



KILTERNAN KLIPS

Building community, strengthening worship, growing in service

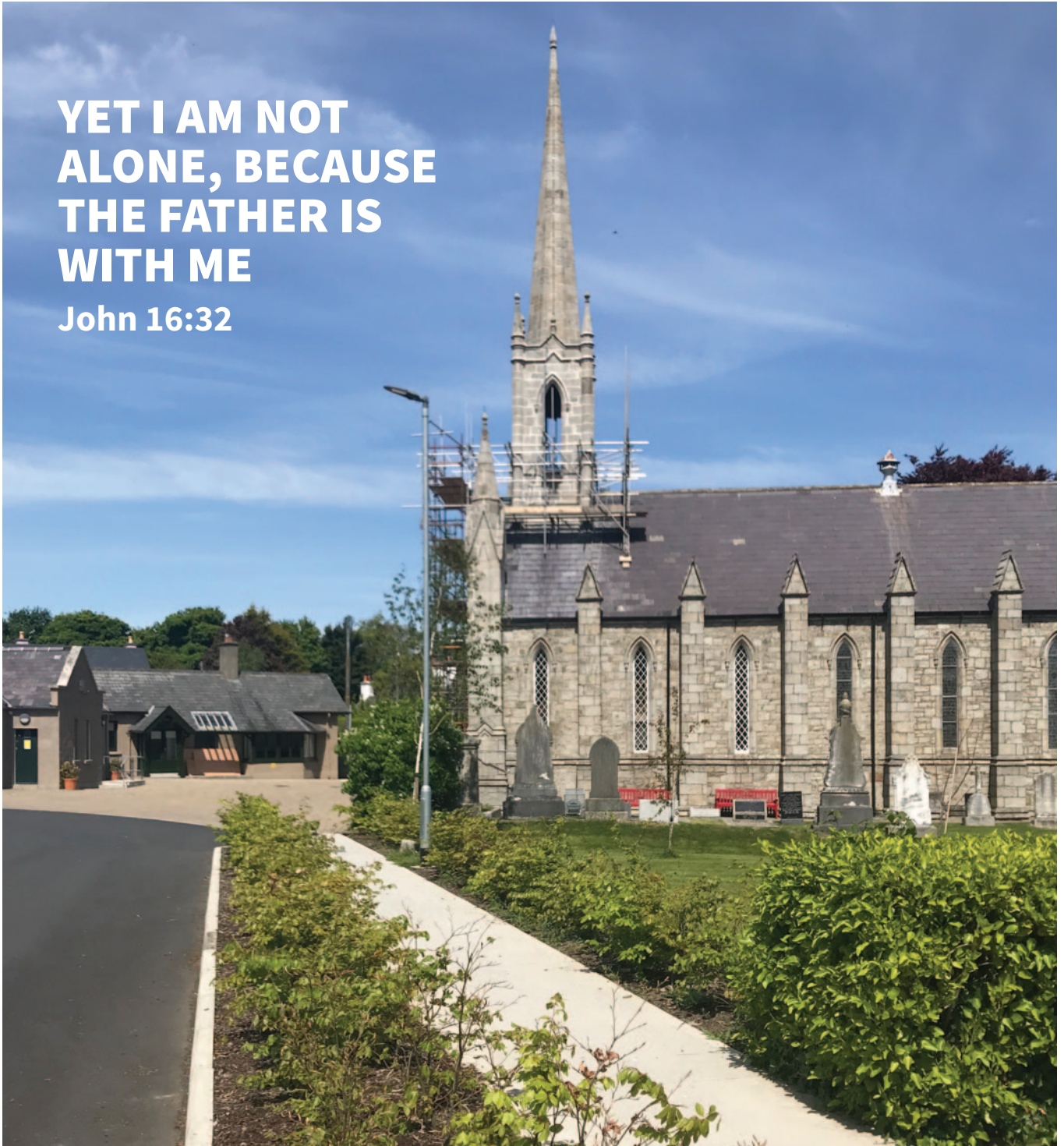
The quarterly newsletter of Kilternan Parish, Co. Dublin

Vol. 26 No. 2 Kilternan Klips | Summer 2020

www.kilternan.dublin.anglican.org

**YET I AM NOT
ALONE, BECAUSE
THE FATHER IS
WITH ME**

John 16:32



NOTICE BOARD

News and notices from around the parish

WHAT'S ONLINE

Keep up with forthcoming online events in the parish

FEATURES

Articles and features of interest to the church

MINISTRY

Youth, family and liturgy, articles and more



The Buildings


May Be **CLOSED**

But **CHURCH**

Is Still



 Our online church **for all** is at <https://www.facebook.com/KilternanParishChurch>

 For assistance phone (01) 295 2643

stephen newell architects

33 years designing houses, rectories, church / community facilities and commercial premises.



01 286 4791 | studio@sna.ie | www.sna.ie

NOW OFFERING IRELAND'S MOST ATTRACTIVE BURIAL AND ASH INTERMENT OPTIONS



Traditional Burial Plots
(capacity 3 coffin burials & 4 urn burials)
Now available from €5,950

Ash Burial Plots
(capacity 4 urn burials)
Now available from €4,900 inclusive of Irish Granite headstone

Columbarium Memorial Wall
(capacity 2 urns)
Now available from €2,950

Selected plots are available to pre purchase



Tel: 01 281 4029 www.kilternancemetery.ie



Contents

What's on in Kilternan	4
Keeping in touch	4
Parish Notice Board	5
Gathering Grounds	11
Lockdown images	12
Kilternan Fabric Hub	14
Archbishop's sermon	15
Jesus Wept	16
Family and Youth Ministry	17
Community and Wider Church	20
Cranmer's Corner	21
Book review	22
A reflection from history	22
Home worship	23

Cover image: our church during lockdown. (Image: Nick Maxwell)



Volume 26 Number 2
June 2020

Editorial: Rob Clements and
Annemarie McCleane

Design: Wordwell Ltd
Production: Nick Maxwell
Copy-editing: Emer Condit
Printed by: Ross Print, Greystones
Published by:
Kilternan Church of Ireland Parish,
Kilternan, Dublin 18.

