



# KILTERNAN KLIPS

Building community, strengthening worship, growing in service

The quarterly newsletter of Kilternan Parish, Co. Dublin

The Rector on ...

## Giving ourselves time to breathe

Over the New Year I was talking to a new dad about his experiences in the maternity ward in Holles Street. I remember those days well—the feeling of helplessness and haplessness. Like all men, we defer to the wisdom of the midwife, who calmly tells the labouring mum to ‘breathe’ and ‘push’.

The wisdom of the midwife can be a metaphor for church life. We breathe in the life of God as we worship and pray. Those are the times when we stop and allow God to minister to the deepest parts of our being. Those are the moments of healing and comfort. Those are the times of preparedness when we place ourselves gently into the care of God’s embrace. We need those times. They strengthen us and encourage us, and in 2019 I hope we find many opportunities to experience God with us and among us.

**‘The Christian faith offers us the idea of new life being born within each of us ...’**

But then we push. We push when we allow ourselves to be challenged. We push when we step into the unknown and unfamiliar. We push when we strive to make God’s love known in a world often hostile to the Good News. We push when we dare to follow God’s call in spite of our own inadequacies. The push can be frightening (ask any mother) but it is necessary if new life is to be birthed.

There is a tension within the

process of birthing. On the one hand, there is hope and expectation for the new thing that will come into being at the end of the process, but on the other hand there is anxiety and fear, and a yearning for things to just go back to the way they were before the labour ever began.

Scripture is full of images of birthing. We note Jesus’s challenge to Nicodemus to be born from above, Mary’s call to be the Christ-bearer, and the baptismal promise of new life. The Christian faith offers us the idea of new life being born within each of us, and the challenge of presenting that new life to the world. All of creation waits with eager longing for God to reveal the children of God.

In Kilternan we have come a long way since September. We have opened a new centre which has invigorated our common life and our outreach into the community. We have brought in new staff and numerous new programmes and services for young and old.

Over Easter it might be useful to give ourselves time to breathe and reflect on everything that has happened. We should be encouraged by the seeds of growth all around us. We should also recognise with great sadness the death of the Revd Graham Jones, who was with us for such a short time.

Over Easter we will breathe, but we will remember the wisdom of the midwife. ‘Breathe,’ she says. Then: ‘Push.’

Blessings,  
Rev. Rob.



Mother with new born baby (courtesy: European Commission and R. Canessa).



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## CHURCH SERVICES

### Midweek Service

There will be a short service of Holy Communion using the traditional form in the Meeting Room of the Kilternan Centre every Tuesday at 11:30am.

### Sunday Services

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

March 6	Ash Wednesday 7:30pm
March 10	All-Age Service
March 17	Holy Communion
March 24	Holy Communion featuring the Valdez School Choir Messy Church at 4pm
March 31	Mothering Sunday Sunday Night @ the Gathering Grounds at 8pm
April 7	Morning Prayer
April 14	Palm Sunday

*Holy Week Services below in parish notices.*

April 21	Easter Sunday
April 28	Service of the Word
May 5	Morning Prayer
May 12	All-Age — Godparents Sunday
May 19	Holy Communion Messy Church at 4pm
May 27	All-Age Worship Sunday Night @ The Gathering Grounds at 8pm
June 2	Morning Prayer
June 9	Pentecost

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## PARISH TEAM

The Reverend Rob Clements	Rector
Carol Barry	Parish Reader
Brian Hickey	Youth and Children's Ministry
Kevin O'Sullivan	Organist
Una MacConville	Church Warden
Christian Kraeft	Glebe Warden
Irwin Johnston	Church Warden
Bruce Fitzsimons	Glebe Warden
Jonathan Holt	Secretary of the Vestry
Harry Simpson	Treasurer

# PARISH NOTICE BOARD

## REGISTER

### Baptisms

We welcome Ethan Cinnamond, Gavin Thompson and Ben Montgomery into the family of God's church.

### Christian burial

We were all saddened by the death of several dearly loved parishioners this winter. We remember all their families in our prayers. We remember and give thanks for Lydia Williams, Art Eldon, Iris Carnegie, Anna Cluff and Harry Sunderland.

We were also saddened by the death of the Revd Graham Jones, who was with us for such a short time as our deacon intern. While Graham's ministry among us was short, he had a significant impact on many people.

## ROTAS

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

Flower rota: Sarah Tilson (086 854 2967)

Tea and Coffee rota: Cathriona Fitzsimons (085 718 1188)

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!

We have been delighted by how seamlessly the new tea and coffee rota has been working. Thanks so far to the people of Bishops Gate, Blackberry Hill, Belarmine, Stepside, Crugagh and Wingfield. This spring coffee and tea will be arranged by the residents of the Gallops / Ballyogan, Aikens Village and our young people.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO REVD CATHY HALLISSEY

The appointment has been announced of the new Rector of the Parish of Powerscourt with Kilbride. Congratulations to the Revd Cathy Hallissey, who will begin her ministry there in March.

Cathy was intern deacon in Kiltiernan for a year before being



Revd Cathy Hallissey with Pepperpot.

appointed curate in Taney Parish in 2015. Her ministry here, particularly her gifts with children (I still hear people talk about her puppet 'Pepperpot'), is fondly remembered.

Cathy commented: 'I look forward with enormous gratitude and excitement to my incumbency in the beautiful united parishes of Powerscourt with Kilbride while acknowledging the hands that have cared for them in the past'.

Cathy is a creative spirit and loves writing poetry, songs and music. This feeds into the preparation of courses for adults as well as plays, poems and songs to bring the Scriptures to life for children. She has just finished her book *Piccolo Topo* ('Little Mouse'), which uses contemplative prayer and sound effects to encourage children to sit with God and imagine the Scriptures.

We look forward to working closely with Cathy as we seek opportunities to collaborate in ministry and mission. Our first joint efforts will be a joint confirmation service on 13 April.

We offer Cathy our prayers and support in the days ahead. I'm sure we will see her in the Gathering Grounds soon for a coffee.

## A FAREWELL TO CANON REVD FRED APPLEBE

When I arrived here in 2016, I found Fred's support invaluable. In his capacity as rural dean, Fred had been keeping the Kiltiernan ship afloat during the vacancy. I found an easy friend in Fred and thoroughly enjoyed having him as a neighbour.

We wish Fred well as he enters into retirement. While farming for pleasure might beckon in the wilds of Ashford, I'm sure he will not be a stranger to our pulpits in the future.

## TWO NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TEAM

We welcomed two new additions to the team this year. Tracey McDonnell is with us for nineteen hours a week as a cleaner, keeping the centre and the church spick and span. Carol Jennings will be working in the office alongside Annemarie, offering administrative support.

We are delighted to have them both on board. Keep an eye out for both of them and make sure they get a good Kiltiernan welcome.

## LENT

**Compline.** Every Tuesday during Lent there will be a short service of Compline in the church at 7:30pm. This is a reflective service led by the rector and the choir. This is a space for all to enjoy God's presence with us.

