



# KILTERNAN KLIPS

Building community, strengthening worship, growing in service

The quarterly newsletter of Kilternan Parish, Co. Dublin

The Rector on ...

## The culture of invitation

This summer the Clements family spent twelve nights in a tent in a campsite 45 minutes west of St Malo in France. We love camping. In fairness, camping in France is fairly easy, with heated swimming pool, hot showers and fresh bread at hand.

Camping is one of those experiences that you simply have to throw yourself into. You have to deal with the fact that there will be mysterious bugs in the tent, that your one-ring gas cooker does not heat water quickly, and that campsite coffee is not up to Gathering Grounds standards. Perhaps the biggest adjustment is the lack of boundaries and privacy. Dishes are washed in public. I might zip the tent, but the noise outside does not go away.

Perhaps the public nature of camping facilitates a culture of invitation. We invite other children

**'... the central message of the Gospel is invitation. 'Come and see', Jesus says.'**

to come and play with our children. On more than one occasion we invited other people to eat with us, drink with us. We pull over chairs and talk to strangers. We invite and are invited to play games, to push campers' children on swings and to share washing-up liquid. We share information about hiking successes and newfound patisseries with

people we have just met.

It got me thinking about our culture of invitation in the church. In church it is very easy to ensure privacy, as we quite literally close the door on those outside. Why do we do this? Maybe out of fear of what they might think of us in the 'post-Christian' Ireland? Perhaps because we fear that they might change the way we like things done? However, the central message of the Gospel is invitation. 'Come and see', Jesus says. Come to my home, eat with me and hear the good news of the kingdom. That can be messy and awkward (we might remember that Jesus got into trouble for the people He invited in), but it's not an optional extra in the Christian faith.

Personal invitation is at the heart of effective church outreach. How are people going to hear about Jesus if we don't offer them an invitation? The world has changed. We are increasingly unchurched or 'de-churched', and therefore how are people going to find out about God unless we invite them to hear?

So, if you go to the Tuesday communion service, why not invite a neighbour to go with you? If you attend Messy Church, why not invite a new family to come along and check it out? If you go to the Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds, why not invite a friend who might find the topic engaging? If church is important to you, why not think about inviting someone to join you?

Blessings,

**Rob.**



How are people going to hear about Jesus if we don't offer them an invitation?



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## CHURCH SERVICES

### *Midweek Service*

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

### *Sunday Services*

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

- Sept. 15 Holy Communion  
Messy Church at 4pm
- Sept. 22 Pet Service  
Sunday Night @ the Gathering Grounds at 8pm
- Sept. 29 Holy Communion from somewhere else in the Anglican  
Communion
- Oct. 6 Morning Prayer
- Oct. 11 Community Harvest at 8pm
- Oct. 13 All-Age Harvest Service
- Oct. 20 Holy Communion
- Oct. 27 All-Age service for All Saints  
Service to remember those who have died at 8pm
- Nov. 3 Morning Prayer
- Nov. 10 All-Age Remembrance Service
- Nov. 17 Holy Communion  
Messy Church at 4pm
- Nov. 24 All-Age Christ the King Sunday  
Sunday Night @ the Gathering Grounds at 8pm
- Dec. 1 Advent Morning Prayer
- Dec. 8 All-Age Worship
- Dec. 15 Holy Communion  
Community carol service

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Kevin O'Sullivan (Organist), [music@kiltiernanparish.ie](mailto:music@kiltiernanparish.ie).

## PARISH TEAM

The Reverend Rob Clements	<i>Rector</i>
Carol Barry	<i>Parish Reader</i>
Brian Hickey	<i>Youth and Children's Ministry</i>
Kevin O'Sullivan	<i>Organist</i>
Jackie Robinson	<i>Church Warden</i>
Christian Kraeft	<i>Glebe Warden</i>
Gary Colcough	<i>Church Warden</i>
Bruce Fitzsimons	<i>Glebe Warden</i>
Carol Barry	<i>Secretary of the Vestry</i>
Harry Simpson	<i>Treasurer</i>

# WHAT'S ON IN KILTERNAN

Since we opened the new centre, the life of the parish has become much busier. We've made a list of those programmes in this edition of *Klips*. Some are run by the parish and some are external groups in which you might be interested.

## Sunday Services

8:30: A traditional said Holy Communion  
10:30 Services:

1st Sunday—Morning Prayer

2nd Sunday—All-Age Worship

3rd Sunday—Holy Communion

4th Sunday—All-Age Worship

5th Sunday—Holy Communion from somewhere else in the Anglican Communion

## 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, where we would expect them to be able to participate in their own special way in the service.

## Sunday Club

This meets on the first and third Sundays for all children of primary school age. The children start in the church and make their way to the centre after the first hymn.

## Messy Church

Messy Church is a fresh expression of church for families on the third Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00pm. It's based on the three pillars of creativity, celebration and hospitality.

## Sunday Nights @ the Gathering Grounds

Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds is on the 4th Sunday of the month at 8pm. It is a unique venture for Kilternan. We meet in the Gathering Grounds for coffee, cake, worship led by Kevin and Victoria, and an interview with someone with something to say! It's an informal gathering and open to everyone.

## Tuesday Communion in the Parish Centre

A short traditional service of Holy Communion in the meeting room every Tuesday at 11:30am.

## Kilternan Singers

Aged 13+, the Kilternan Singers meet on Tuesdays at 8pm and participate in Sunday services. Contact music director Kevin for more information.

## Junior Choir

The junior choir meets on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:15am till 8:45am for children aged 7–12. They also sing at the All-Age

service on the second and fourth Sundays. Contact music director Kevin for more information.

## Mindful Mondays @ the Gathering Ground

Mindfulness from 9:00 to 9:30am in the Meeting Room.

## Play Café @ the Gathering Grounds

The play café meets every Wednesday from 10am till 12 noon. The main hall is filled with soft toys for tots, while the Gathering Grounds hosts prams and coffee.

## Senior Soup Group @ the Gathering Grounds

This is a weekly soup and bread lunch every Tuesday for seniors. Soup and bread don't quite do justice to what is regularly served. There are two types of soup freshly made every week, and fresh bread prepared that morning, not to mention the sweet treats that appear after.

## Tapas Thursday @ the Gathering Grounds

Rob Pierce, our chef, again creates delicious food for all on Thursdays with his Tapas Lunch. If you have not yet tried this lunch, come along from 12pm.

## Craft Nights @ the Gathering Grounds

A craft night meets on the first Friday of the month in the Gathering Grounds. All are welcome irrespective of crafting ability!

## Kilternan Parish Table Tennis Club

After a most enjoyable first season for the Kilternan Parish Table Tennis Club, our opening night will be on Wednesday 11 September 2019 at the Kilternan Parish Centre, starting at 8:00pm.

We look forward to meeting up again with all existing members after the summer break, and welcome any new members who would like to join the Table Tennis Club.

The emphasis is very much on having fun and a social night out through the game of table tennis for adults aged 18+. If you have any questions or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me, Irwin Johnston, at email [irwinjohnston@gmail.com](mailto:irwinjohnston@gmail.com); mob: 086 607 5357.