Rector: Revd Rob Clements
Contact:
Phone: 01-295 2643 (O);
Mob: 087-149 6605
Email: rector@kilternanparish.ie;
www.kilternan.dublin.anglican.org

The Rector hopes for ...

'A resurrection of our common life'

This edition of *Klips* is early; we normally have a summer edition published in mid- to late June. During this time of restriction, however, we felt that it would be lovely to have a 'Covid-19 response' version of *Klips*, to offer some encouragement in these challenging days.

I hope and pray that you are well. You have been missed.

As I think about my notes, I cannot help but look back. It seems such a long time since we worshipped together in our church, and shared coffee and fellowship in the Gathering Grounds. As I flick through the previous edition of *Klips*, I lament the programmes and initiatives that didn't get off the ground. It's quite amazing how our common life can be changed so dramatically and so quickly. Nevertheless, while the doors of the church building may have been closed, the church has still been very much alive. We remind ourselves of those words in Matthew 16: 18, where Jesus says that the gates of hell

'We need to allow God to shape a future for us, to transform us according to His will, and to build His Kingdom among us.'

cannot prevail against His church.

Presently we are starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel, as our restrictions lift and the number of new Covid-19 cases and deaths starts to decrease. We continue to pray that we have passed through the worst. We should daily give thanks for all those who have put themselves at risk for the care and well-being of others. We also need to be mindful daily of those who have suffered deeply.

What about the future? On Easter Sunday, the Archbishop of Canterbury was interviewed for the BBC's *Andrew Marr Show*. Inevitably, then as now, the pandemic dominated the discussion. I was especially taken by this comment from Archbishop Justin: 'Once this epidemic is conquered we cannot be content to go back to what was before as if all was normal ... there needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old but is different and more beautiful.'

We have a date of 26 July for reopening our church doors for common worship. Our return will be challenging; we will have to relearn how to open ourselves to one another. We are encouraged by our archbishop to ask ourselves three questions when we return. What have we lost? What have we gained? And what might we do in the future, built on the rich new experience of the present?

One of the memorable phrases of the Revd Dr David Tuohy, who worked with this diocese on the Five Marks of Mission, was that institutions, including the churches, all too frequently plan for the past. We will not just return to the way things were. If we do, this unprecedented time has meant nothing. The past will not return; only the future will arrive. We need to allow God to shape a future for us, to transform us according to His will, and to build His Kingdom among us. As we close Eastertide, we should remember that God can bring life out of even the darkest places.

May God awaken us to what the Spirit is doing.

**Blessings,
Revd Rob Clements.**

THE KILTERNAN CHURCH OFFICE IS CURRENTLY CLOSED.

Staff are working from home and are reachable via phone or email.

Revd Rob Clements (Rector), Rector@kiltiernanparish.ie, tel. 01-295 5603.

Annemarie McCleane (Parish Administrator), Office@kiltiernanparish.ie, tel. 01-295 2643.

Carol Barry (Parish Reader), carolmbarry@yahoo.ie, tel. 087 636 1530.

Kevin O'Sullivan (Organist), music@kiltiernanparish.ie.

As a result of the necessary cost-cutting measures caused by Covid-19, we have had to lay off Julie, Brian and Lynn. We did this with heavy hearts, but we trust that this is only a temporary measure, and we hope to bring them back onto the staff team as soon as possible. I have been grateful that during this time all three of them have volunteered their time and creativity to the ministry of the parish. This speaks of their enthusiasm for ministry and their generosity of spirit. I'm including their contact details below, although I would ask that you be mindful that any contributions they are currently making to church life are voluntary.

CONTACT LIST

Revd Rob Clements (Rector),

Rector@kiltiernanparish.ie, tel. 01-295 5603

Annemarie McCleane (Parish

Administrator), Office@kiltiernanparish.ie, tel. 01-295 2643

Brian Hickey (Youth Ministry Coordinator), kym@kiltiernanparish.ie, tel. 085 862 2893

Julie Clements (Gathering Grounds Supervisor and Outreach Worker), gatheringgrounds@kiltiernanparish.ie, tel. 087 203 9516

Lynn Storey (Children and Family Ministry Coordinator), lynnstorey14@gmail.com

Carol Barry (Parish Reader), carolmbarry@yahoo.ie, tel. 087 636 1530

Kevin O'Sullivan (Organist), music@kiltiernanparish.ie

Safeguarding Panel Members: Rob Clements, Jonny Holt, Jane Newell

PARISH TEAM

The Reverend Rob Clements
Rector

Carol Barry

Parish Reader

Brian Hickey

Youth and Children's Ministry

Kevin O'Sullivan

Organist

Jackie Robinson

Church Warden

Christian Kraeft

Glebe Warden

Gary Colcough

Church Warden

Bruce Fitzsimons

Glebe Warden

Carol Barry

Secretary of the Vestry

Harry Simpson

Treasurer

KEEPING IN TOUCH DURING THE PANDEMIC

You might like to follow Kiltiernan parish on our Facebook networks for more instant information about what is going on in the parish. You can follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/KiltiernanParishChurch>. You might note that the Gathering Grounds has a busy Facebook presence also.

Some useful numbers during the Covid-19 pandemic DLR COMMUNITY CALL

TEAM—Assisting cocooning, elderly, vulnerable members of the community, delivering groceries and medicine, and providing cocooning support. Freephone 1800 804 535, 8am–8pm, seven days a week. You can also email covidsupport@dlrcoco.ie.

AGE ACTION Information Service provides a service for older people to ensure that they can access accurate and timely information about the virus. The service is available Monday to Friday 9.30am–5pm on 01 475 6989.

ALONE—Supports for older people with concerns or facing difficulties during the coronavirus restrictions. The support line is open Monday to Sunday, 8am–8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

SENIOR LINE provides a Freephone service every day of the year, 10am–10pm, including all public holidays. Callers concerned about coronavirus will get the most up-to-date guidance recommended by government sources. You can contact Senior Line on 1800 80 45 91.

THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF IRELAND

provides advice and support for vulnerable people living alone during the coronavirus pandemic. While the group does not offer personalised medical advice, their service can direct you towards reliable sources of information. You can contact the Alzheimer National Helpline team on 1800 341 341, or by email at helpline@alzheimer.ie.