**Digging Deeper.** I'm often mindful that a short twelve-minute sermon doesn't really give us time to grapple with the text, especially if the text is complex. Some of the Bible passages during Lent are challenging and worthy of digging deeper.

During Lent the words of the two readings selected will be printed on the order of service. I'd encourage people to read the texts and consider any questions that might arise as a result of them. At 12 noon, after you have had a chance for tea or coffee, you are

## NOTICE BOARD

invited into the meeting room to dig deeper into the Bible passage. This is not a sermon part 2, but a chance for you to ask some questions based on the readings.

If you want to prepare in advance of the services, the readings are below:

- 10 March—Lent 1: Romans 10: 8–13 and Luke 4: 1–13.
- 17 March—Lent 2: Philippians 3: 17–4: 1 and Luke 13: 31–end.
- 24 March—Lent 3: Isaiah 55: 1–9 and Luke 13: 1–9.
- 7 April—Lent 5: Philippians 3: 4–14 and John 12: 1–8.

Note: we will not be meeting on the 31st, which is Mothering Sunday.

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES IN KILTERNAN PARISH

The theme this year is 'The emotions of Holy Week'.

The thing that has really captured my attention in my Holy Week preparation is the emotions that Jesus's followers must have felt during that one short week. We could learn a thing or two about ourselves by considering the disciples' intense emotional activity, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday.

**Anticipation.** Palm Sunday, 14 April, 8:30am and 10:30am: We gather outside the church with palm branches and process in.

**Uncertainty.** Tuesday, 8:00pm: 'Now my soul is troubled'.

**Betrayal.** Wednesday, 8:00pm: 'And it was night'.

**Longing.** Thursday, 8:00pm: 'Where I am going, you cannot come'. 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.

**Despair.** Good Friday, 8:00pm: 'Crucify him! Crucify him!'

**Joy.** Easter Sunday, 6:00am 'Sunrise Service' at the Lead Mines Chimney; 8:30am and 10:30am: 'He is risen!'

### SUNDAY CRÈCHE

The crèche runs from 10:15am till 11:30am and is staffed by Andrea McLean, a parishioner and childcare professional. Andrea runs the crèche with great care and organisation. It does not operate during the All-Age services, when we would expect children to be able to participate in their own special way in the service.

### SUNDAY NIGHTS @ THE GATHERING GROUNDS

There are lots of ways in which we 'do' church. Of course, there is the familiar pattern of church on a Sunday morning. We celebrate those familiar expressions, but there are lots of ways in which we can express our collective worship.

Sunday Nights at the Gathering Grounds is a new way for us to be church together. We meet in the Gathering Grounds for coffee, tea and cake. This is part of our fellowship together; we are breaking bread and being community. We worship together. Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds is a place to explore some new contemporary songs. Finally, we are inspired by stories of faith.

In January we had an interview with David Turner from Church in Chains, and in February we interviewed Susan O'Toole, the chairperson of Alpha Ireland. Both have encouraged us to think as they shared with us their story and vision.

The next Sunday night at the Gathering Grounds is on 31 March.

### SINGING A NEW SONG

Worship at the Gathering Grounds has been led by Kevin, our organist, and Victoria Johnston. Victoria is a parishioner who works with Spirit Radio. We are very pleased to have Victoria helping us with worship. At the January service Victoria led us in two songs, one of which was an original composition. This was a beautiful song of worship called 'You are the peace', which I hope to use in church over Easter.

I've included the words below for you to enjoy!

### *You Are The Peace*

You are the peace of all things calm  
You are the place to hide from harm  
You are the light that shines in dark  
You are the heart's eternal spark  
You are the door that's open wide  
You are the guest who waits  
You are the stranger at the door  
You are the calling of the poor

You are the Lord and with me still  
You are my love, keep me from ill  
You are the light, the truth, the way  
You are my Saviour this very day  
You are the light that shines in dark  
You are the heart's eternal spark  
You are the light, the truth, the way  
You are my Saviour this very day

You are the light, the truth, the way  
You are my Saviour this very day.

### WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

This programme was written by women in Slovenia, one of the smallest countries in Europe and a pretty young committee in the WDP movement.

At the core of the theme, an invitation—Come; and to enable the response—Everything is ready. Come to praise, thank and proclaim the kingdom of love.

The invitation is grounded in the parable that Jesus told about a great dinner which was attended by the ones called off the streets, as those invited excused themselves. The community formed around the table is not enough to fill the house—there is still room. Who are missing from the table in your community? How would you invite them and prepare the feast?

May the welcoming God enable us to set the table and fill the communities with hope, love and joy!

The service will be on 7 March in St Patrick's Church, Glencullen, at 8.00pm. The speaker this year will be our own Julie Clements.

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



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

*All welcome,  
and bring a friend!*

**Monique & Billy Tomkins**

**EASTER VESTRY**

The Parish Easter Vestry—its AGM—will take place in the Kiltiernan Centre on 7 May 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 review of the past year (and what a busy year it's been!).

**THY KINGDOM COME**

Thy Kingdom Come is an ecumenical global wave of prayer, calling all Christians to pray for evangelisation from Ascension to Pentecost (30 May–9 June 2019).

What started out as an invitation from the archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

The hope is that:

- people will commit to pray with God's worldwide family—as a church, individually or as a family;
- churches will hold prayer events, such as 24/7 prayer, prayer stations and prayer walks;

- people will be empowered by the Holy Spirit through prayer, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

*'In praying "Thy Kingdom Come" we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities'*

—Archbishop Justin Welby

In Kiltiernan we hope to have a number of prayer events, from prayer walks to prayer activities in the school. Keep an eye out for ways to get involved.

**PLEASE SAVE LIVES:  
INTRODUCE  
SCREENING FOR SCID  
AT BIRTH**

A parishioner directly affected recently raised the need for testing for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) in the newborn screening programme (heel-prick test).

The motivation arose from the recent diagnosis of six-month-old Juniper with SCID, a life-threatening genetic condition. A petition has been organised, calling on Simon Harris, the Minister for Health, to introduce screening for this disease.

Children with this condition have a severely impaired immune system and are particularly vulnerable to severe infection. The treatment for this condition (haematopoietic stem-cell transplant—HSCT) has a much higher success rate if diagnosed early and before the affected infant acquires infections. The incidence in Ireland is approximately one in 37,000 children (1–2 cases per year), making it more common than half the diseases currently included in the test.

In Ireland the majority of SCID cases are not diagnosed until the affected infant develops symptoms of infection. Survival rates after HSCT in children with late diagnosis and with infection have been reported at approximately 70%. Children diagnosed and treated early (before three months of age), before they have acquired any infections, have a much better

chance of survival (>90%). A diagnosis of SCID can be made on the heel-prick test using PCR-based technology. Considering the vast difference in survival rates and the impact on children and families, it seems obvious that SCID should be included in the newborn screening programme.

Internationally, this screening has already been included with success in New Zealand, Canada, Taiwan and every state in the US. Pilot schemes have also started in Israel, Australia, the Netherlands and the UK. Moreover, studies in these countries have also concluded that early diagnosis in the heel-prick test and treatment prior to infection is more cost-effective to the healthcare system.