## Kilternan Parish Lawn Tennis Club

We welcome enquiries for the Kilternan Parish Lawn Tennis Club. If you'd like to find out more, please get in touch or call in some Tuesday evening between 7:45 and 10:00pm!  
Mary White (087 987 7377)

## Gardening Club

The popular Gardening Club has a monthly Monday night meeting with a very interesting variety of speakers. Enquiries: Noreen Keane (087 259 2766) or Evelyn Richardson (087 240 6410).

## Girl Guides, Ladybirds, Brownies

For more information check out the Kilternan Church of Ireland website.

## Beavers, Scouts and Cub Scouts

For more information check out the Kilternan Church of Ireland website.

## Senior Youth group

This is an informal youth group developing for young people (from 2nd year onwards) that meets fortnightly on Sunday evenings. If you would like to be part of our youth group, contact our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Brian Hickey.

## Junior Youth Group

The Junior Youth Group meets fortnightly on Friday evenings for young people in 6th class and 1st year. If you would like to be part of our youth group, contact our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Brian Hickey.

## Highfield Academy of Music enrolling now for September 2019

Victoria Johnston (BMus., MPhil., Dip.LCM) is delighted to be taking enrolment for Highfield Academy of Music's 2019/20 year.

Highfield Academy of Music provides individual piano, singing and theory lessons for all levels and ages.

Victoria is a multiple award-winner in piano performance and composition. She also has extensive singing experience, having sung with several of Ireland's leading chamber choirs, and has previously received a vocal scholarship from Trinity College Dublin. For enquiries call Victoria on 083-875 2277.

## Zumba and Zumba Gold

Starting in September. Contact Louise on 087 674 1444 or [lheatherwick@gmail.com](mailto:lheatherwick@gmail.com) for more information.

## Pilates with Sinead

For details of classes, look at [www.pilateswithsinead.com](http://www.pilateswithsinead.com) or contact Sinead on 089 480 9219.

## Arthritis Ireland: Reduce Your Pain, Reclaim Your Life

Wednesdays, 11 September to 16 October, 6:00–8:30pm. Contact [training@arthristisireland.ie](mailto:training@arthristisireland.ie) or 01 647 0206.

## Jolly Boppers

Fridays at 10am. Music, movement and merrymaking for ages 1–3. Call Aoife on 086 821 1079 or [facebook.com/jollyboppers](https://facebook.com/jollyboppers).

# PARISH NOTICE BOARD

## REGISTER

### Baptisms

We welcome Daniel Lynch, Ellie Bliss Masika, Edward Shine and Elise Athey into the family of God's church.

### Christian burial

We mourned the loss of Naomi Whyte, Maddie Sulaine, Nonie Townsend and Norman Campion this quarter. The prayers of the community of Kiltiernan are with all of their families and friends.

I wish to remember Norman, who was a great supporter of the rector and parish and will be sorely missed by many. I also give thanks for Annemarie, the two Carols and the Revd Terry Lilburn, who offered such support with funeral arrangements while I was on vacation.

## 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)

## BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

Nothing represents starting back to school more than the new school bag. This bag or backpack will be with your child all year. It will be filled with books for learning, food for sustenance and items for play. On 1 September we had a blessing of the backpacks in church, also coinciding with the launch of the new Sunday Club season.

## TEA AND COFFEE ROTA

The following groups are responsible for tea and coffee after the 10:30am services.

September: Blackberry Hill / Glenamuck Road  
October: Junior Choir Parents  
November: Bishops Gate  
December: Assorted  
January: Belarmine  
February: Stepside / Cruagh / Wingfield

March: Gallops / Ballyogan Rd  
April: Youth (including confirmation group)  
May: Rectory Estate / Aikens Village / Sandyford  
June: Assorted

If you are in these areas and we have your email addresses, you should get an email from us a few weeks before your month is up. We hope you will take a week and help with tea and coffee. We usually have it organised in twos or threes, so you are never alone!

If you wonder who 'assorted' are, they are the people who don't fit neatly into one of the estates listed above. If you are willing to help, please let Cathriona know—085 718 1188.

## MEET OUR NEW FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR



We are delighted to have Lynn Storey starting with us this month as our Family and Children's Ministry Coordinator. Lynn has excellent experience in this area of church life and will help us develop this area of ministry. In case you wonder whether that means that Brian is moving on, don't be concerned. It will, however, free Brian to focus more on work with teenagers and children on the older edge of the school. You can find

out a bit more about Lynn from the interview below.

*Lynn, tell us a bit about yourself.*

I'm married to Keith and have two children, Alana (23) and Ryan (17). We live in Rathfarnham, in the family home in which I grew up, and living with my mum, Joan—it's wonderful to have a family of three generations living all together, and there's always a warm welcome for anyone who calls to the door! I was a primary school teacher and also have a professional qualification in Counselling and Psychotherapy. I have served on the Sunday Club leader team in my local parish since 2005, and in recent years have coordinated much of the Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry, while also being involved in many other aspects of parish life. When 'Mum's taxi' is not in service or when I'm not at the side of a hockey pitch, I enjoy heading out for walks with Keith and Charlie, our family dog. I also enjoy reading and heading away for some down time in Portugal.

*What attracts you to the position of children's and family support worker in Kiltiernan Parish?*

I have been involved in the Sunday School Society for Ireland and the Church of Ireland Children's Ministry Network, facilitating training, resourcing and sharing ideas with volunteer leaders in a number of dioceses, while also advocating for children in church. This has also led me to be involved in other areas of children's ministry, Building Blocks, Children's Ministry Conference, D&G Kids' Camp etc. Through these, combined with my voluntary role with children and families in my parish, I have developed a passion and enthusiasm for working with children and families in a church setting. It occasionally crossed my mind how wonderful it would be to enter into this area in a formal role, should the opportunity ever arise. I don't think I ever expected that to come to fruition, but I am delighted

to join Kiltiernan in this role and to help develop and build on what is already a growing ministry in the parish. The few times that I have visited, I have been struck by the warm welcome there is for all members of the parish and wider community, and have left with a great sense of a parish open to thinking outside the box and developing new ministries, while being mindful of retaining the traditional aspects of church life. I look forward to working with everyone in 'building community, strengthening worship, growing in service'.

*What are your hopes for this position?*

Where do I start? I have lots of ideas, resources and opportunities that I would love to share with you all. For now, though, my focus is on getting to know everyone and on building relationships, in particular with the children and families. Through these relationships I would hope to support young families in their journey of faith and parenting while also inspiring and encouraging parents with faith at home. Families value opportunities to spend time together and I would hope to provide family days during key times in the church year when families can come together and explore their faith and take away ideas to connect with God in the everyday. I would also like to provide a space for young dads, grandads and father figures to spend time with their young children while also getting to know other dads in the parish and community. I think it's important to foster links with the parish school and look forward to getting to know teachers, staff and pupils. I also look forward to working with Julie, Brian and Rob and all the volunteers in the Play Café, Sunday Club, All-Age Worship and Messy Church.