AN POST is providing extra services for older and more vulnerable people. Postmen and postwomen across the country will call to the front doors of older and vulnerable customers along their delivery route. You can request a check for you or someone you love at <https://www.anpost.com/Covid-19/Request-a-Check-In>. If you have post that you want delivered, you can put a sign in your window that says I HAVE MAIL, and the postman or postwoman will collect it and send it for you free of charge.

SAMARITANS provide emotional support to anyone in distress or struggling to cope. Freephone 116 123 every day, 24 hours a day.

MENTAL HEALTH IRELAND—

Information and support for people who experience mental health difficulties. Information line: 01 284 1166 from 9am to 5pm, Monday–Friday.

CHILDLINE (ISPCC)—Ireland's 24-hour national listening service for young people up to the age of 18. Freephone 1800 666 666 any-time. Text 50101 from 10am to 4pm daily.

WOMEN'S AID—Providing free and confidential support to women experiencing domestic violence, to their family and friends and professionals supporting victims of abuse. National freephone helpline 1880 341 900 available 24 hours, seven days a week.

MABS—The State's money advice and budgeting service; it is free, confidential and independent. Helpline number is 0761 07 2000, Monday–Friday, 9am–8pm. Further details of services can be found on www.mabs.ie.

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

WHAT'S ON IN KILTERNAN

Sunday services

Where to begin with services? This is all a moving target and we face it with more questions than answers. There is some likelihood that services will resume on 26 July. It is still unclear what our restrictions will be when we do so. We will do our best to keep you informed.

In the meantime, we will continue to upload regular Sunday services onto YouTube. If you are not able to access the Sunday services, or you know someone who is unable to, it is possible for a paper copy of the service to be delivered. Please let the rector know and we can make arrangements.

We encourage participation at many levels in our services. If you would like to read, record prayers or offer a piece of art, please contact the rector at rector@kilternanparish.ie or Kevin O'Sullivan at music@kilternanparish.ie

Online programmes

Wednesday Zoom Prayer meeting: 8:00pm—Connect with us for a short service of prayer. If you are not comfortable using Zoom, you can still join us by praying in your home at 8:00pm. You might find some of the resources on page 23 helpful. The contact details for the service go out every Tuesday on the parish email.

Friday: 'Tea and Theology'—This is a new initiative that we are rolling out. Join Revd Rob in the rectory study as we dig deeper into some of the big questions of faith over a cuppa and a Bible. Content will be uploaded to the YouTube channel every Friday from 7:00pm. So far we have looked at Faith and Creation, making some sense of the Book of Genesis, and Faith and the Fall. The series is based loosely on the book *Café Theology* by Michael Lloyd.

Children and Family ministries—See Youth and Children's section for more details.

Kilternan Kids on Zoom every Thursday at 4:00pm.

Play Café @ Home every Wednesday at 10am on Zoom.

Pastoral care

In this time of social distancing, clergy are not able to make home or hospital visits. However, if you have an urgent pastoral need or would like a prayer, please contact the rector by phone.

Kilternan supporting you during Covid-19

If you or someone you know is in financial need owing to the current crisis, you can reach out confidentially to Revd Rob Clements at rector@kilternanparish.ie. If you have a need for food, errands, connection or some prayer resources, please let the rector know.

Supporting Kilternan during Covid-19

Throughout all of this we are continuing the mission and ministry of Kilternan. If you are able, please support Kilternan through donation and regular giving. You can find out more about standing orders in the finance section of the website, or contact Annemarie.

Online donations

We now have a mechanism for online financial donations on the parish website. It's designed primarily for 'one-off' contributions, and all donations are most welcome as we seek to fund the work of the parish. If you are planning to contribute regularly, the most effective way to do so continues to be through standing order.

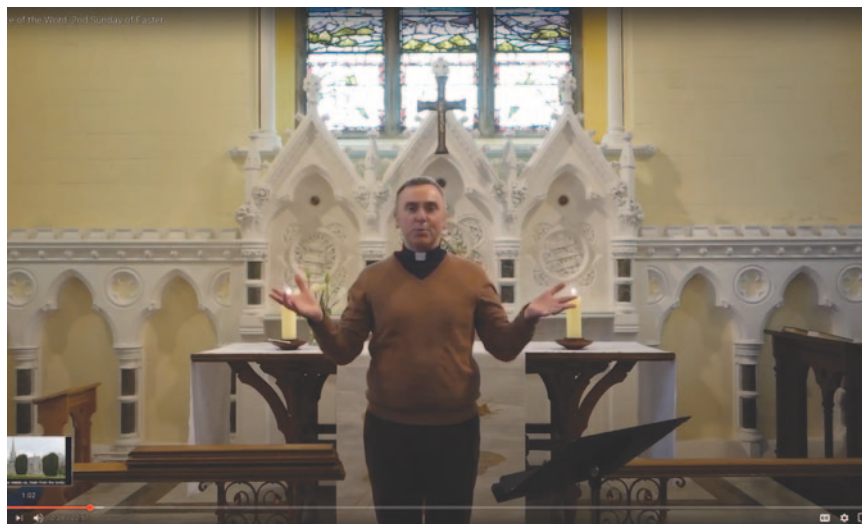
REGISTER

Christian burial

We mourn the death of George Luke, who died on 6 March. Our prayers are with his family.

KILTERNAN ONLINE

While reflecting on the 'lock-in', the Archbishop recently wrote that technology is 'no longer a novelty'. I think he is right! What we have learned from our recent use of YouTube, Facebook, Zoom etc. is that these tools are not merely 'stopgaps' but authentic tools for ministry and mission. They do not replace the blessing of the



The Rector taking the online service for the second Sunday of Easter.

NOTICE BOARD

gathering of God's people for prayer and worship and they are not for everyone, but they have their own integrity and their own place.

I have been grateful to Kevin O'Sullivan, who has been the creative force behind much of our YouTube effort. Kevin has written an article that you can read later for those curious about the process of putting together a YouTube service. We have been amazed by the number of people accessing our online services—many more than would normally be going to church! I've had emails and texts of appreciation from a wide range of people of all ages.