For Juniper's parents, her diagnosis of SCID has been devastating and shocking, considering that up to a few weeks ago they believed that she was a healthy and thriving baby. Unfortunately, owing to the lack of testing for SCID, she spent three weeks in hospital, on three courses of antibiotics, while deteriorating rapidly before an accurate diagnosis was made. Now they must travel to the UK for life-saving treatment and face a lengthy and difficult journey ahead.

Juniper's parents do not want any other parents to endure what they have had to, when a simple blood test at birth could have prevented Juniper from contracting infection and given her a higher chance of survival.

If you are a medical professional, please include this in your signature. You can access the petition here: <https://bit.ly/2Iu2fLm>

**A NEW BENCH IN  
MEMORY OF THOMAS  
AND PHYLLIS KEELEY**

Parishioners will see that there is a lovely new bench in Kiltiernan overlooking the graveyard. This has been donated by Patricia Keeley in memory of Thomas and Phyllis Keeley. This is a lovely place for one and all to sit, reflect and remember loved ones.

## NOTICE BOARD

### MUSIC NOTES

Victoria Johnston and Kevin have brought music to the Evening at the Gathering Grounds. Victoria sang one of her own compositions, 'You are the Peace', with which many joined in on the second rendition. We're looking forward to more music at future nights at the Gathering Grounds.

This Lent the Tuesday Evening Compline at 7:30pm with the Choir will return on 12 March. A beautifully reflective time, and all are welcome as we prepare for Holy Week. The Parish Choir are hoping to return to their tradition of visiting another parish this May, when we plan to take a short trip to Sligo.

A date for the diaries is Friday 14 June, when the Capella Mixed Voice Choir will sing in concert in the new centre, with a possible appearance by Kiltiernan Junior Choir.

### FAVOURITE HYMNS FROM THE JUNIOR CHOIR

*'If I were a butterfly'* by Kaoife O'Shea & Sara Balosanu: We like this song because it is joyful, and we love the actions to it!

*'Will you come and follow me?'* by Abby Pennefather: 'Will you come and follow me' is my favourite song because I like the rhythm. The rhythm is slow, nice and is easy to sing along to. I also like the lyrics. The lyrics give you a good message. *'Shine, Jesus, Shine'* by Charlie Osborne: I really like this hymn because it is really happy and joyful and every time we sing it we all have a smile on our faces because the chorus is really good and it is my favourite part of the hymn. I think it is also really good because at the start of the hymn it begins low but then it builds its way up to high; and also in the chorus it doesn't just say 'Shine, Jesus, Shine', it also says 'blaze, Spirit, blaze' and 'flow, river, flow', and this is why this is my favourite hymn.

*'Jubilate!'* by Caoimhe Moutray & Meg Fitzsimons: We love this song because it's lively and energetic. We love singing it and how it gets faster every time.



Junior and Senior Choir (Christmas 2018).

### JOINING CHOIRS

Our Parish Choir is always looking for new voices, particularly men. Please get in touch if you are at all interested or know someone who might be. There are also a couple of places open in the Junior Choir for any child from 1st to 6th Class in Kiltiernan National School.

Kevin and Victoria would welcome other musicians, both instrumentalists and singers, to join us at the Sunday Nights at the Gathering Grounds.

You can contact Kevin, Music Director, at [music@kiltiernanparish.ie](mailto:music@kiltiernanparish.ie) and follow music news on Facebook: [facebook.com/KiltiernanParishMusic](https://facebook.com/KiltiernanParishMusic).

### FÊTE: 11 MAY 2019

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

It is vital for the success of the fête that we get the support and involvement of the entire parish. Funds generated assist both the school and the parish and make up any shortfall which occurs.

It is worth remembering that the fête is not only a day to raise funds but also a gathering of 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, bring home some treats from the cake stand, purchase a plant for the garden...

If you have any ideas, recommendations or suggestions please

don't be shy; come and share your thoughts/ideas with us.

In the course of the next few weeks we will be sending out flyers asking for help in different areas of the fête so 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 each year. Please contact the parish office or email address below: [olive.walker@obeeco.ie](mailto:olive.walker@obeeco.ie) or [grainnedarlington@eircom.net](mailto:grainnedarlington@eircom.net).

In the meantime, fingers crossed for a dry day and warm day on 11 May 2019.

Yours in fête organisation,  
Olive Walker, 086 220 0153

### VALDEZ SCHOOL CHOIR

We are delighted to welcome an American choir group from Valdez High School on 24 March.

Valdez High School Choir is an elective course offered at Valdez High School in Alaska. The choir performs annually at a fund-raising dinner event, a winter and spring concert, and regional and state competitions. Locally, the choir provides musicians for numerous national anthem performances, as well as community Christmas events and Veterans' Day performances.

We look forward to receiving them at our 10:30am service.

### KILTIERNAN PARISH LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Members continue to enjoy social tennis on Monday mornings and

Tuesday evenings, and teams have been playing in the DLTC Winter League (Sundays) and the Ladies' Charity League (Mondays). The school PTA also organise coaching sessions for the children on Tuesday afternoons.

We've welcomed several new members recently and there are ongoing enquiries about membership. As the subscription year begins on 1 April, now's a good time to join! If you are interested in playing tennis, either competitively or socially with friends and family, do get in touch or call in some Tuesday evening.

Subscriptions for 2019/20—  
Adult €165 and Family €255.

Enquiries and applications welcome!

**KPLTC Hon. Sec. Mary White:**  
087 987 7377 or  
famwhite@eircom.net.

**KILTERNAN GARDENING CLUB**

During the building works we had been very comfortably based in Rosemont School but were delighted to return in January to our superbly rebuilt base within the parish. The Club has been in existence for well over 50 years, with a very vibrant and friendly membership.

There are 8:00pm meetings with guest speakers in the big Parish Centre hall, generally on the fourth Monday of the month, and garden visits during the spring and summer.

Our upcoming meetings are on Monday 25 March and Monday 29 April. We are always delighted to welcome new members or guests. So just turn up on one of those dates, pay €5 at the door, enjoy an informative gardening talk and a convivial cup of tea ... and you might decide to join!

(Annual membership sub €30.)

**Noreen Keane (Chairperson),**  
087 259 2766.

**PARKING CARE**

It is a great asset to the parish to have a car park of such a high standard. The car park can be busy, however, especially during school drop-off and pick-up times. We

would encourage all drivers to be careful when using the car park and to watch out for little ones.

**NEW KILTERNAN PARISH TABLE TENNIS CLUB**

The table tennis club continues to be a great new addition to the social life of the parish. For more information contact Irwin Johnston ([irwincjohnston@gmail.com](mailto:irwincjohnston@gmail.com) / 086 607 5357).