*How can we support you in the work you will be doing?*

Please pray for me and journey with me in this exciting new season in my life, and help me in getting

to know you all. This is an area in which I have been working for many years and I am excited, but there is also the initial challenge of settling in and always more to learn. Come and introduce yourselves to me, chat to me, tell me as little or as much about yourself as you wish, but keep telling me your name until you know I have it (though I'm generally good at remembering names, there will be so many to remember all at the one time!). Apart from Sunday service, you will find me enjoying a cuppa and hanging out in the lovely ambience and welcoming environment of the Gathering Grounds during the week, so please do pop in, whether it's after dropping the kids to school or for a mid-morning cuppa. I look forward to seeing you and getting to know you.

### INTRO TO JAMES

We are delighted to have James Hussey with us as a caretaker through the Tús programme. James will be with us for 19 hours a week, providing maintenance and support in the centre. Make sure you say hello if you see him around!

### PRAYER WALKS



As part of the Thy Kingdom Come week between Ascension and Pentecost, we encouraged parishioners to engage in prayer walks. The idea was simple: either on your own or with a friend, take a walk around your local area and pray. Pray for your neighbours,

your friends, for families and for people living on their own. Pray for local businesses and places of community infrastructure. Pray that God's spirit will be present in our local community. Pray as you feel inspired.

I've heard from a number of people who did just that. What a simple thing for us to do, and what a difference it could make. We don't have to be prayer experts; we just have to be willing. When we went on our prayer walk, we ended up having a conversation with a young person who was curious about what we were doing. When we told her we were praying for them and for their neighbours, she was delighted.

I'd like to encourage people to make a prayer walk part of their daily discipline and we hold our communities before God in prayer.

### MARRIAGE COURSE

The Marriage Course is a series of seven sessions, designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a strong marriage.

Nicky and Sila Lee, authors of *The Marriage Book*, developed the Marriage Course for couples looking for practical support to strengthen their relationship. The course is designed to help couples build strong foundations, learn to communicate more effectively and resolve differences well.

*Who is it for?*

The Marriage Course is for couples who are seeking to strengthen their relationship. Some couples do the course to intentionally invest in their relationship, while others are looking to address more specific challenges. Either way, the course offers essential tools and practical ideas to help you build a relationship that lasts a lifetime.

The Marriage Course is based on Christian principles but is designed for all couples, with or without a church background.

*What should I expect?*

On the Marriage Course you are seated at your own table for two. Each course is unique, but usually

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every session will include food, a practical talk and a time for private discussion between you and your partner.

You never share anything about your relationship with anyone other than your partner. Background music ensures that you can chat in complete privacy.

The Marriage Course is being organised through the Gathering Grounds this autumn. If you would like to find out more, contact Julie at [gatheringgrounds@kiltiernanparish.ie](mailto:gatheringgrounds@kiltiernanparish.ie), or 087 203 9516.

### NEW BOOKSHELVES

We received a generous donation on behalf of the late Bill Keeley from his sister Phyllis for new bookshelves in the Kiltiernan Centre. Hopefully these will arrive in the new year, and will be used for books on issues of life and faith that people in the Gathering Grounds can read or purchase.

### GAMES FOR ALL AGES

We live in a culture where we are all too often isolated into age groups. Children mix with children and older people with older people. There has been a tremendous amount of research recently about the benefit of more intergenerational engagement. Children benefit deeply from engagement with older people and vice versa.

During the holidays one of our parishioners approached us with a request from her daughter. She wondered whether there was something she could do to get to know some of the older parishioners a bit better. What we decided to do was to set up the hall with board games after the senior soup lunch on a Tuesday when the school was off. We then invited some of the children who were available to invite senior parishioners to play games with them.

This was a lovely time, (pictured top right) and a few serious games of chess were played! It was organised rather spontaneously but it is something



that we would like to develop in the future. Keep a look out for children with board games!

### DRINK TEA FOR MND

At short notice and with the generous help of the Gathering Grounds team, a very successful event in aid of the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association was held in the Kiltiernan Centre (pictured below).

Family and friends of a much-loved member of the tennis club, Iris Carnegie, were joined by many others from the local community to support the work of IMNDA. The association provides care and support for over 370 people currently living with MND and also supports vital research.

Thank you to all who made the morning such a success, by your generosity on the morning or a donation before or after the event.



### PARISH BBQ

Thanks to Helen Olliffe & co. for organising a parish BBQ on 7 September. This is a great opportunity for the parish to get together in the new centre and enjoy good company and good food.

### PET SERVICE ON 22 SEPTEMBER

This service is a special part of the Kiltiernan schedule. While it is sometimes a bit chaotic, it is a service that brings joy to many.

Our pets are important to us. They bring us companionship and joy, and it is right that we should celebrate them and give thanks. The animals will be offered a blessing as a witness to God's and the church's love, care and concern for creation.

Bring your pets, no matter how big or small. Bring cats, dogs,

rabbits, reptiles, hamsters, ponies (though they might have to stay outside) and goldfish.

Be as creative as you can; I promise the service will be short! There might even be a treat for them as they leave the church.

**FEARLESS WOMEN CONFERENCE**

‘Fearless’ is a national conference for women of faith in partnership with Compassion Ireland. It will be held in the Helix at DCU on 11 and 12 October.

The speakers are Lucy Hill, who is part of the 24/7 Prayer movement, and Revd Kathie Filby from Greenville University, Illinois. Worship will be led by singer/songwriter Philippa Hanna.

If you are interested in attending, talk to Julie Clements or find out more at <https://www.fearlesswomen.ie/>.

**HARVEST 2019**

**Community Harvest: A Place Called Home, Friday 11 October at 8pm**

The speaker will be the Revd Abigail Sines, the Dean’s Vicar of Christ Church Cathedral. Abigail is originally from Hampton, Virginia, in the USA. She has lived, studied and worked in China, Hawai’i and Belfast before relocating to Dublin to undertake training for ordination at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. Abigail’s undergraduate and post-graduate studies were in international relations and the Chinese language, and her previous work was for the Hawai’i-based East-West Centre, an education and research organisation. There she worked as part of a team organising and facilitating seminars and short courses for professional journalists and young women leaders from around the United States and the Asia Pacific region.

Having come from a free church background, she found that, quite unexpectedly, the path unfolding before her led her into the Church of Ireland and to Dublin for training. As part of her studies, she served her diaconate

year in the parish of Glenageary, Co. Dublin, and her academic dissertation focused on the formational and missional aspects of the service of Holy Communion. Abigail was appointed as curate to the Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes in 2015 and in 2016 moved into the role of Dean’s Vicar.

Abigail has been involved in the ‘A Place Called Home’ programme and the ‘Our Table’ initiative in the Cathedral, working alongside refugees and asylum-seekers, about which she will be speaking.

**All-Age Harvest Celebrations, Sunday 13th at 10:30am**

Our Sunday All-Age Harvest will be led by our new Children and Family Ministry coordinator, Lynn Storey. We are excited to have Lynn on board with us. This is a great service to which to bring the whole family along to meet her.

**MUSIC NOTES**

The Irish Three Tenors are coming to Kiltiernan!

On 8 December Kiltiernan Church will host a concert of the Three Tenors. We are so excited about their coming to sing for the community! Details will be released this October about tickets, and we hope to fill the church to the max.

*Play Music with us!*

There are so many opportunities for everyone to get involved with music in our parish.