One of my observations is that technology is no longer the property of the young. A group that found the YouTube videos helpful was elderly grandparents, sent links by their children or grandchildren. This is certainly an opportunity for ministry for those not always able to get out but seeking the familiarity of their own church rather than whoever is on RTÉ on any given Sunday.

While technology will never and should never replace the gift of 'face-to-face' community, we should recognise that it is another tool for ministry. Even when the restrictions have ended, we hope to still maintain a new media presence in some form.

If you are not yet a regular subscriber to our YouTube channel, perhaps you would consider becoming one. We hope to continue to produce content in the days ahead.

CAROL HENNESSY RETIRES FROM TEAM HOPE

Over the years, Carol has poured her heart and soul into the life of Team Hope, particularly the shoebox appeal. Many of you will have heard her in church or most recently at Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds.

On 31 March Carol retired from Team Hope. The retirement happened quite quietly, as it



occurred during the current shut-down. There will be a time for a more in-depth reflection on Carol's time with Team Hope, but for now we thank her for her ministry, we wish her God's blessing as she takes a well-deserved breather, and we look forward to discovering what God has planned for her in the future.

FINANCIAL REFLECTIONS FROM THE PARISH TREASURER

Under Irish government legislation, church buildings had to close their doors for normal congregational activities. In the space of a few short weeks our churches have had to reinvent the way we worship, and the way clergy provide pastoral care imaginatively and appropriately while working from home. While our church buildings may be closed, the church is very much open and is doing all it can in these challenging days.

I hope that you are enjoying the regular worship resources/online services available from our parish via email/Facebook/YouTube/etc. We have all had to creatively adapt ways of working and living during these changed times.

Our first concern has to be for those whom the Covid-19 pandemic has most affected—those who have suffered directly through the virus, or indirectly through financial hard-

ship. As a church, we seek to provide support where possible.

We also need to be mindful of the health and well-being of our church. We are grateful to the many contributors to the life of our church, but we have to acknowledge the dramatic loss of income that we are currently experiencing owing to the cessation of regular services and the closure of the parish centre.

We have taken some drastic measures to reduce short-term costs, but we still need to consider how we can best manage our current cash flow. One way of helping would be to increase the number of standing orders coming into the parish each month. If you are a regular contributor to our parish through the envelope scheme/church plate, we would ask that, if you are in a position to do so, you consider setting up a standing order to assist our parish financially at this time. You can find out more about setting up a standing order on the website, in the section labelled 'Finance and giving'.

You will also notice on the website that you are now able to give a donation electronically online. We would welcome any donations at this difficult time, as we try to build for the future.

We would like to thank all parishioners for their continued support and look forward to being able to physically gather together in the near future.

**Harry Simpson
Parish Treasurer**

CALM FOR THE SOUL BY RUTH GYVES

Ruth Gyves works in Holy Trinity, Rathmines, as the Lay Assistant Pastor (and Lay Reader). She mainly assists the Revd Rob Jones in the pastoral care of the elderly in the congregation.

At this time when people are cocooned and pastoral visiting is curtailed, she decided to put together a short booklet full of prayers and reflections. She had written an earlier book called *Food*

for the Soul. This new publication is called *Calm for the Soul—readings and prayers in anxious times*.

This is a lovely little booklet, and we have purchased a number for use in Kiltarnan. Ruth very generously made them available at print cost. Many of you will already have received one from me on Easter Sunday, and I have delivered some to the Glebe House nursing home. If you have not received one and you would like to, let me know and I'll get a copy to you.

THY KINGDOM COME: TEN DAYS OF PRAYER

'Thy Kingdom Come' is a prayer initiative for outreach and evangelisation held between Ascension (21 May) and Pentecost (31 May). There is much that we have not been able to do during our restriction, but prayer is something we have been able to do in abundance.

I challenge us all to commit to ten days of prayer. Each of the days will have a different prayer focus. A new prayer will be uploaded on Facebook every day. If you don't have access to these online resources, perhaps you might still set aside some time that day and pray for the allotted area of focus.

- Thursday 21 May: Ascension Day reflection and prayers by Revd Rob Clements
- Friday 22 May: Prayer focus on young adults and young people by Brian Hickey
- Saturday 23 May: Prayer focus on educators and institutions of learning by school principal Grainne Darlington
- Sunday 24 May: Parish worship with the prayers of the people
- Monday 25 May: Prayer focus on home and family life by Lynn Storey
- Tuesday 26 May: Prayer focus on the church, select vestries and church leaders by Carol Barry
- Wednesday 27 May: Zoom prayer meeting
- Thursday 28 May: Prayer focus

on community relations and civic leaders with Revd Rob Clements

- Friday 29 May: Prayer focus on people in need by Julie Clements
- Saturday 30 May: Prayer focus on suffering and healing by Revd Rob Clements
- Sunday 31 May: Pentecost Sunday celebrations with prayers of the people

PLUGGING THE LEAK: THE CHURCH TOWER APPEAL



Unfortunately, the Church Tower Appeal happened right in the middle of the current shut-down. We will return to it again when the church and centre reopen. Nevertheless, owing to the generosity of many kind parishioners, we managed to raise over €12,000 before things stopped!

PHOTOS BY THE LATE ALBERT SUTTON GO ON DISPLAY ONLINE

Albert Sutton was a much-loved parishioner here in Kiltarnan, known to us as a lovely gentleman full of chat and laughter but to others as the man who helped liberate Bergen-Belsen concentration camp during the second World War.



The National Museum of Ireland has put together a new online exhibition entitled 'Reflections on Resilience' to coincide with the lockdown and the closure of the museum, giving 'pause for thought' during a time of crisis. The exhibition uses one of Albert's photo albums, which was handed over to the National Museum this year.

Albert went to Belfast at the start of the war and joined the Royal Air Force. As part of the ground crew, he was in the vanguard of the Allied liberation force that invaded Nazi-occupied Europe in 1944. He kept a photographic diary as he went along and photographed a confrontation with a collaborator in Brussels.

He was in the first lorry-load of troops to liberate Bergen-Belsen in northern Germany on 15 April 1945. The 75th anniversary of the liberation was last month. One of Albert's tasks was to bury the dead. The images from the concentration camp were shown on newsreels at

NOTICE BOARD

the time and were profoundly shocking for audiences who had not known what was going on.