**ANNUAL DONATIONS**

As part of our commitment to growing in service to the community, the parish makes donations to a select number of causes each year (*see table, right*). A small group meet to consider who to support and at what level, and this proposal is put to the Vestry each year. Our wish is that, as the parish continues to grow, our level of support for particular causes also increases, as long as we can afford it. In recent years the Select Vestry have particularly felt that the Diocesan Appeal for Asylum & Refugee Accommodations is a cause which warrants a higher level of support and this sentiment is echoed by many parishioners.

I would like to thank Rob and Caroline Kennedy for their input. I would also welcome any comments from anyone who would like to express their views on what causes or initiatives the parish supports.

**Harry Simpson**  
([harrysimpson@gmail.com](mailto:harrysimpson@gmail.com)).

**THE GATHERING GROUNDS**

The Gathering Grounds continues to be a busy and exciting place to gather. Word has spread and footfall continues to increase in the café. I hope this means that people are finding meaningful community here: community in the meditation group, during the play café, at senior lunches, gathering at the coffee bar with friends old and new, and even sitting alone in the presence of others. Community does not always mean belonging, though. And we all need to belong. Belonging is something different; it comes from being yourself and being seen. This re-

Beneficiary	2018
	(€)
Diocesan Appeal for Asylum & Refugee Accommodation	2,200
Protestant Aid	800
Rector's Fund	750
St John's Home of Rest	500
Cowper Care	400
Laura Lynn Children's Hospice	500
Sunday School Society of Ireland Children's Ministry Officer	400
The Leprosy Mission	350
POS Children's Education Fund	350
Church Missionary Society Ireland	300
Dublin & Glendalough Diocesan Board of Education	300
Glorney Foundation	300
Mothers' Union	300
St John of God Hospital	300
The Mission to Seafarers	300
RNLI	300
Country Air Association	300
The Samaritans	300
Alice Leahy Trust	300
Alzheimers Café	250
Bray Women's Refuge	250
Christ Church Cathedral	250
Clergy Widow and	250
Peter McVerry Trust	300
Team Hope	250
The Church's Ministry of Healing	250
The Harding Trust	250
The Church of Ireland Association of Deaf People	250
D.U.M.C.N.	200
Eco Congregation Ireland	200
P.A.C.T./Here to Help	200
Royal British Legion	200
S.P.C.K.	200
Kirwan House	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,750</b>

## NOTICE BOARD

quires courage to put yourself out there and be vulnerable. I hope that the Gathering Grounds is a place where people can practise being themselves and can practise listening to and loving others. Let us not be a 'behave, believe, belong' church, where certain behaviours and beliefs are required before acceptance and belonging are offered. Let us be a 'belong, believe, become' church, where we radically love and accept those who come through the front door, giving them a place to belong so that they can come to believe, and become who God intended them to be.

My hope is that the Gathering Grounds is a place where people can come and share their joys and their sorrows without the worry of being judged or criticised. Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. May we all come as we are, be honest and vulnerable, love radically and find belonging.

### *How can you get involved?*

Gathering Grounds café volunteers are especially needed in the afternoons from 1.00pm to 3:30pm, Monday–Friday.

Meal Train is still active and serving. If you would like to be added to the pool of volunteers for upcoming Meal Trains, let me know. Alternatively, if you know of someone, or a family, in need of a week of Meal Train, let me know.

Messy Church is a monthly gathering, and new volunteers to host craft tables are needed. You don't need to be particularly crafty—just willing!

**Julie**

### **A child's experience**

My experience in the Gathering Grounds, Monday to Wednesday over the midterm break, has been very enjoyable. Over the last three days I've been talking a lot more than I normally do. I found out that the way to keep people happy is to keep a smile on your face and to talk to them. You get to know a lot more people. As a child in the Gathering Grounds it can sometimes get a bit tricky. Some other kids helped me.

On my first day I was a bit

nervous but, when I got used to it, it was fun. My mum Julie and a girl made a pineapple upside-down cake and buns, but the pineapple cake was falling apart. I got to serve some food to people. I helped with the pineapple upside-down cake and buns. I learned how to make a few coffees, but I can't use the coffee machine.

On Tuesday I went to the senior soup group. Rob Pierce, the man who made the soup today, was very adventurous with his soups; as I watched him cook, the smells of the kitchen were delicious. The smell of pesto filled the kitchen with lovely smells. He used homemade pesto to make the best bread ever. He made tomato and bean soup, and mushroom soup. I had a break every day. I did not get paid but that does not matter. All that matters is that I had fun. My mum was so proud of me. Over midterm in the café I got to see a lot of new things. I set the table and laid out napkins. I thought I was becoming the butter lady because I was going back and forward with butter. The raspberry white chocolate scones were going very fast.

On Wednesday, I went to the play café and it was fun. I played with some people. I got to serve people. I had to cut butter. The café was so busy. There was lots of food. We had fairy cakes, flap jacks, oat cookies, scones and chocolate biscuit cake. I really enjoyed it. I found it fun. I got to wear an apron. I helped put out all the toddler stuff. I had some chocolate biscuit cake.

My three days in the Gathering Grounds have brought out a lot in

me. I have become a lot more confident with my work. On Monday I learned that even if you make a cake and it falls apart, you should always use the parts that are left. On Tuesday I learned that you should try everything. On Wednesday I learned that you should always be kind to others.

**Sophia Clements**

### **Mindful Mondays**

This group meets every Monday at 9:00am for 30 minutes of silent mindful meditation. This is open to everyone. A great way to start the week.

### **Play Café at the Gathering Grounds**

The play café meets every Wednesday from 10.00am till 12 noon. The main hall is filled with soft toys for tots, while the Gathering Grounds hosts prams and coffee. All are welcome.

### **Senior Soup Group**

Join us for soup and cheese every Tuesday from 12 noon.

### **Craft Nights @ the Gathering Grounds**

Upcoming Craft Nights: 5 April, 3 May, 7 June.

### **Biriyani Night**

We are fortunate in Kiltiernan to have a kitchen kitted to a commercial standard. It is our ambition to put it to good use. In January we had a Biriyani cooking demonstration by one of our Gathering Grounds volunteers. Lots of fun and delicious food!



Biriyani night at the Gathering Grounds

# 'MIRACLES HAPPEN! DREAMS CAN COME TRUE!'

**Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal by Carol Hennnessy.**

Irish Christian charity Team Hope, best known for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, collected 259,079 Christmas Shoebox gifts in the 2018 appeal. It's a fantastic response from people all over Ireland, and in November and December it's a huge team effort to collect, check and dispatch these shoeboxes to children in Eastern Europe and Africa. These gifts have been sent to needy children in twelve countries: Albania, Belarus, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, Burundi, D.R. Congo, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland.

Team Hope delivers shoebox gifts to the neediest of children regardless of their religious or political beliefs or ethnic background. Since we started, over four million children have received a shoebox gift from Ireland. These shoebox gifts have brought smiles, laughter, some hope and a little of God's love to children in 24 of the world's poorest countries—children living on the margins of society, who think that they have been forgotten, but when a shoebox arrives it shows that someone knows and cares for them! It really is love in a box!

In January, along with a team of volunteers, I visited the Vitebsk region in north Belarus. Snow covered the country and huge icicles hung from homes, as temperatures plummeted to  $-16^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Over the few days, we were kept busy doing shoebox distributions to children in village halls, church, orphanage and special needs centre, along with many home visits.