The Parish Choir (see below) is

open to everyone. We meet in the centre at 8pm on Tuesdays. If you and a friend would like to try it out, come along on a Tuesday or get in touch with Kevin.

For those of school age, why not join the Junior Choir (a good English reading ability is necessary, so from 1st/2nd class up)?

Finally, Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds is looking for more people to join Kevin and Victoria. On the fourth Sunday of the month we meet at 7:30pm to practise a song or two for the Gathering. We’d love to have more instruments and voices to get a Music Group going.

For details on all things musical, contact organist Kevin O’Sullivan at [music@kiltiernanparish.ie](mailto:music@kiltiernanparish.ie).

**KILTIERNAN PARISH LAWN TENNIS CLUB**

Since the Open Day in May the club has been welcoming many new members. All ages have been taking part in the club’s activities—Monday morning ladies’ tennis, Tuesday club nights and weekly sessions for the younger members. Off court, a summer barbeque at the Gathering Grounds was enjoyed by members and friends.

It’s been some years since there were organised activities for juniors, but each Wednesday afternoon this summer over 30 children, members and visitors, have taken part in supervised tennis sessions. Two senior club members were joined by Helen, a



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tennis-playing student teacher, to keep the children active on court—while their mums chatted! Plans to have junior coaching sessions didn't materialise and the club would love to hear from anyone interested in taking on the role of junior coordinator.

The annual club championships will be played during September, with the finals scheduled for Saturday 5 October. Teams played in the DLTC Summer and Mixed Leagues, with mixed results! Next in the calendar is the Senior League, to be followed by the Floodlight League.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ANN AND LOUIS

We had a lovely celebration for Ann and Louis Walsh in the Gathering Grounds to celebrate their 50 years of marriage together. The theme of the day was gratitude. Blessings to you both!



## CHURCH FLOWERS

The year is flying by and it's hard to believe that it's time for the Autumn Flower rota list to be included in *Klips*! First, a huge thank-you to all of you for the beautiful flowers that you arrange for the altar each Sunday; they are noticed, and it is wonderful to have such a variety of arrangements from everyone. For me, flower-arranging is very relaxing, and



spending twenty minutes or so in the peace and quiet of the church when it is my turn is a special time. I always enjoy chatting to John and Audrey and we usually have a laugh or two!

I had a very jolly gathering of flower ladies in my house (pictured above) in April. There were fourteen of us in all (Raymond made up the numbers, as it is unlucky to have thirteen around the table; he did a great job as the wine waiter and photographer!) and it really was an opportunity for us all to get together, put (some) faces to names and get to know those faces we see often but don't necessarily have a chance to chat to.

The church will be decorated for Harvest on Friday 11 October in the morning, so it would be great if those who are free to help decorate the church that morning could give me their names and put the date in their diaries.



*Rota for September–December:*

### SEPTEMBER

1st Suzanne Story  
8th Dorothy Elliott  
15th Heather Burnett  
22nd Clodagh Bowen  
29th Monique Tompkins

### OCTOBER

6th Sarah Tilson  
13th HARVEST  
22nd Mary White  
27th Ella Tyrell

### NOVEMBER

3rd Anne O'Neill  
10th Ann Burnett (poppies)  
17th Katherine Duignan  
24th Kerry Byrne

### DECEMBER

1st Jane Newell (Advent Sunday)  
8th Sue Cook  
15th Sarah Tilson  
22nd Christmas  
29th Christmas

If any of the dates given do not suit you, please feel free to swap with another person on the list. Thanks again!

Sarah Tilson

## BREAKING BREAD IN THE KILTERNAN CENTRE

On Sunday 25 August, the parish broke bread around the new communion table dedicated in memory of Derek Carroll. The Carroll family were in attendance for this special service, and as you can see from the photo the centre was full! (Pictured below.)

**THE GATHERING GROUNDS**

**Prayer @ the Gathering Grounds**

‘For where two or three gather in My name, there am I with them’ (Matthew 18:20).

All are welcome to come to this new gathering, which will happen regularly on Thursday mornings from 9:00–9:30am. Come to pray for our world, community, neighbours and personal requests. Prayer request boxes will be placed at the back of the church and in the Gathering Grounds for anyone who would like to make a request. This gathering will be a safe space, and no one will ever be put on the spot to pray aloud. Let’s experience the power of prayer together.

‘Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus’ (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18).

**Volunteering at the Gathering Grounds**

I can hardly believe that it has been a year since the new Parish Centre opened and the Gathering Grounds started up. What a wonderful experience it has been! While heaps of goodness have poured out of this place, I know that we have only seen a fraction of the potential that is to come.

I would like to share a few reflections from the volunteers on their experience of last year in the Gathering Grounds:

‘Last autumn Gail and I saw the notice in Panorama looking for volunteers for the Gathering Grounds, the café in the new community centre in Kiltiernan. We agreed that this was something we would like to be involved with. Although we have lived in Kiltiernan for 30 years and have many friends in the area, not being members of the Church of Ireland meant that we were not as involved with the community as much as we would like.

Last October we started in the Gathering Grounds and from the

start it has been a joy. We met many old friends and made many new ones, particularly among the other volunteers. I think that what Gail and I found there many others have found also. It is a sense of community, of friendship and fellowship that is so important, even more than the fine coffee and wonderful home baking.

The Gathering Grounds is just one part of the new community centre in Kiltiernan and it is a wonderful addition to our community.’

—John Davey

‘Working as a volunteer at the Gathering Grounds has given me a great platform to start my cooking class and catering business. Thank you to Julie, Rob and rest of the team for all the encouragement and experience I have gained so far. Looking forward to an exciting year ahead.’

—Neelam Saria

‘What a wonderful time I have had working at the airy and bright Gathering Grounds. Such a lovely environment to be in. I have met some lovely people and gained some new skills. Above all, though, I have worked with and got to know a whole new group of people that otherwise I probably wouldn’t have got to know as well. These are people in my community—some I knew better than others, but some I probably only would have nodded to or said hello briefly to after church or in the shop ... wherever ... Now, we might have a chat after soup, over a coffee or just while working together!

This is real community and I love the community that I am lucky to be a part of.’

—Linda MacWilliam

‘My name is Emily Woods. I am eleven years old and I am going into 6th class at Kiltiernan Church of Ireland National School. The Gathering Grounds is a great experience and I have learnt so much by being there. I go into the centre every day before school at about 7:45 and my official job is to clean, prepare the treats, and check the refrigeration records. It’s also a great

experience because I get to make scones with Julie and even sometimes I get to make them on my own! I have learned so many things like cooking, cleaning and, most importantly, interacting with other people. All the other volunteers are so nice and kind and I also think I am very lucky to be given the opportunity to cook, prepare and volunteer at the Gathering Grounds.’

—Emily Woods

‘Gathering Grounds has given a whole new life to the area. It is all-inclusive, a place of friendship and happiness where we meet and share much more than coffee! Thank you, Julie, for creating this welcoming place.’

—Anonymous

‘The GG café is definitely one of the brightest, happiest cafes I’ve had the pleasure of visiting. As a coffee addict, the coffee is amazing, great quality and great flavour.