The exhibition reminds us of the resilience of the human spirit. Have a look at it online and pause to remember the wonderful gentleman who sat in our pews every Sunday.

Photographs on the NMI website <https://www.museum.ie/en-ie/home>.

NEW SOUND SYSTEM

In March we installed a new sound system in the church. The old system had been teetering on the brink of failure for quite some time, so we are delighted to have a quality system in place. The new system includes a mixing desk and amplifier, new speakers, two new clip microphones and two hand-held microphones, a new lectern microphone and rewiring throughout. We can also amplify the piano and projector audio evenly throughout the church, and we have a working loop system for those with hearing aids.

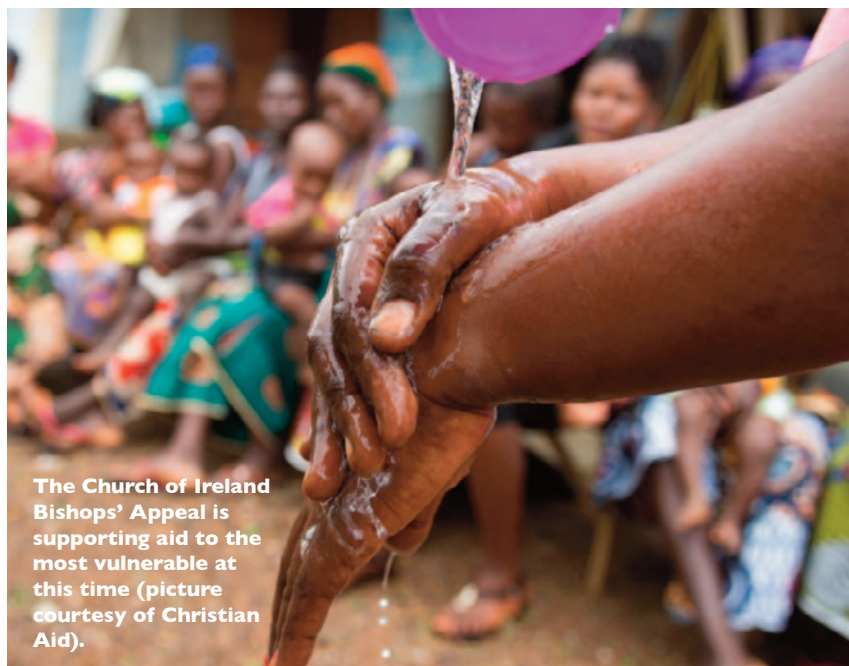
We were able to do this thanks to a generous donation from Raymond and Sarah Tilson. We are grateful for their support!

As with anything new, there will be teething problems, particularly as we get used to operating it, so please bear with us. If there are still a few challenges, you can be sure they are issues of human error!

CHURCH GAZETTE AND CHURCH REVIEW AVAILABLE ONLINE

During the lockdown, the *Church of Ireland Gazette* and *Church Review* have been available free online. You can access them here:

<https://gazette.ireland.anglican.org/>
<https://dublin.anglican.org>



The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal is supporting aid to the most vulnerable at this time (picture courtesy of Christian Aid).

BISHOPS' APPEAL AND COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Bishops' Appeal is releasing a total of €50,000 to five key partner mission and development agencies to support aid to the world's most vulnerable people during the Covid-19 crisis. The five agencies are Christian Aid, Tearfund Ireland, CMS Ireland, USPG and Motivation. Further donations can be sent to the Bishops' Appeal through its website at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give.

EASTER VESTRY

The Assessor to the General Synod has reconfirmed that until government guidelines permit the holding of Easter General Vestries, particularly but not exclusively in the areas of the permitted size of gatherings and social distancing, the currently elected Select Vestry will continue in office as the parish trustees. Once government advice is relaxed in such a way that meetings are possible, it will be proper to convene the Easter General Vestry meeting.

PROTESTANT AID EMERGENCY GRANTS

Covid-19 is having a serious financial impact on many families.

As a result, Protestant Aid have developed an interim initiative *specifically* for parishioners who are in urgent short-term need as a result of Covid-19 and its effect on their financial situation. These situations will typically involve difficulties caused by job loss, business suspension or closure, reduced working hours, or delay or difficulty in accessing State assistance.

If you are in need of assistance, or you are aware of someone who is, please contact the rector, who will happily make an application on your behalf.

USING ZOOM

by Carol Barry

Until recently I thought that Zoom was a lens function on a camera, but I've since learned that there is another meaning to this word! I've been introduced to Zoom, a video conferencing app, and I've become quite adept at its use.

Of all the things that my extended family and I have missed most since mid-March, our weekly worship and meeting together were top of the list. So, from week two in isolation we have met together via Zoom each week for our own version of Sunday service! The congregation range in age from one and a half to 94. My Mum plays the

piano and chooses the hymns, while we try to get all the family involved by encouraging everyone to take an active part in the service.

It has been an invaluable link for us all and we thank God for the opportunity to gather in His name and to bring before Him our praise and thanksgiving.

And, of course, when the service ends we make a cup of tea and have a chat, just like on a regular Sunday!

CHARITIES USING THE COTTAGE: WHO ARE THEY AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

As of February, we now have two charities using the old cottage, the Protestant Orphan Society and the Glorney Foundation. Who are they and what do they do? In this edition we focus on the POS. In the next edition we will hear from the Glorney Foundation.

POS Children's Education Fund by Clive Christie

The Protestant Orphan Society and the Meath Trust have histories stretching back to 1828. Today, the governance of both organisations is vested in a limited company: the POS Children's Education Fund. It is a Registered Charity, No. 554.

The Protestant Orphan Society provides financial assistance towards living and education expenses for children within the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough in cases where one or both of their parents have died. The object is to attempt to minimise the disadvantage occasioned by the death of a parent.

The Meath Trust provides grants towards the education of children in need who are not orphans. The Trust has a traditional emphasis on the city of Dublin.

The directors of the Fund allocate monies according to the traditions of both as outlined above, from our first contact with the children until they have graduated at third level or taken up

a career. Neither the denomination of the child or of the surviving parent is an issue in the allocation so long as one of the parents is, or was, a Protestant.