On a bitterly cold Sunday afternoon we met little Olga, who lives with her dad, mum and big sister Tatiana. The family struggle to survive on what Dad earns in the local communal farm and forestry

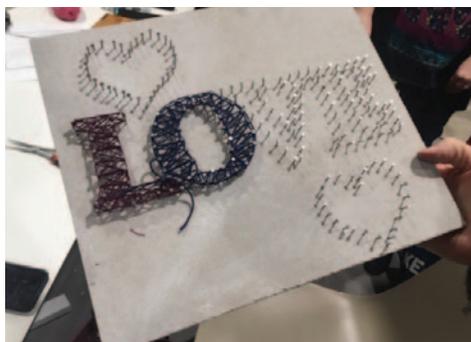


plant. Olga jumped up and down when she saw that we had brought presents for Tatiana and herself. As she opened her shoebox, her eyes were wide with excitement! Our translator told us that she was shouting 'Miracles happen, dreams can come true!' Olga was so excited to get her new hat and gloves and to find a big bag of sweets among the other lovely things in her shoebox! It was lovely to see Olga sharing the sweets with her sister and the two of them playing together with a skittles set which Tatiana got in her shoebox.

I would like to thank everyone

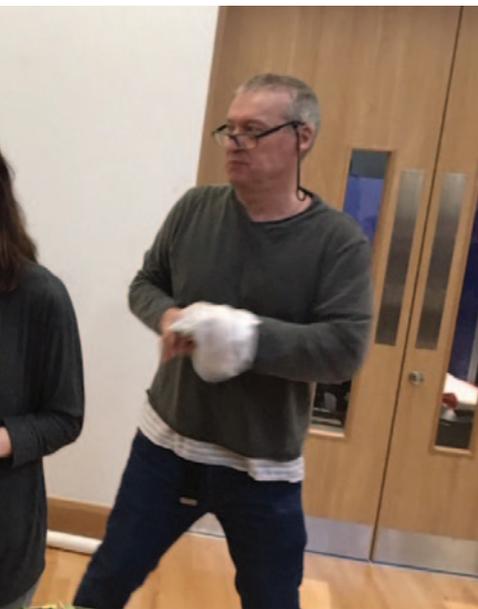
in Kiltiernan Parish and School for all their love and support for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. It's always a big team effort and we really appreciate your help, whether it's giving a donation, making a shoebox, supporting us in prayer, knitting items, collecting some suitable items for boxes or helping check the boxes in Cherrywood. Team Hope work all the year round with these children, and if you would like to know more please go to [www.teamhope.ie](http://www.teamhope.ie) or get in touch with me. We would love to hear from you!

# THE PARISH AT PLAY



Clockwise from top right: Neelan and the finished Biriyani; eyes down at the Craft Night x2; craftwork from the night; sustenance for Messy Church; Rob and Brian with mouse ears at Christmas (you had to be there!); the Rector hamming it up for Izzy Doyle's new camera at Christmas (see also page 19); impressive results from Craft Night.

# AY AND AT PRAYER



# RAMBLES IN ERIN

## Derek Higgins on the alpha and omega of the Tuesday Club

The origins of the Tuesday Club came about in this wise.

Archdeacon Fisher, a former rector, mooted the idea of forming the club to Revd David Muir, who then asked Jean Russell whether she could get it started.

My information is that Jean Russell, Joyce Bates, Doreen Richardson and Elsie Townsend were the founder members. The first meeting of the Tuesday Club took place on 7 May 1985, and future meetings were to be held on the first Tuesday of each month (excluding July and August) from 2.30pm to 4.30pm in the Parish Hall. This information was elicited through the good offices of Mary White, who rummaged through old church reviews to find it.

The second meeting was held in the hall on 4 June 1985. The third meeting was at the home of Mrs Judge, so evidently from an early stage the club was not to be confined! Jean Russell told me that the meetings were a get-together for a chat, and she recalled a visit to Mrs Anderson's house when members came to the Parish Hall first, to collect tableware for the event! I assume this refers to Evie Anderson, who was hooked on trout and possible salmon fishing and who passed away only in November 2017.

### *Secretaries*

The first secretary, Elsie Townsend, served from 1985 to 1994.

Lydia Williams then took over and served from 1995 until she sadly passed away in December 2018. She was a parishioner in both Enniskerry and Kiltiernan parishes and was wonderful. She rang around well in advance of outings, whipped up interest, organised



A visit to Ballitor Quaker Meeting House, Co. Kildare, one of the many interesting trips taken by the Tuesday Club.

coaches if required and eating places where necessary, would liaise with the treasurer and be spokesperson for the group at destination; she also had a good sense of humour.

### *Treasurers*

Arthur Turner 1985–93

Albert Jolley 1994–6

Ernie Tracey 1997–2007

Derek Higgins 2008–18

When I joined the committee of six in 2008, Barbara Wilkie was the chairwoman and she kindly hosted Annual Meetings at her home early in the year, when annual accounts were presented and a programme of outings for the year drawn up. Barbara Sunderland, alas recently

deceased, prepared copies of the programme for circulation among members. As well as Lydia Williams, the other committee members were Elsie Townsend, who has since left the parish, and Liz Irvine.

Over time, members aged, died, became incapable of travel or left the parish, and sufficient replacements did not materialise, so that by 2018 the club could boast only a possible ten members, some of whom were from outside the parish. Efforts were made to increase membership to no avail. No outings were arranged for 2018, and during that year our secretary's health deteriorated.

It was agreed among four committee members that the club

would be wound up and that surplus funds would go to the Gathering Grounds café in the new Parish Centre in respect of the Tuesday morning sessions for the elderly in the parish.

On 21 December 2018 I closed the bank account, and on 8 January 2019 a final meeting of the committee took place in the parish centre (Barbara Wilkie, Liz Irvine and Derek Higgins present). Closing accounts were passed, and surplus funds of €370.77 were given to Revd Rob Clements towards the Tuesday morning costs. He warmly welcomed the donation and felt that the destination of the fund's surplus was admirable. He asked whether I would write an article on the Tuesday Club, setting out some of the highlights, to which I acceded.

The Tuesday Club was more than a chance to chat. It was an encouragement to get out and about and see a bit of the country. It provided a sense of adventure and even a sense of uncertainty, as an outing could change or be cancelled.

Liz Irvine kindly supplied me with a copy of programmes from 2003–15 which showed a good spread of destinations, meetings etc.

The first item in 2003 was a slide-show on Australia and I couldn't recall seeing these. It eventually dawned on me that it was I who showed them!

Dublin venues were well represented: the National Museums, the National Art Gallery, the Abbey Presbyterian Church, the Rotunda Chapel, Poolbeg ESB Station, the Smithfield Chimney, Jamesons, the Guinness Brewery, Glasnevin Cemetery, the Chapel Royal, the City Hall, the Little Museum and many more.