Working in the GG has submerged me into a community where I did not know anyone at the beginning of the year. This quickly changed; many of GG’s customers are parents and it allowed me the chance to build relationships in a very relaxed environment. On a personal level, as a stay-at-home mum for more than four years, volunteering at the GG brought me back out into the world of doing something for me. I had amazing fun training as a barista and working with an amazing group of people.’

—Lorraine Hayes

Here’s to a fabulous year ahead! If you are interested in volunteering in the Gathering Grounds, please contact Julie at 0872036516 or [gatheringgrounds@kiltiernanparish.ie](mailto:gatheringgrounds@kiltiernanparish.ie).

**Craft Nights @ the Gathering Grounds**

Mark your calendar for upcoming craft nights @ the Gathering Grounds:

First Friday of the month; 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December.

# SCENES FROM



# PARISH LIFE



Clockwise from top left:  
Julie and her baristas;  
Barbequing at the Gathering Grounds;  
A few of the Gathering Grounds team;  
Kiltiernan Parish Lawn Tennis Club Juniors;  
The Senior Lunch at the Gathering Grounds;  
The Flower Ladies at the home of Sarah Tilson;  
Enjoying a cup of tea for Motor Neurone Disease.

# IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

Susan O'Toole asks: 'What's the point of it all?'



At some point or other we all ask ourselves such questions, maybe fleetingly, or very seriously when life isn't going so well. The Alpha course—or 'Alpha', as it's now simply known—is the chance to explore faith, life and meaning, to air our thoughts and beliefs or non-beliefs, and to ask questions we've never had an answer to.

So what is Alpha exactly?

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and starts a conversation. You may be questioning and on your own spiritual journey; you may be completely disillusioned with Christianity; you may be a person of faith who wants to understand more. It's for everyone and all are welcome.

Alpha is run in Ireland and all around the world. It's run in all sorts of places—in cafés, churches, colleges, pubs, homes. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.

## Food

Whether it's a group of friends gathered around a kitchen table or a quick catch-up over coffee and cake, we all know that food has a way of bringing people together. It's no different at Alpha. Most sessions start with food because it's a great way for people to get to know each other.

## A talk

The talks are designed to engage and inspire conversation. They are usually around 30 minutes long and delivered over about eleven weeks, with a day or weekend away in the middle. They can be given as a live talk or played as a video. The talks explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity, addressing questions from 'Who is Jesus?' and 'How can we have faith?' to 'Why and how do I pray?' and 'How does God guide us?'

## Conversation

Probably the most important part of any Alpha is the chance to share

thoughts and ideas on the topic, and discuss it in a small group. There is no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say or ask. It's an opportunity to hear from others and to contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment.

## If you want to know more

This autumn, the Select Vestry (that's the management team!) at Kiltiernan Parish, Church of Ireland, will be doing Alpha. There are plans after that to run Alpha for the community and you are invited! If you are interested and would like to find out more, please email me at: [susan.otoole@alphaireland.org](mailto:susan.otoole@alphaireland.org), or text your details to 087 6837520 and I will be in touch.

You can listen to a talk on YouTube to get a feel for it. Just search on 'Alpha Film Series'.

*Susan O'Toole is Chair of Alpha Ireland, and a member of Kiltiernan Parish Select Vestry.*

Elaine Dunne is well known in Kiltiernan parish, especially to parents with small children. She and her staff run the Treehouse Crèche in part of the Gathering Grounds. It's a place of warmth, safety and encouragement where children thrive.

The crèche is her day job and one she loves, but at the weekend she's involved in voluntary work of a very different sort. This time it's mainly with adults for whom warmth, safety and encouragement can be in short supply.

On Saturday nights she and five friends meet at the GPO in O'Connell Street. They set out hot and cold food on their tables, and they also have clothes and toiletries for those who might need them. These six women give their time freely to help Dublin's homeless, its drug addicts and, indeed, anyone who's fallen on hard times. On any Saturday night they can serve up to 300 people, but Elaine admits that this voluntary work has its dangers.

'It's quite an intimidating situation to go into because you don't know what you're going to get on any given night.'

On occasions a few men have volunteered to help, but haven't made long-term commitments.

While many of the people they meet are thankful for the help they offer, others can be aggressive, especially if they're under the influence of drugs. Coping with these situations needs skill and can often be very difficult.

The help these six women give goes way beyond the food and the clothes. There's a reaching out, born of care and concern, which can lead to deepening relationships, and this in turn can make enormous differences in individual lives. For example, Elaine has been helping a young woman who was pregnant. She's a heroin addict and when her child was born it weighed only two and a half pounds. At times like these emotional support is vital and it's given.

Practical support is needed too, and Facebook friends of Elaine's always come through with

# DRUG ABUSE, THE HOMELESS AND WOMEN WHO HELP

Alasdair Jackson on six remarkable women.



help. 'I use Facebook for everything,' she says. 'I'll put up on Facebook that I need a buggy or I need clothes for a three-year-old child, or I need stuff for a newborn baby and somehow people always seem to give.'

Certainly the drug problem is very serious; indeed, Merchants Quay Ireland, which runs drug rehabilitation programmes, claims that there are now nearly 20,000 opioid users in Ireland.

Initially Elaine's knowledge of the destructive impact of drug abuse came from personal experience: a family member was an addict. That person is now clear of drugs after a long and difficult road to recovery. It was the horror and pain of that experience which moved her to do what she could to help others caught in addiction and homelessness. Eventually that brought into being the Saturday night tables outside the GPO. In

the beginning they bought and cooked all the food for the tables themselves but, as word of what they were doing spread, others began offering their food and their ovens to help and so the work grew.

There's a Chinese proverb that says 'A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step'. These six women took that first step about a year and a half ago. For them this journey is a long-term commitment to help those who in many cases and for many reasons can no longer help themselves.

*(Editor's note: Elaine doesn't take money, but if you want to help you can drop into Fleming's Butcher's shop in Stepside and buy some food for her there from Michael Fleming. If you want to help with clothes, you could have a word with Elaine herself as to what she needs.)*

## FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

### KILTERNAN YOUTH MINISTRY

We are very excited to kick things off again this September. KYM looks at three different groups, Sunday Club (anyone in primary school), Junior Youth (6th class/1st year) and Senior Youth (2nd year–6th year). Having only joined Kilternan last August, getting these groups going has been very important to me. Last year my focus was on building up relationships with the young people who attended these groups. I feel more prepared now this year, knowing who I am working with, so that my fantastic volunteers and I can put on a programme. I'm excited to get these groups going again. Conversations with other leaders have further encouraged me. One sentence comes to mind when I think about KYM and it's this: 'There's work to do—let's go!' *Sunday Club:* The first and third Sundays of the month, beginning in the church and then moving over to the centre.

*Junior Youth:* Runs every two weeks on a Friday evening from 6:30pm to 8pm. The first night of the year is on 27 September.

*Senior Youth:* Runs every two weeks on a Sunday evening from 7pm to 8:30pm. The first night of the year is on 22 September.

### SUMMER CAMPS

It's great fun being a youth worker. I love the job and sometimes I pinch myself that I actually do this job for a living. However, as a youth worker you don't really get a summer holiday because you spend most of your time doing summer camps. Since the middle of July I have done four separate summer camps, all of which were fantastic in their own right.