At one time or another we have supported families in every parish of the United Dioceses. We receive a steady flow of applications and are able to respond with the kind of money that can make a real difference. Over the last year the Fund has awarded grants and provided other financial assistance to benefit 85 children from within the United Dioceses.

The Fund relies primarily on investment income from the resources of both organisations as well as generous donations from parishes, individuals and other trust funds.

We believe that the work we do is of enormous benefit to young people. If you would like to learn more about the work of the POS Children's Education Fund or are considering making a donation or bequest, please contact our Administrator, Clive Christie, for more details at the Church Cottage, Kiltiernan Parish Church of Ireland, Enniskerry Road, Dublin 18, D18 CF79. Tel. 087 978 9598. Email: info@poscef.org. Website: www.poscef.org.

BEWARE OF SCAMS

It is a sad world when people try to exploit the situation we are in today for their own financial gain. This is unfortunately what we are seeing in the criminal community. In some dioceses there have been scams that involve the fraudulent doorstep collection of Freewill Offering envelopes.

If anyone calls to your house asking for weekly church envelopes, please do not give anything to them. Tell them you will check with your rector. Please also make sure to report anything suspicious to the guards.

Please keep an eye on your elderly relatives and gently enquire about the phone calls they have been receiving and any strangers arriving at their door.

I have also been made aware

of a fake Gmail account set up as the Revd Rob Clements targeting Kiltiernan parishioners, asking for help or soliciting information. This is not uncommon in the clergy world. I received an email myself from a fake clergy account from a neighbouring rector asking me to contact them urgently.

In Kiltiernan you will only receive messages from my authorised rector's email or the office email. If you get anything suspicious from us, please check with us before answering.

PREGNANCY PRAYER TREE

It's a particularly difficult time for pregnant parents-to-be. We want to support you in prayer at this time and so have set up a pregnancy prayer tree. The names of the parents and the date/month the baby is due are written on an egg-shaped card and then hung on a tree and prayed for. After the baby has been born, the name of the baby is written on the other side with a prayer of thanks for his/her safe arrival.

If you would like to be added to the pregnancy prayer tree or there is a loved one you'd like to have added (with their consent) please let Lynn or Rob know.





The Kiltiernan Junior Choir singing, accompanied by Kevin, at the Wesley Feis.

MUSIC NOTES

Before COVID

A week before schools closed, we took the Junior Choir to the Wesley Feis. We were the smallest choir (sixteen of us) and they sang *God is* brilliantly. We may not have won this year but the kids are already looking forward to the next time we can compete (see photograph above).

What are we up to?

Since lockdown, both choirs have been providing for the online services. Choristers who can, and who want to, make recordings at home, which they send to Kevin to be mixed down to create hymns.

The Parish Choir continue to meet weekly on Tuesday evenings but now rehearse through Zoom. Kevin leads by playing and singing to a muted (except for his mic) Zoom meeting. Then choristers sing along.

The Junior Choir have occasional rehearsals on Zoom, even if it's just for the fun of seeing each other for a short while.

Join us?

One thing that hasn't changed is how friendly and welcoming a choir we are. It is a bit different now on Zoom, but if you would be interested in joining, please contact Kevin at music@kiltiernanparish.ie.

Behind the camera

I have been creating the online services for a while now and I'd like to share with you some of what goes on behind the camera. Fun fact: I picked up the filming and editing skills from making YouTube videos a few years ago.

Every service begins with the plan. Rob sends me the service sheet with his ideas, and I have a look through it to consider what I can add or bring to it through camera and music.

We then meet in the church (observing the appropriate restrictions). After filming, I spend time recording the organ for hymns and voluntaries (the stand-alone organ pieces).

At home, I can work on putting the footage and music together. This can be done with cheap/free software, and in the beginning that's what I used. I've used Adobe Premier Pro in the past, however, so now I've returned to it.

Mixing the music involves putting all the tracks into an audio program. Once in, I change the volume on each track so that no voice overpowers (and no, I don't mute singers). Then I move them around till they all start at the same time.

I love editing the video, especially when I get pictures and short videos to include. It's great to be able to find a spot in the service to share the wonderful creativity and scenery from the community. So please do send in pictures for videos.

Wishing you all the best of health on behalf of the Choirs and myself.

Kevin

THE GATHERING GROUNDS

BREAD FOR THE BODY, BREAD FOR THE SOUL

by Julie Clements

In mid-April we made bread during the online service. There are several steps in baking bread. You mix the ingredients, knead the dough, proof the dough and then bake the finished loaf. I have included the ingredients (right) for those who might like to have a go at home. We used this process of baking bread to think about prayer.

Step one: mix the ingredients. When baking bread, you can't just throw a bunch of random stuff in a bowl and expect to get a loaf of bread. Similarly, if you pray haphazardly, without much thought or focus as regards what you're saying, don't be surprised if you don't get much of an answer. The Bible tells us of specific 'ingredients' that can go into prayer, which make the prayer more effective.

'Sometimes I pray while I knead. This is a fun thing to do with children. Kneading is work, and so is prayer, but I think that most worthwhile things involve work.'

Of course, God hears every type and style of prayer, and He loves to answer prayer even if you don't really know how to pray or what to pray for. But it's helpful to know what 'ingredients' you can add into your prayers. Ingredient number one: Pray in Jesus' name. Ingredient number two: Be specific. Tell Jesus your needs. Jesus says, 'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.' Ingredient number three: Have faith that your prayer will be answered. Ingredient number four:



Bread Recipe

Bread for the body, bread for the soul

7g dried active yeast
 8oz warm water
 2 Tablespoons caster sugar
 1 teaspoon salt
 2 Tablespoons olive oil
 320g plain flour

1. In a small bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Let stand until creamy; about 10 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, combine the yeast mixture with sugar, salt, oil, and flour. Stir well to combine.
3. When the dough has pulled together, turn it out onto a floured surface and knead until smooth and supple. About 8 minutes.
4. Lightly oil a large bowl, place dough in the bowl and turn the dough to coat with oil. Cover with a damp cloth and let rise in a warm place until doubled in volume. About 1 hour.
5. Punch dough down and form however you wish: one large loaf, two smaller loaves, or about 12 dinner rolls. Place on lined baking sheet and let rise again for about 40 minutes.
6. Bake in a preheated oven at 165C for 20-25 minutes.