We had two lovely overnight stays away. One was a train trip to Cork and Cobh, suggested by Barbara Wilkie, who arranged for our bags to be collected at Cobh and the Commodore Hotel while we went to Fota Park. The other was a train trip to Waterford, where we booked into a hotel on the

quays and were able to enjoy the amenities of the city.

We saw many garden features, and three of the more memorable ones were:

- Altamount Gardens, Tullow
- Mount Ussher Gardens, Ashford
- Woodstock Gardens, Inistioge

Country houses of note:

- Boris House, occupied by the descendants of Dermot MacMurrough, king of Leinster
- Leinster House, home of the Dáil and Senate
- Emo Court
- Gandon Church

Interesting visits:

- Quaker Village, Ballitor, with a talk on its origins and a lovely meal in Ballymore Eustace
- Fairbrook House and gardens, Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford, a book on which Jean van der Lee rather enjoyed
- Holyhead and Anglesey Island across the Irish Sea
- Maynooth by train, with the canal nearby and the university campus

- The Turlough Hill Project near the Wicklow Gap
- The Shackleton Museum in Athy—taxi over to Kildare and home by train
- Knockree Hostel in Glencree Valley—Norman Campion arranged this tour and it was much appreciated

A very charitable occasion was hosted by Barbara Wilkie annually at her home for many years. This was a visit by friends from St Joseph's House for adult deaf and blind near Brewery Road.

While there were many Tuesday Club outings prior to 2003, the foregoing gives a flavour of the outings that occurred monthly, usually from March to October, and which were funded both by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council grants and members' contributions. Revd Rob's introduction of a Tuesday morning short service in the new Centre followed by sustenance and an opportunity for a chat is a timely substitute for the Tuesday Club and is proving very successful. May it continue to thrive well into the future.



Borris House, Co. Carlow, also visited by the Tuesday Club.

# FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY



KILTERNAN YOUTH  
MINISTRY

## UNDER ONE ROOF: KYM

Since the turn of the year it has been all go for youth work here in Kiltiernan. Our senior youth group picked up where it left off after a short break. Sunday Club seems to be attracting a lot of attention too, which is fantastic. I'm always slightly nervous when walking from the church to the centre because of the number of young people I see step out from the pews, and I think 'Wow, that's a lot of kids today!' We seem to be going from strength to strength.

As mentioned in our previous edition, we hoped to start a new youth group, which would focus on the young people from 6th Class–1st Year. I am delighted to say that that has kicked off and we have been having so much fun with it. There is a real energy and excitement to it.

Rob and I have also been leading a group preparing for confirmation. We have joined up with Rathmichael to facilitate these sessions. It has been a fantastic opportunity to see these young people learn and grow in their faith. I have also found it beneficial for myself, as I too have to consider the things that we are teaching. Looking at the basis of my faith has been a real learning curve for me. Have a glance at each group and see what we are up to.

**Brian**

### Senior Youth Group

When I first arrived in Kiltiernan, I didn't know what to expect when it came to working with teenagers. What were they going to be like? Would they like me? Well, my anxiety was thrown out the window as I have gotten to know this amazing group of people. We have had so much fun in our time together, and I am excited about

what we will do in the future. We meet every two weeks (second and fourth Sundays). If you would like more information on this group, don't hesitate to drop into the office or drop me a text!

### Junior Youth Group

We have been having so much fun with this group. So far, we have played many games, had many challenges and even done some baking—although the guys weren't very good at it! The purpose of this group is to bridge the gap between primary school and secondary school by integrating them together, while bringing them into the church and making them feel part of it. This group meets every second Friday (second and fourth of the month).

### Confirmation

I have never been part of Church of Ireland confirmation classes. I was quite excited by the prospect of teaching young people about our faith and why we believe what we believe. I love this group. Our interactions have been very encouraging. To know that we are building the next generation is the youth worker's primary aim; to be able to be part of their spiritual journey is exciting. If you have anyone who would be interested in being confirmed, don't hesitate to ask. With our new centre we have scope to hold more participants.

### Sunday Club

I like the Church of Ireland lectionary. Getting to go through the Bible over a three-year cycle is great. Different churches follow different models; some churches do thematic studies of the Bible, and some go through a book over a few weeks. Here in Kiltiernan we follow the lectionary, which is basically an

Old Testament passage, New Testament and a Psalm. You are covering a lot of ground there! Sunday school traditionally follows its own model, separate from the church programme. Here in Kiltiernan we follow the lectionary. Basically, whatever Rob speaks about, I also speak about. It is very important for families to engage with what they have learnt in church. It can be difficult enough if they covered something different, but when brought together this is where conversation can be made. In my short time here I have seen the fruit of this. Children appreciate it when adults engage them on what they learned, but are also surprised when you can share something you learned on the same topic. How cool would it be if we were a community that modelled this—where we can be a family, where we can be actively interested in one another, where we can encourage our young people to continue growing, to continue questioning and continue learning?

## SCRIPTURE UNION CAMPS

Scripture Union run a huge variety of camps for children and young people, as well as family holidays, parenting weekends and non-residential kids' clubs throughout the year. These camps and holidays are the perfect place to have fun, make new friends, try new things and, above all, learn more about God!

In recent years a number of families from the parish have attended SU camps. Most of the camps take place at Ovoca Manor, Co. Wicklow, where they offer accommodation and a wide range of adventure activities.

Brian, our youth and children's worker, will be involved in the Family Week camp this year. Have a chat to him if you would like more information about attending.

### Parenting weekends

Parenting weekends offer an opportunity for one parent and one child (9–12 years) to get away

together for a weekend. We offer four throughout the year, between February and September. The cost of €175 includes all activities, accommodation and food for the parent and child. (NB: children share a dorm room with other children and parents share a dorm room with other parents.)

- Mother & Daughter (9–12 years old): 22–24 February
- Father & Son (9–12 years old): 10–12 May
- Father & Daughter (9–12 years old): 13–15 September
- Mother & Son (9–12 years old): 20–22 September

#### Family weeks

These camps provide an opportunity for the whole family to have a week together having fun, praising God, meeting new people and living in community.

Each morning and evening there are age-specific groups for adults, teenagers, children and, if needed, a morning crèche facility. Afternoons are full of activities for the whole camp to enjoy (which is always entertaining when over 100 people arrive at the beach at the same time!), or you can take some time to yourself.

Price varies depending on accommodation and catering choice.

Family Week (all ages): 4–10 August

Family Week (all ages): 11–17 August

### KILTERNAN SCOUTS

#### Safety First

As the evenings begin to get a little brighter and the kids are out and about more, we have been focusing on safety and first aid.

Our Beavers and some of the younger Cubs had a visit from St John's Ambulance to go over the basics of First Aid (*below*).

The Cubs and Scouts ran a more advanced first-aid evening, where our resident first-aid expert, Fionn, brought Annie the mannequin to show the scouts how to do CPR. The scouts have also been honing their survival skills in Barnaslingan woods (*below*).

Our leaders, as always, are



showing amazing levels of commitment, and we currently have nine of them attending a two-and-a-half-day first-aid course across the month of February.