The majority of these camps took place in Ovoca Manor in Avoca, Co. Wicklow. It is an amazing location where kids, teenagers and even us leaders have so much fun. This summer I was fortunate enough to have some of the guys from the primary school attend one of these camps. Ashton, Ben, Charlie, Dylan and Harry came down to us. It was so cool having

them there. We did things like the climbing wall and the 'leap of faith', which is jumping from a small pole to a bar very far away. There was no chance I was going to do it, but credit to the Kilternan lads. They all did it. Copious amounts of football were also played, and I got to teach the kids a valuable life lesson: you will lose sometimes!

Within all the fun and games that we had we also had the chance to learn more about Jesus and people He interacted with during His life. The young people were then divided into small groups where they could chat a bit more about what they thought. I was so encouraged to see the guys get involved. They had this really cool leader named Stephen towards whom they all gravitated, which is awesome. I was very nervous about how they would get on, but they were all fantastic.

At the end of that week I reflected on the memories that I had made during that time and will treasure the moments that we spent together. It makes me excited to think of the possibilities of doing more camps with Scripture Union and having more kids/teens from Kilternan come down. If you think you'd like to send your children down in the future, don't hesitate to approach Rob, Lynn or me.

### PRAYER IN SCHOOL

At the back end of last year there was an initiative called 'Thy Kingdom Come'. It was run by a group called '24/7 Prayer'. We here in Kilternan also took part in this, and the wonderful Principal Gráinne Darlington gave us the opportunity to run a prayer space in the school for one day. The Christian life should be one that is centred around a strong prayer life and we wanted to share different ways in which one might be able to pray. Some can sit in silence for twenty minutes, some have a prayer journal in which they write down their prayers, some draw pictures, and some have a prayer wall on which they stick up prayers on post-it notes. Personally, I find my best

prayer time is while waiting for the kettle to boil; I think of someone or something and pray during that time. It works for me, but it mightn't work for someone else. What we want to be able to do here in Kilternan is to provide a space where the kids would be able to find what works for them and begin having that dialogue with God. I firmly believe that when we pray things begin to happen.

So, this is what we will be doing in school this coming year. This isn't something the kids will have to do; it will be optional. I'll be excited if 30 kids come, but I'll also be excited if one child comes. I'm excited to see how this will work. I'll provide an update later in the year.

### YOUTH ALPHA

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome. It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes—you name it.

This year in Kilternan we are joining up with Alpha to provide this time to look at what this Christianity thing is all about. Our vestry will be doing the course at the beginning of our new school year. We have decided that we want to give teenagers the opportunity to do Alpha too, so we are opening this up for teenagers from 4th year up. What might this include? Well, no two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation. The talk will be given by video, looking at whatever the particular question is, and then we will have the opportunity to discuss it more. And food ... that's one of my favourite parts about doing Alpha.

If you have a teenager from 4th year up, I would really encourage you to get them involved in this. It is a fantastic resource to have available. If you need more information about when it is taking place, get in contact with Rob or me.

# REFLECTIONS ON A ZAMBIAN EXPERIENCE



Local children in Chipulukusu, Zambia.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated to and supported the many fund-raising endeavours undertaken to fund and develop the Habitat for Humanity project in Zambia.

On 31 May 2019, a team of 30 students and six teachers from Wesley College travelled to a township called Chipulukusu in Zambia. We built three complete houses whilst there, and each one was assigned to a very deserving family. We spent a lot of time with those families, sharing their food and getting to know their individual stories.

However, it was one lady named Monica whose life experience most resonated with me. She was one of the most incredibly strong, generous and inspiring people I have ever had the privilege to meet. When the HIV epidemic devastated Zambia, she lost many members of her immediate family and was left alone to raise twenty

grandchildren. This she did whilst living in a tiny shack without any form of security. There was no glass in the window frames and no way of locking her door. This left Monica and her extended family very vulnerable. Despite her own situation, she volunteered tirelessly with numerous charities in the area, especially those advocating for girls' education.

One of the children that Monica raised was not even related to her. She was a young girl who had been living in the city. When she was orphaned, she was driven to one of the slums and left to fend for herself on the streets. When she heard of the girl's situation, Monica took her in as one of her own. This was just one of numerous examples of Monica's strength of character and kindness of heart.

On the last day of our trip, a closing ceremony was held during which we thanked the community for their generosity and their kindness. The keys of the new, lockable front doors were given to

the individual families. Seeing how much joy could be brought by the very things which we take for granted, such as safety, security and a roof over one's head, was an eye-opening moment.

The time I spent in Zambia was an experience that I will always cherish. It was an honour to be part of something that made a real difference to people and their lives and I will always be eternally grateful.

—Sophie Moutray

I was privileged to travel to Zambia with Habitat for Humanity. The process began in September 2018, when 30 fortunate students from my Transition Year in Wesley College were selected to work together and build houses. We spent the year fund-raising tirelessly, but it was worth the effort as on 31 May we arrived in Ndola, Zambia. It was a surreal moment stepping off the bus and being surrounded by the local children. Our mission here was to build three houses. Watching the basic materials we used transform into three homes was something I won't forget. I am so grateful that I got to experience this trip and make so many lasting memories. After sixteen days it was time to go home and it broke my heart saying goodbye, but I would do it all over again in a heartbeat if I had the chance.

—Laurie McPhillimy

My trip to Zambia to build houses for local families was the best experience of my life. I was able to understand the hardships they go through every day and see the life of the children and parents who have so little.

It put everything into perspective for me and showed me what was important. If asked again I would go in a heartbeat. Seeing the reaction of the families when we handed over the houses was something I'll never forget. It was also a lovely thing to do with four of my old Kilternan classmates.

—Peter Forkin

## COMMUNITY AND WIDER CHURCH

### **ALISTAIR DOYLE MESSY CHURCH COORDINATOR**

Alistair was with us for a placement in the spring as part of his training with the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. We want to congratulate him on his appointment as the new Messy Church regional coordinator for Leinster and Connaught.

Alistair has been instrumental in running Messy Church in his home parish of St Matthias', Killiney-Ballybrack. He was a convert to the Messy Church model; those who spent time with him will likely have noted his range of Messy Church hoodies and the Messy Church stickers on his car.

His overall aim is to promote, encourage and support the development of Messy Churches of all Christian denominations within Leinster and Connaught. He will positively promote Messy Church within the region, share stories and encourage Messy Churches to register, sign up for newsletters and social media sites.

Alistair will also act as a point of contact to guide, encourage and support newly established Messy Churches and will organise an annual Messy Meet Up for all Messy Church leaders in the region.

We wish him God's blessing in his new position.

### **'A PLACE TO CALL HOME'—GIVE A FAMILY A REASON TO CELEBRATE**

'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'—these familiar words of Jesus form the foundation for 'A Place to Call Home', the Diocesan Refugee Housing Appeal. With six months left of our three-year campaign, we have raised €185,000 so far (as of 31 May 2019). The dioceses have committed to raising €300,000 to support the development of transitional housing services for those exiting direct provision, developed under the auspices of the Irish Refugee Council.