KILTIERNAN PARISH
BUILDING COMMUNITY
 SPREADING WORDSHIP
 GROWING IN SERVICE
 26 April 2020

Surround your prayer with praise and thanksgiving. Remember that God is good.

Step two: kneading your dough. When baking bread, you have to roll your dough over and over, folding and compressing it for a good length of time. This takes time, and there are no short cuts. Sometimes I pray while I knead. This is a fun thing to do with children. Kneading is work, and so is prayer, but I think that most worthwhile things involve work.

Step three: proofing the bread. The final step before baking the loaf of bread is the proving or proofing period. It's the step where you leave the bread to rise. There is not much you can do to it at this point to make it go any faster. You just have to walk away and trust that it's going to work. Patience is like the 'proofing' of your prayer. At that point, you leave your prayers with God and wait.

So, enjoy your bread. Bread for the body, bread for the soul.



KILTERNAN PARISH



Clockwise from top left:

Stones with messages of positivity.

Easter Lego Challenge (1)—the Resurrection.

Easter Lego Challenge (2)—turning up the tables in the Temple.

Katie Holland packing fabric masks ready for distribution.

Kerrith Fisher sorting mask fabric.

Frontline worker — recipient of a fabric mask.

Staff from Penney's Nutgrove who generously donated bedlinen for the mask fundraiser appeal.

DURING LOCKDOWN



WE ARE NOW A FABRIC HUB

Kiltiernan Parish becomes a fabric hub for Masks4AllIreland

At the end of April, the parish was approached by Katie Holland, a parishioner and Scout leader, about hosting a 'fabric hub' for the distribution of PPE masks. A real need has been identified for PPE masks for care workers and hospital staff, as there are simply not enough to fulfil the current demand. We are delighted to support this initiative.

Katie, with the support of the 10th Kiltiernan Scouts, first pioneered this programme, which is running in conjunction with Masks4AllIreland. Gary Watts, the Group leader of the Kiltiernan Scout Group, said that 'helping people is something that is part of the very fabric of Scouting—it's a key part of the Scout Promise: "To serve my community, to help other people".' The Scouts set up the '10th Kiltiernan Thimble Brigade' and since early April have been engaged in making protective, reusable cloth masks and distributing them to hospital staff and care workers.

Masks4AllIreland is a group of volunteers making the best possible reusable cotton masks free to those who need them. The material costs are met through fund-raising and donations. To date there are 550 sewers across the country and 25,000 masks have been produced.

Like the demand, the project has grown! What began in Katie's home has developed into quite an operation. The Kiltiernan Centre is now filled with fabric, sorting stations, cutting stations, sewing points, and areas for packaging and distribution. Fabric is gathered, prepared and distributed to 'at home' sewers, and finally the finished product is distributed to hospitals, nursing homes and community care teams all across



the country.

While this is a hub, social distancing and stringent hygiene protocols prohibit more than three or four people in attendance at any one time, so it's not just something you can drop by and see (hopefully the photos give you a sense of what it's like).

How can you get involved?

If you are a sewer, you might like to sew. We have fabric packs and the standardised pattern. You can register on Facebook through Masks4AllIreland or contact Katie Holland at katie@jollylands.com.

You might like to donate. The main cost is fabric. A donation of €10 will buy one metre of fabric, which will enable volunteers to make ten masks. The masks are reusable and machine-washable.

The Scouts have set up a GoFundMe page, which has already brought in over €4,000 towards fabric costs. You might like to donate here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/10th-kiltiernan-scouts-covid19-fabric-for-masks>. Every single cent raised will be used to buy the materials—all work is completely voluntary.

You might have access to fabric. The Scouts have already managed to procure donations of fabric from businesses across the community. Fabric needs to be unused and 100% cotton. If you have access to suitable fabric, please let us know.

Together we can make a difference and help give our care providers the protection they need to keep themselves—and, in turn, all of us—safe.

REFLECTION BY ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL JACKSON

The following sermon was preached on the second Sunday of Easter at Kiltiernan parish church.

Easter Day: the story continues yet again

For the last two Sundays, we have followed the road of resurrection through the Gospel of St John. Not only have we met disciples in the Garden. We have also met disciples in the House. Garden and house have become for us places of confinement in these days of the coronavirus. Any of us who have either house or garden, or both, are indeed fortunate if they are places of colour and places of shelter. We hear more and more that this is not the case for many in our country. Mental well-being issues, together with domestic and personal abuse, are increasingly on the agenda in these days. Our society, while sophisticated, is also cruel—a place of darkness, of dread and of destructiveness. We are all required to isolate in order to slow the progress of Covid-19. For some, this isolation brings intimidation, as the walls close in and the atmosphere coarsens. Our alarm and our compassion are for all these people, whether they be women, children or men. Our hope is that the appropriate protections and supports will be theirs—urgently.

On the road

This morning we meet two Apostles on the road. As we who are privileged to be able to walk every millimetre of the two-kilometre radius allotted to us for our daily exercise might well be doing, they are mulling things over. The language of the Evangelist simply assumes that we know the subject of their conversation: ... *and talking with each other about all these things that had happened*. We are taken right into their journey. They are joined on the road by a stranger who sees no need to beat about the bush, to avoid the issue as they are



doing. The stranger takes the lead in their conversation by asking them exactly what they are talking about. This direct questioning enables them to voice not only their hopes but also their fears. As both faith and doubt are part of honesty, so too are hope and fear part of understanding. Their disappointment is summed up in their single sentence: *But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel*.

It is as if the honest expression of their disappointment loosens their tongues to move from the negative to the positive. They tell Him the living story of the women and of the Risen Lord Jesus. Their fellow traveller sets their own experience and the experience described in the events they recount with such exuberance into the heartbeat of *all the scriptures*. Not only is a new creation part of their experience; so also is a new theology.