### A REFLECTION ON SCHOOL REGISTRATION

This was the first year that we had to deal with school registration difficulties, as a number of people were disappointed not to get a place for their child in 2019. This was in part a result of a tightening of school registration policies across the diocese, but mainly it was to do with an increase in the population of those in what we call category 1—families of Protestant tradition living within the parish.

I'm often mindful that there are people who may assume that by the mere fact of living in the parish they are members of the parish. That isn't the case. Individuals need to be able to provide evidence that

they are of the Protestant faith. They can do that through providing a baptismal certificate, or providing a letter or signature and stamp from the leader of a Protestant/reformed church.

Different church leaders will have different criteria as to what constitutes a member. If you wish to join the parish of Kiltiernan you will be welcomed wholeheartedly, but please contact the rector and make sure that you are on the parish list.

### MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church has made the jump to a monthly schedule, as it establishes itself as a solid part of our schedule of church services. To facilitate this, we now have two catering teams and a large group of crafters. We are always on the lookout for anyone else who might like to help.

We are delighted this year to have our first Messy Church baptisms. We have three families looking to have their children baptised during Messy Church.



A proud dad at Messy Church.

### Rambling Rose Garden Design

Caitriona Murray MSc  
086 151 4233

Garden design & Maintenance  
cmscorner@gmail.com

# COMMUNITY AND WIDER CHURCH

## #PENNIES4PLASTICS: A LENTEN INITIATIVE FROM THE CHURCH OF IRELAND



Throughout Lent 2019, the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal, Eco-Congregation Ireland and the Representative Church Body (RCB) will be inviting individuals, families, parishes, schools, and Sunday schools and clubs to prayerfully reduce their use of plastic.

#Pennies4Plastics is an exciting initiative that celebrates God's creation, challenges us to make small changes this Lent that help protect this creation and raises vital funds for Waste Aid, which supports recycling in the Gambia, where many communities have no formal waste-management system. It encourages all those taking part to:

- get informed about single-use plastic;
- get busy making changes (with lots of different ideas);
- learn about how plastic waste is being transformed in the Gambia; and
- pray for the important environmental issues around waste and plastics.

A resource, full to the brim with everything you need to reduce plastic waste and help others to do the same, is now available here. This can be downloaded in full or in four different sections covering information, action, giving, and school assemblies and All-Age Worship. You can also download labels and attach them to recyclable jars for your Lenten collection.

Lydia Monds, Education Advisor with Bishops' Appeal, says: 'As we compiled this resource we learned some startling facts. Eight million tonnes of plastic are ending up in the oceans each year—that's

the weight of roughly a million elephants. Also, Ireland is by far the EU's worst offender when it comes to buying single-use plastics. And in countries where there are no waste-management systems, people's health is suffering from the mass burning of plastics, whilst their livestock become ill and can die from ingesting plastic. This is not an issue for an enthusiastic few; for Christians who worship the God of all Creation, this is an issue for all of us. Take prayerful action with us this Lent.'

Donations can be made online, through a bank lodgement, or by euro or sterling cheque (details for these payment methods are available on-line here). Funds donated as part of #Pennies4Plastics will be match-funded by Bishops' Appeal and the RCB.

## TRANSFORMING UNJUST STRUCTURES: GENDER JUSTICE

Bishops' Appeal in conjunction with the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough are hosting a seminar on the 4th Mark of Mission—Transforming Unjust Structures, focusing on gender equality and gender justice issues, on Tuesday 19 March from 10am to 1pm in the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2.

Come and hear the stories of gender justice issues from a variety of perspectives:

*The Irish church context*—Ruth Garvey-Williams, Editor, *Vox Magazine*  
*Gender inequality nationally*—Dr Cliona Loughnane, Women's Health Coordinator, National Women's Council of Ireland  
*An international insight into global gender issues*—Veena Sullivan, Head of HIV & Sexual Violence Team, Tearfund UK.

The introductory remarks on the day will be made by the Most Revd Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin.

It will conclude with a light lunch at 1pm. Attendance is free. Places are limited. For a place, please email [seminar@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:seminar@ireland.anglican.org)

or contact Caoimhe Leppard in Church of Ireland House, Dublin, 01 4125608. Information on how to find the Chester Beatty Library here: <https://chesterbeatty.ie/visit/>.

## MEET OUR NEW COMMUNITY GUARD



We welcome Eibhear Donnellan to Kiltiernan.

Eibhear was born in west Limerick and joined the Guards in 2005. Fresh from Templemore, he was shipped to Dublin. He was the community guard in Blackrock before transferring to Dundrum in October 2018, when he took over this post from Pat.

We are hoping to set up a weekly clinic with Eibhear here in the Kiltiernan Parish Centre in the future, so keep an eye on our notice board.

## BECOMING SCAMWISE

Over £120,000 was lost in Northern Ireland to scammers last month alone. The Church of Ireland is backing the Scamwise NI campaign to keep people safe from scams.

You can keep four steps ahead of a scam by using this test:

- Seems too good to be true
- Contacted out of the blue
- Asked for personal details
- Money requested

For more information, check out [www.facebook.com/scamwiseni](http://www.facebook.com/scamwiseni).

Advice on tackling scams in the Republic is available from your local crime prevention officer or by visiting An Garda Síochána's website on tackling fraud:

<http://bit.ly/2WFxkyR>.

Remember: if you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

## CRANMER'S CORNER



During Lent, every Tuesday at 7:30pm we gather for a short service of Compline. Where does this service come from?

Compline was introduced into Anglican liturgical life in the 1920s, but the service is far from new. Dating back to the fourth century, and referenced by St Benedict, St Basil and St John Chrysostom, Compline has been prayed for century after century and forms part of the whole Daily Office known as the Liturgy of the Hours.

Compline was the last service of the day, to be said by the monks in their dormitories before bed. It was a simple service without flourishes or flashes. St Benedict had this to say about the simplicity of Compline:

*Let Compline be limited to the saying of three psalms, which are to be said straightforwardly without antiphons, after which let there be the hymn of that hour, a lesson, a versicle, the Kyrie, and a blessing to conclude.*

To this day, Psalms 4, 31 and 91 form the backbone of the service. Psalm 134 is often included as an additional, optional reading.

Whereas Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer were designed as offices to be prayed corporately, Compline has always been a monastic, private office used in the comfort and seclusion of one's home.

Archbishop Thomas Cranmer made an important liturgical move as part of the English Reformation which saw Vespers and Compline combined into a single service known as Evensong. This was a cathedral service and has been often prayed chorally.

### *Why Compline?*

Compline was a service to close the day, an opportunity to give thanks for the joys and graces experienced, a chance to confess the (many) sins committed throughout the day, and the perfect moment to close the day the same way it started: in doxological prayer. If Morning Prayer—or whatever service you use to begin your day—is designed to start the day off right, then Compline is designed to end it well.

