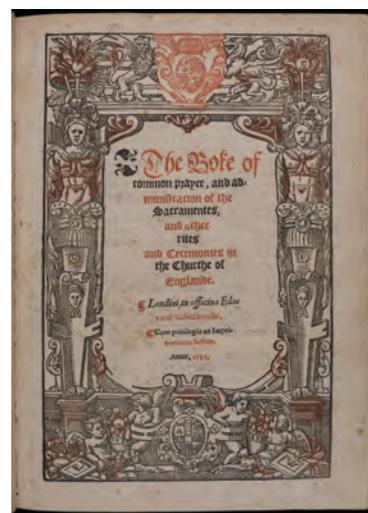
### THE COLLECTS OF THE DAY

As you gather for worship on Sunday, you encounter the Collect of the Day. What are these strange things called 'collects'? How are you meant to pronounce this word?

A collect is simply a prayer intended to gather the intentions of the people and the focus of worship in a succinct way. When I am leading all-age worship I always use the collect of the day, but I tend to describe it as the 'prayer set aside for today' or the 'special prayer for this Sunday'. While many use the collects for their personal devotions, they are very much public affairs. They try to gather up the thoughts of the congregation. Hence at the end of the collect we all say 'Amen'.

The collects were written by Archbishop Cranmer, though no doubt he plagiarised wildly from a wide range of source material. Cranmer had been a Cambridge scholar (he had held a lectureship in Biblical studies) and a diplomat before being plucked by Henry VIII to be archbishop. It fell to Cranmer to craft the book that we call the Book of Common Prayer. I always feel that Cranmer's background as a diplomat influenced his writing and the Anglican tradition that it shaped. Anglicanism is very much the *via media* that tries to see things both ways.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



The original title-page of the Book of Common Prayer.

All of the collects more or less fit a pattern that was developed, and some would say perfected, by Cranmer in the first Book of Common Prayer (1549). The form of collects is actually quite simple.

Cranmer's collects consist of five parts:

1. The address—a name of God.
2. The doctrine—a truth about God's nature that is the basis for the prayer.
3. The petition—what is being asked for.
4. The aspiration—what good result will come if the request is granted.
5. In Jesus' name—this remembers the mediatorial role of Jesus.

As an example, here is the Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter:

*(1) Almighty God, (2) whom truly to know is everlasting life: (3) grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, (4) that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; (5) through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

Sometimes in worship we find that we rush our way through the collect. We shouldn't. The collects are a resource for personal and public reflection. They are packed with poetry and theology and turn our eyes towards transformation.

**Pronunciation**

Usually people emphasise the first syllable: 'COLL-ect'. This is different from the usual pronunciation of the word 'collect' in English as 'coll-ECT', as in 'I'm going to collect the rent'. In truth, I don't think Cranmer would mind how you pronounce it.

**REVIEW**

**THE GIFTS OF IMPERFECTION**

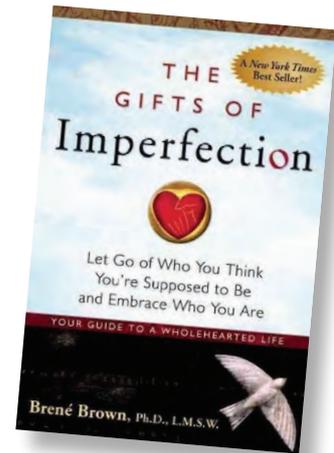
BRENE BROWN

Reviewed by Julie Clements

*The Gifts of Imperfection*, written by Dr Brene Brown, is subtitled *Let go of who you think you're supposed to be and embrace who you are: your guide to a wholehearted life*. The book is a mixture of good old self-help and a presentation of qualitative research by a leading researcher in courage, vulnerability and shame.