As the campaign enters its final phase, parishes and individuals in Dublin and Glendalough are being urged to make one last effort to

reach our target. The 'A Place to Call Home' steering committee is extremely grateful to all who have supported the appeal so far. With six months left in the campaign, the committee is urging people to continue their support to help raise the remaining €115,000.

According to the Department of Justice, there are currently (May 2019) 686 people who have come through the asylum process and been granted refugee status but who have been unable to move on from Direct Provision. 'A Place to Call Home' provides crucial supports for individuals and families who have survived conflict, trauma and loss to make a fresh start: in education, in employment, in living independently and in finding a place to belong in their local communities. The specialised support that the Irish Refugee Council, and other charitable organisations, provides relieves pressure on public services already stressed owing to the current housing crisis.

The steering committee is urging parishes to consider supporting the appeal by running an event and/or by encouraging parishioners to commit directly towards the appeal. If anyone would like to contribute by a one-off donation or to set up a standing order on-line the details are: DIOCESAN FUNDS OF DUBLIN AND GLENDALOUGH, Bank of Ireland, College Green, Dublin 2; BIC: BOFIE2D; IBAN: IE50 BOFI 9000 1769 3548 78; Reference: Housing appeal.

Contributions can also be forwarded by cheque to: the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough, Church House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6 (marked Housing Appeal).

### **UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY**

Heading for university marks a significant moment in our lives. It can be tremendously exciting but may also be daunting, especially for those starting for the first time. Most universities have chaplains available throughout the year for support, guidance and advice in complete confidence. If you are

heading to university, or you have a family member starting this term, it's worth checking out what the chaplaincy has to offer. Contact details are below:

*Dublin City University*

Philip McKinley

T: 01 700 5977. M: 087 115 8338.

Twitter: [@DCUinterfaith](#).

Chaplaincy Website:

[www.dcu.ie/chaplaincy](http://www.dcu.ie/chaplaincy).

*Dublin Institute of Technology*

The Revd Rob Jones

E: [robjones@dit.ie](mailto:robjones@dit.ie).

*University College Dublin*

Scott Evans

T: 01 716 3127. E:

[scott.evans@ucd.ie](mailto:scott.evans@ucd.ie). Twitter:

[@notscottevans](#). Blog:

[www.scottevans.ie](http://www.scottevans.ie).

*University of Dublin (Trinity College)*

The Revd Steve Brunn, Dean of Residence and Anglican Chaplain, Trinity College Dublin

E: [brunns@tcd.ie](mailto:brunns@tcd.ie). M: 083 4867775. Website:

<http://www.tcd.ie/>

[Chaplaincy/ireland.htm](http://www.tcd.ie/Chaplaincy/ireland.htm).

### **MOTHERS' UNION FASHION SHOW**

Dublin and Glendalough Mothers' Union are holding a fashion show on Saturday 19 October 2019 in the Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan, at 7:30pm to raise the profile of Mothers' Union. Any funds raised, after expenses, will be used to fund some of our projects, such as our Away From It All holidays, which are breaks for families experiencing difficulties, and our Parenting Courses.

Stepping out in FASHION

Mother's UNION

SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2019

The Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan at 7.30pm

MC Hilda Smith  
- Ambassador for Ageless Style  
[f](#) [t](#) [@overthehilda](#)

Tickets €15  
available from Jean Denner  
[treasuremudj@gmail.com](mailto:treasuremudj@gmail.com) 01 8473323

## CRANMER'S CORNER



### LECTIONARY RAMBLINGS

As autumn ends, so does the liturgical year. For many of us, informally we know the last Sunday of the church year as Stir-up Sunday, which is the last Sunday before the first Advent Sunday. This has become associated with the custom of making the Christmas puddings on that day, although pudding-makers will note that this is leaving it a bit late. Stir-up Sunday, however, actually gets its name from the beginning of the collect for the day in the Book of Common Prayer, which begins with the words, 'Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people'.

It's also Christ the King Sunday, a Sunday when we read Luke 23: 33–43, a text more associated with Easter.

*The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up and offering Him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over Him, 'This is the King of the Jews'.*

The Gospel shows the great mystery of our faith: in the moment of His crucifixion, Jesus is shown to be King and Saviour of all.

Luke's Gospel has been loaded with surprises: the poor are rich, sinners find salvation, the Kingdom of God is found in our midst. Here we see the greatest surprise of all. We are confronted with the crucified Jesus, Whom faith tells us is King and Saviour of all. The irony is that the in-

scription placed on the cross in mockery contains the profoundest of truth. As the leaders jeer, the thief crucified by His side recognises Jesus as Messiah and finds salvation.

Christ the King Sunday asks you the question: what sort of King are you looking for? Jesus is King, but not the kind of king we might have expected. His kingship was hidden from many of his contemporaries, but those who had the eyes of faith were able to see. As modern disciples of Jesus, we, too, struggle at times to recognise Jesus as King. Today's Gospel invites us to make our own judgement. With eyes of faith, we, too, recognise that Jesus, the crucified One, is indeed King and Saviour of all.

### PRAYER

Prayer is central to being a Christian. It opens us up to God's presence. Whether we recognise it or not, we all have a need for contact with God. As St Augustine said, 'God has made us for Himself and our hearts are restless until they rest in Him'.

There are as many ways to pray as there are people, and prayer involves the whole person—body, mind and spirit. We can pray in silence; we can pray as we walk; we can pray alone or in groups; we can pray using words or symbols. Through it all, we follow the example of Jesus, Who needed to pray.

Alongside adoration, confession and thanksgiving, we have prayers of intercession. Intercession is the act of praying to God on behalf of others. We have prayers of intercession at corporate worship, sometimes referred to as the prayers of the people.

One of the underused sections of the 2004 Book of Common Prayer is the weekday intercessions and thanksgivings (pages 139–43). These can be used in corporate worship during midweek services, but most commonly they are for personal use. As the preface to the prayer book says, the goal of the 2004 revision was to 'produce a book which would have equal capacity to enrich private as well as corporate devotion' (p. 7).

Of course, we live in an age when people have access to all sorts of prayer resources, on-line and in

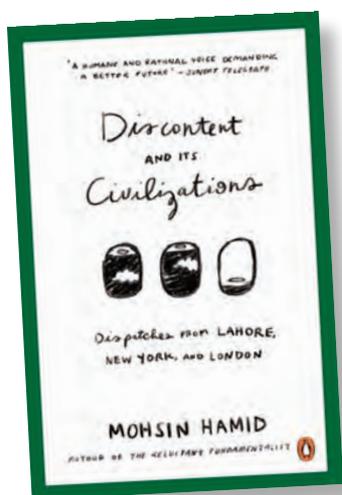
hard copy. Nevertheless, we would be foolish to overlook the excellent resource that we have within our own prayer book.