*The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.*

## LECTIONARY RAMBLINGS: PLANNING FOR WORSHIP DURING LENT, YEAR C

The primary 'messaging' of worship during Lent is intended to support our preparation for Easter. In the early church, Easter was associated with baptism. In Year C, the readings from Luke and John are designed to help the whole church re-centre itself on the teaching and practices that help all disciples of Jesus to live the promises made at their baptism. We might notice a connection between the readings and the questions asked of the candidates at a baptism.

The first Sunday of Lent always begins with an account of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness (Luke 4: 1–14). What is at stake here for Him, and for us, is His capacity to name and confess His identity in God. In so doing, He is also renouncing Satan, or, as our baptismal ritual puts it, 'Do you reject the devil and all proud rebellion against God?'

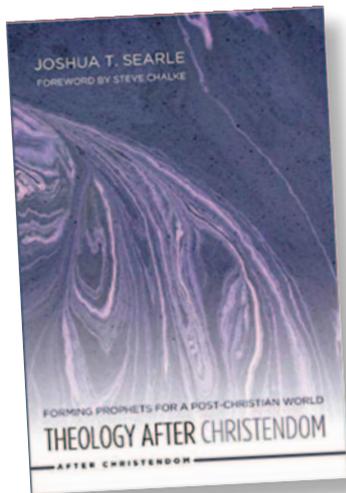
The second Sunday shows us Jesus boldly persevering in His mission despite rumours of threats from Herod (Luke 13: 31–35). The other readings speak of 'standing firm' (Philippians) and trusting God's faithfulness. It is one thing to say those words, it is another to stay committed to the way of Jesus. Disciples of Jesus are called to be such a persevering community, continuing to 'stay the course' of the way of Jesus. This is our commitment at our baptism to 'submit to Christ as Lord'.

The readings for the third Sunday seem almost counter-intuitive for Lent, especially Isaiah's descriptions of a lavish feast during this season of fasting! But the call here is to return to the abundance of God's feast. We read this text during Lent because it's important for newcomers to the faith and old-timers alike to hear this message loud and clear. When we are asked at our baptism, 'Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?', we are being asked whether we are ready to turn away from all pathways that bring harm to our relationships with God, one another, ourselves and creation. To repent means 'to turn away', 'to turn back' or—as in Isaiah—'to return'.

The fourth Sunday includes the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15). Again, this is a call to return, a call to re-establish the relationship with the Father. It is also a reminder of God's mercy and goodness. We are asked, 'Do you turn to Christ?'

Finally, the fifth Sunday tells the story of Mary, who anoints Jesus's feet with costly oil and wipes them with her hair (John 12: 1–8). As well as echoing preparation for His burial, the call is to release our wills and resources to join God's work in the actual world around us as fully as we can. Mary, sister of Lazarus, is the model of discipleship to which we are to aspire. We are reminded that our baptism is a calling to lifelong discipleship, as we respond to the final baptismal question: 'Do you come to Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life?'

## BOOK REVIEW



*Theology after Christendom: forming prophets for a post-Christian world*, Joshua T. Searle. Cascade Books. ISBN 978-1532617300. Paperback. 234pp. \$26.77.

*I was asked to review this book for a Church of Ireland journal called Search. While books like this are not everyone's cup of tea, I thought a shortened version might be of interest to some of our Kiltiernan Klips readers.*

What do we mean by post-Christendom? Christendom is understood as a historical era during which the Christian faith had a privileged position within most spheres of Western society. This is an era of history when everything was read through a 'Christian' lens.

Today we find ourselves in the unfamiliar situation of being in 'post-Christendom'. At times the extent to which we are truly in a post-Christian social context is still up for debate. While the academic institutes may feel certainly post-Christian, there may be corners of Ireland where the institutional church is still in a position of great privilege. Nonetheless, the unravelling of Christendom in the 21st century seems relatively self-evident.

The thesis of Searle's work is that, in the light of the new reality, the purpose and practices of theology and faith need to be re-envisioned and re-imagined. Searle is not using the word 'theology' in

an academic way (so don't be put off!). If you are a disciple of Christ, you are a theologian (how about that!). Theology is how we think about questions of ultimate concern. If things matter to you, you are doing theology. The choice for a Christian, therefore, is never between having a theology or not having a theology; the choice is always between having a good theology or having a bad theology.

Under Christendom, theology became increasingly dogmatic and self-serving. Christ became an object for study rather than the Lord of all. This produced shallow Christian discipleship. Theology in post-Christendom, if it is to have any meaning or usefulness, needs to speak with a new-found relevance into the culture we live in today.

For Searle this involved returning to its roots. What we believe should not be passive, but good theology is always transformational. Theology should not be dry and dusty but dynamic and challenging. Theology should

challenge unjust social structures and actively fight to restore values of solidarity, dignity, freedom and compassion where they have been denied.

In this sense, theology in post-Christendom is a call to public theology. Unshackled from church structures and preoccupations with internal affairs, faith should be manifest in the public sphere, not in the privileged position once set through its institutional status, but through discussion and openness.

Searle does not pull his punches when it comes to the institution of the church. As a clergyman I did get halfway through feeling rather battered and bruised. However, Searle sees this as an opportunity for the church, a new spiritual awakening, a church 'without walls'.

This is a challenging time for the church, as we see our country change so dramatically, but it's also an exciting time as we seek to make the Kingdom of God known.

**Rob Clements**

**Alzheimer Café**  
DUNDRUM



Join us for a cup of Tea/Coffee

At  
Dundrum Methodist Church  
Ballinteer Road (beside Wesley College)

**Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2019**  
2pm to 3.30pm  
(thereafter 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in every month)

The Alzheimer Café is open to people  
with dementia and their families

- Meet others and share experiences
- Wheelchair friendly
- Free parking

To find out more contact  
**Maureen 087 6414884**  
**Grace 087 9219095**





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

Demand for the services of the Alice Leahy Trust remains very high, with over 400 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 ● Brushes and combs

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

**Tel. Una MacConville**  
**(086 817 5530)**

**OLD PHOTO**



We found the above photo amongst old documents recently retrieved from the church. Anyone know who these people might be?

**FROM THE EYES OF A CHILD!**

At the foot of pages 10 and 11 is a photo taken at the Christmas Day service, when Rob was asking the kids to show him what Santa had brought them for Christmas. Izzy Doyle (who had just turned six and is a budding photographer) went

up to show Rob her new Kidizoom Camera, and he asked her to take a photo. It's a little blurred, as she was literally taking her first few photos, but I think it captures the happiness of the moment and the day very well.

**KLIPS GOES GLOBAL**

Last edition we had Irwin reading *Klips* in the Dead Sea. This edition we have Seán Pheiffer reading *Klips* on top of Westendorf mountain in Austria!

We look forward to receiving other photos of *Klips* from exotic locations. Throw a copy in your suitcase when you go on holidays and send a photo to the parish office.



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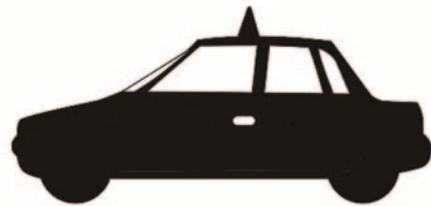
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