Each day we face a bombardment of images and messages from society and the media telling us who, what and how we should be. We are led to believe that it is possible to achieve some semblance of perfection, or at least an improvement on our current existence. It is hard not to feel inadequate at times. To counteract this feeling of inadequacy, we perform, please and perfect, knowing rightly that it is not a sustainable response.

Brown shares what she's learned from a decade of research on the power of wholehearted living—a way of engaging with the world from a place of worthiness. 'The greatest challenge for most of us is believing that we are worthy now, right at this minute. Worthiness doesn't have prerequisites.' Drawing on some strong biblical principles, Brown takes the reader through ten guideposts engaging the mind, heart and spirit as she explores how we can choose wholehearted living and cultivate the courage, compassion and connection to wake up in the morning and think, 'I am imperfect, and I am enough'. Wholehearted living is not a one-time choice; it is a process that



never stops.

As I read this book, I find my response is similar to that provoked by many books within the remit of psychology, and that is something to the effect of 'Yes, that makes sense'. Brown's writing is easy and accessible, although repetitive at times. She makes helpful points and I think I'm going to remember them all, but then the next page comes and she's onto something else. There's enough in it that I want to read it again!

This genre won't be for everyone, but this book in the right hands, at the right time, for the right person . . . might be a perfect match!

Brene Brown also has a very good TED talk called 'The Power of Vulnerability'—a non-committal good taster for the book.

**THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S LENT BOOK 2018**

In *Say it to God*, Luigi Gioia

provides welcome encouragement to all those who feel the need to freshen their practice of prayer. Arranged in chapters suitable for daily reading over Lent, the book leads the reader into the theological aspects of prayer and how it relates to Christ, to the Holy Spirit and to the Church. This is done without using complex concepts but simply through scriptural quotations.

Published by Bloomsbury at £9.99.



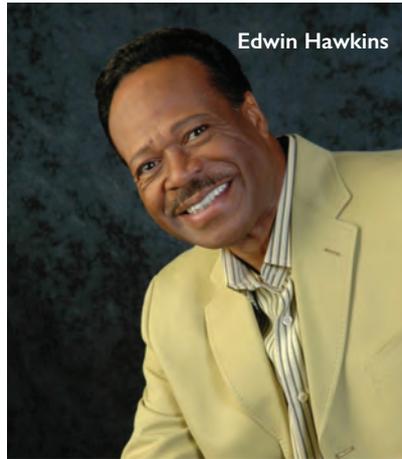
## HYMN CHOICE

### OH HAPPY DAY

It has been said that the devil has all the best tunes, but this was not the case with *Oh Happy Day*, an exuberant hymn to the spiritually cleansing powers of Jesus. The song became a hit in 1969, credited to the Edwin Hawkins Singers, and reached No. 2 in the UK and No. 1 in France and Germany, as well as No. 4 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart. It quickly sold more than a million copies, and would eventually sell 7m internationally. Many people will remember it from the movie *Sister Act 2*.

What is not generally known is that the song was based (loosely) on a hymn written in the mid-eighteenth century by Phillip Doddridge, but it was Edwin Hawkins, who has died recently, who popularised it and turned it into a global standard. The hymn can be found in the *Church Hymnal*, as *Oh happy day that fixed my choice* (no. 591). It was originally used as a confirmation hymn but the Edwin Hawkins version may be closer to a mid-nineteenth-century American tune.

Personally I cannot remember ever singing this hymn in church



Edwin Hawkins

but what I find uplifting is the whole story of Edwin Hawkins and his only hit record.

When Edwin Hawkins recorded *Oh Happy Day* in 1968 his sole ambition was to raise enough money for his amateur singers to travel to a church choir competition.

Instead, the song became the biggest crossover hit in the history of gospel music.

*Oh Happy Day* eventually sold more than seven million copies and strongly influenced George Harrison, who credited the song as the inspiration for his chart-topping hit *My Sweet Lord*, and Paul Simon, who channelled some of the song's evangelical fervour into *Bridge Over Troubled Water*.