The weekday intercessions and thanksgivings have a simple format. We begin with an introduction to the theme, followed by a list of intercessions. We then move into a time of thanksgiving, followed by a concluding prayer. Each day has a different theme:

- Monday's theme is creation and providence (the world), when we pray for the nations, our own country, those in authority, peace, racial harmony and all who maintain order.
- Tuesday is for revelation and human knowledge (the community), when we pray for those who work, those who are unemployed, those in education and research, those in communication and those who maintain the life of the community.
- Wednesday is for reconciliation and human relationships (relationships), when we pray for home and personal life, children deprived of homes, friends and neighbours, those who are estranged, those who feel unloved and all ministries of care.
- Thursday is for the household of faith (the church), when we pray for the church universal and local, the unity of the church, the ministries of the church, the mission of the church and the renewal of the church.
- Friday is for human need (suffering), when we pray for the hungry, the refugees, the prisoners, the persecuted, all who bring sin and suffering to others and those who seek to bring care and relief.

This is a fairly comprehensive list and we might do well to allow it to shape our daily prayers for others. Why not give it a go?

*If you don't have a Book of Common Prayer and you would like to own one, let us know in the church office and we can look at ordering one for you.*



*Discontent and its Civilizations; dispatches from Lahore, New York, and London.* Mohsin Hamid  
Penguin. ISBN 9780241146323.  
Paperback. 208pp. £9.90.

Have you ever read *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*? What about *Moth Smoke*? Or, most recently, *Exit West*? Do you know *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*? If not, you should! All written by Pakistani novelist Mohsin Hamid, they're a wonderfully eclectic set of insights into the cultural identity, psyche and insecurity of besieged outsiders. Meanwhile, *Discontent and its Civilizations*—a collection of his essays written between 2000 and 2014—beautifully curates his experiences and personal perspective during this period, deeply enriching the context of his novels.

Exploring elements of life, art and politics as he has lived them, his fragmented approach to this book (a retrospective collection of articles rather than a newly written, cohesive unit) highlights 'the plasticity of what in any given present moment one typically presents as a rock of certainty'. It charts the writer's typically messy journey from one outlook to another, during a period of his life which saw immense personal and societal change.

Though a citizen of Pakistan, Mohsin Hamid has spent half his life living abroad, primarily in the US and London. Indeed, he spent so much of his childhood in

California that when he returned to Lahore at the age of nine he had lost his first language, Urdu. Princeton-educated, in a highly paid management consultancy position in New York, he migrated to London just months before the 9/11 attacks, and then, shortly after the 7/7 attacks there, returned to Lahore with his new wife and young baby.

**'His perspective is simultaneously global and personal, international and parochial, monumental and mundane.'**

As a foreign national with brown skin (a Pakistani one at that), his relationship to the cities he'd called home radically changed following these events. Simultaneously, his proximity to the attacks, and his lived experience of the cities and their people, gave him an insider's understanding of the attacks' impact. These insights, combined with a lifetime of migration, leave him feeling like a 'half-outsider', a citizen of everywhere and nowhere.

The focus of Hamid's essays swings wildly between the humdrum (needing a haircut, or missing a spot while shaving) and the extreme (fear of a barbershop bombing, in terror of being mistaken for a terrorist). His incisive, cutting comments made me laugh out loud, while his recounting of his first moments alone with his baby daughter made me bawl! He veers at times between hopeless optimism for Pakistan's future and deep regret at its lack of agency. His perspective is simultaneously global and personal, international and parochial, monumental and mundane.

That sense of wide and narrow focus pervades each of Hamid's novels too, and plays a crucial role

in his stories, allowing him to assume the role of mediator between the Western culture he sought to experience and the Muslim background into which he was born. What I love most about his books is that he requires *you*, the reader, to take an active role in the story too: in *Moth Smoke* the reader acts as judge in a courtroom drama; in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* it is implied that *you* are a CIA operative; in *Exit West* you accompany two refugees as they experience the trauma of migration. In all of these, *you* are at once casual eyewitness and complicit conspirator—either way, a potential agent of change, once you put the book down.

In terms of its function and focus, this book of essays really is no different. Hamid has provided a series of snapshot pieces about his life, his philosophy and his perspective which seek to highlight the 'commonalities that cut across different countries, religions and languages'. Using the 'notional civilizations' of Islam and the West as a framework to argue from, he points out that each is in fact so diverse and fragmentary that the very idea of multiple civilisations is actually illusory. 'Our civilizations', he says, 'do not cause us to clash. No, our clashing allows us to pretend we belong to civilizations.' In other words, we are so busy battling over our differences that we forget to consider our common humanity. As regards discontent, he explains that this concept of clashing civilisations 'undermine[s] globalization's only plausible promise: that we be free to invent ourselves'.

Hamid's ability to juxtapose the beauty and violence of life, the micro and macro environments we occupy and the complexity and simplicity of our emotions is exquisite. In the opening paragraphs of this book he recounts an encounter with a monk, whose beliefs he attempts to debunk. By the end of *Discontent and its Civilizations* I could almost believe that he's become that monk.

**Jenny Langley**

**THE FLEADH**

I met P at his house at or about nine  
Then we set off together for the Luas  
line.  
Along to the GPO we went  
For Drogheda town we were both  
intent.

The next train to leave Connolly was  
at 10.04  
On Platform 6 per the timetable board  
Which became Platform 7 @ 10 past 10  
Through indistinct tannoy taxing my  
brain.

The commuter train seemed to stop at  
every quarter  
In an hour our journey ended near  
the Boyne water  
From Drogheda station we walked  
down to the town  
And crossing the river meandered  
around.

The weather was fine and the rain  
stayed away.  
There was music and dancing in  
pleasing array  
Fiddles, tin whistles, accordians and  
pipes,  
Banjos and boxes played by all types.

We walked the streets which P hadn't  
done.  
On the steps of St Peter's people sat in  
the sun.

We went in to see martyred St Oliver's  
head  
And the Newgate Prison door through  
which likely led.

A hilly location, we walked up and  
down  
Visiting St Laurence's Gate on the east  
of the town.  
We heard music and song within a  
church hall  
Even saw cadavers on a graveyard  
wall.

P procured cans of coke at a roadside  
stall.  
And entering a butchers along the  
mall  
P pointed out to me a pig's pork hock  
But in the end it was blackpudding we  
bought from his stock.

The Fleadh was epitomised for P by  
this,  
Two youngsters playing, about eight  
and six.

The older, a sister, her fiddle bowing,  
The younger, with peaked cap, his tin  
whistle blowing.

Highlanes Gallery lured both of us in,  
A lovely Franciscan Church and  
paintings within,  
At the end of the second millennium  
closed  
But maintained by a café inside, we  
supposed.  
In a courtyard outside we took a seat  
And refreshments enjoyed in the  
afternoon heat.  
Rested, we rose and left for the train  
To leave the Fleadh for our homes  
again.

There followed four nights on TG 4,  
Twelve hours of Fleadh banter and  
music galore.  
It does my heart good to watch and  
listen  
To traditional music in parlour or  
kitchen.

*William D. August 2019*

A photo of Derek Higgins reading Klips in sunny Clare Island.

*Send in your photo of Klips as it goes with you on your travels.*



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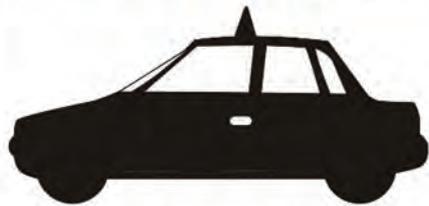
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