The tune was also covered by Joan Baez, Glen Campbell, Elvis Presley, Johnny Mathis and Aretha Franklin among others.

*Oh Happy Day* changed the course of modern gospel music. Adding a throbbing beat and R&B-influenced arrangement to the conventional call-and-response vocals of black church singing, Hawkins pushed other gospel artists such as the Staple Singers in a more soulful direction and persuaded a new generation of singers that spiritual music could be intermingled with popular secular styles without losing its religious message.

When he was criticised by gospel purists for sounding too commercial, he had a ready reply. 'Some of it sounds very worldly', he acknowledged. 'But if the lyrics speak about the Lord, it's still gospel.'

Modest and devout, Hawkins never minded that *Oh Happy Day* was his only major pop hit and said that he was just content that his gospel song had touched people's lives. Until the end he took a delight in nurturing young singers to raise their voices in praise of the God he revered and, it seems, he was more interested in spreading the gospel than in being a big music star.

(Based on articles in the *Times* and *Companion to Church Hymnal*.)

## MUSINGS

### THE HEREAFTER

I wonder, I wonder what the next world holds in store;  
Will it be full of wonders to last for evermore?  
Shall we be allowed adventures to the earth below,  
To places never visited but where in life we longed to go?  
Would great penance be inflicted to earn one such a  
tour?  
And even if one got to do, would it be a false allure?  
How would one travel there or find one's own way back?  
Would there be lots of company and what about the  
crack?  
What about the senses, would all of these be gone?  
I've 'wred' communication is by thought process, could  
this all be wrong?  
Where is heaven anyway? Could it be o'er the sea  
Or over all the solid earth obscured from you and me?  
If we are invisible, what about the clime?  
Will we be unaffected or have a helluva time?

William D

January 2018

### THE PARABLE OF THE HALF-CROWNS

It is said that a very important gentleman (whom for the purposes of this tale we will call Lord V.I.P.) lived in Enniskerry a long time ago and went to church there. He used to sit in a pew just in front of the pulpit.

Now it came to pass that the rector there tended to be a bit fond of his own voice and was very long-winded when it came to sermon time, the result being that Lord V.I.P. was often late for lunch. He was reluctant to mention his displeasure to the rector, so came up with a strategy.

On arriving in church he would place eight half-crowns<sup>1</sup> in a row on the book shelf of his pew (in full view of the rector). After the first five minutes of the sermon had passed, he would start putting a half-crown back in his pocket for every extra two minutes. As a result, without a word being said, the parish funds were kept intact and Lord V.I.P.'s lunch was never cold again. He could, of course, have come to Kilternan and he would never had such a problem — then or now! J.W.

<sup>1</sup>There were eight half-crowns in £1 Sterling.



The Alice Leahy Trust extends a big thank-you to Kiltiernan Parish for toiletries and clothes received this year.

Demand for the services of the Alice Leahy Trust remains very high, with an average of 250 showers per month. All donations of unused toiletries for men and women are very welcome. A box for donations is located at the back of the church.

- Shower gel
- Hair products
- Perfume/after-shave
- Deodorants (*only aerosols*)
- Shaving cream/gel
- Disposable razors
- Sanitary products
- Hair brushes and combs

*Warm clothes and sleeping bags are also welcome but arrangements need to be made for collection.*

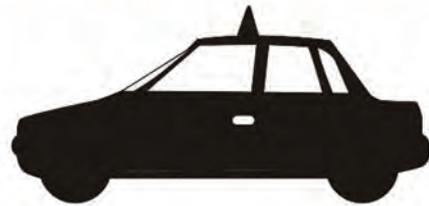
Tel. Una MacConville  
(086 8175530)

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## Kiltiernan Picture Framing

*Over 200 Frame Styles  
Available*

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Showrooms open: Monday to Friday 9am  
to 5:30pm &

Sat 10am to 1pm.

Contact Geoffrey Willis (01) 295 5597/  
086 374 5586