In the breaking of the bread

The instinct of this fellow traveller is to travel on. This clearly is what He does. After all, He is the One sent by the Father. He has sorted out their confusion. He has given them the best of Himself and the best of His understanding of their situation. He has more and different people to meet. But they want more. He gives more. This is Who He is. This is

what He does. He is not only their instinctive fellow traveller. He is also their instinctive host. He takes the bread. In the act of breaking the bread, He moves them, and they move themselves, from theological ideas to personal recognition, without losing anything of the theological understanding.

And what of us?

We get no sense this time that they were disappointed that He left. They too left the place of meeting (it clearly was not a place to remain) and they returned to the community of the disciples—to do what? To tell two things: what had happened on the road and what had happened in the breaking of the bread. Separated as we are from church and from one another by required isolation and social distancing, we nonetheless belong to a community of understanding and of recognition. We have the opportunity to take to heart through *all the scriptures* the presence of Jesus in ourselves. It is still our calling and our responsibility to share this with other people. Our Christian discipleship and our civic duty combine to bring together the story of *all the scriptures* with the story of personal recognition. Isolation is not easy. Aloneness is not easy. But separation is the new gathering. And I want to encourage you to continue to do your bit and make your contribution for your own safety and for the safety of all. And let us never forget those whose contribution to the safety of others has brought them unspeakable danger and distress. They too need support and release.

1 Peter 1.23: *You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.*

JESUS WEPT

A parishioner reflects on power and empathy

Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus wept. (John 11: 1–44)

We live in hard times, besieged by what seems like a medieval-style plague. Many of us, myself included, are isolated and at times afraid. But what can we do as people of faith, any faith? Locked down in our homes with little enough contact, we run the risk of becoming self-absorbed. And it can be disheartening to see some political leaders who seem more interested in self-promotion and survival than in dealing with the human issues that face us.

Jesus Christ, as is told in the Gospel of John, presents an interesting study in the face of death and the human reaction to it. We believe that He is one with God and the Holy Spirit, and in His human nature was and is a man of unfathomable power. As I watch the news and see how some, but not all, world leaders react to this Covid-19 crisis, I am reminded of Jesus's reaction to what, on the face of it, seems the rather messy situation of Lazarus's death and burial. He knows, of course, that Lazarus is dead and that He can and will raise him up from his 'sleep', but He delays going to Bethany. When He gets there, Lazarus has been dead for four days, and there is a sense of reproach from Martha and Mary, even though they are accepting of God's will. Jesus reacts, not with a show of power, bluster or excuses over the death of a man He loved (a man who some commentators think may have been disadvantaged in some way and therefore a person of no account in

that society), but when He sees Mary weeping He 'groaned in spirit and was troubled', and then John writes, in that famous phrase, 'Jesus wept'. He is still 'groaning in Himself' as He gets to the tomb. I have to assume that He weeps because He has great empathy with the people He loves who are bereaved. Jesus can fix this but still He sees that empathy and compassion are needed. Despite the fact that He can sort the situation out, empathy and compassion are His first port of call.

Now, it may seem a bit of a stretch from this example to our current situation, but some world leaders, even with great powers, are more interested in self-promotion and self-preservation than in empathy and compassion. And in the face of this pandemic, where we are not the ones with any power, it is surely these virtues that are the keys to getting us through. It is perhaps all we ordinary folk have.

Some years ago, a couple of days prior to a serious operation to fix a problem that was causing me great discomfort in the neck, I took myself off to the 8.30 service in Kiltiernan—always a good place and time for a bit of quiet, structured contemplation. I was in pain, however, and a little unsettled in the pew. A parishioner I knew, although not particularly well, must have noticed; she leaned over from the pew behind, laid her hand on my shoulder and said, 'I can see you are in pain; I know what that's like myself. I hope you can be better soon.' That was all she said, but the fellow feeling and straightforward empathy, while it didn't stop the pain, eased the mental anguish that comes with pain.

During the Covid-19 crisis here in Ireland, it has to be said that we and our leaders are acquitting ourselves pretty well. Our leaders seem mostly decisive and aware of

the country's needs rather than their own. At a micro-level we hear of people who make special meals for older, isolated people who have particular dietary needs; who send them books, puzzles and jigsaws; who make a point of ringing for even a short chat. There are those making grander gestures—running marathons in their back gardens to raise money, singing on balconies, making masks in their homes etc. All of this is born out of a desire to give, an awareness of need and an innate understanding that what really helps is compassion, understanding and empathy. It seems, so far, that we can safely leave the big stuff to the political classes, but the small stuff will be in safe hands too as long as we don't forget that Jesus, for all His great power, wept.

Nick Maxwell



The 'And Jesus Wept' statue that stands next to the Oklahoma City National Memorial.



Teenagers and the lockdown

by Brian Hickey

I cannot claim to have any magic answers to what you should be doing with your teens in lockdown. I have picked up small bits of wisdom from other youth workers that I know. When I was asked to write this piece, I decided that I would not generalise. So, if you are reading this, and you are from Kiltearnan and you have a teenager that I know of, you can be sure that I have them in my mind as I write. One of the privileges of having been part of this community is that I get to regularly engage with the teenagers. I will admit that they have driven me crazy at times, but for me there is no greater joy than to work with these young people. And lastly, before I get going, if you are struggling with how you are dealing with your young person, please do reach out to us here in Kiltearnan. If you want a phone call or to exchange messages with me, I am available to you.

Screen time

One of the blessings that we have all probably availed of is the use of Zoom or Skype. It has given us the opportunity to connect with people. Groups all over the country are using video communications to help regain some sort of routine that our kids and teenagers are more used to.

I would, however, exercise caution regarding the amount of screen time that your young person is being afforded. It is, of course, valuable for them to see what their friends are up to, but all the time is not necessary. Seeing people do things that they themselves are unable to do does not help matters. It moves people to compare themselves against each other, and that is not healthy. Their value and worth transcend anything that someone can do better than them. Maybe remind them of their worth. Praise

them for what they are good at and encourage them to keep trying new things, however limiting it may be, given our current situation.

Being removed from excessive screen time enables the opportunity to have good conversations, to laugh at past memories or funny stories, to be with them when they get upset and not try to ‘fix them’. Teenagers believe that they carry the weight of the world on their shoulders. Allow them to explore and enquire about questions they might have. Go on your daily walk with them; one of the keys to good mental health is exercise. Even if they do not want to go out, get them out! They will feel better for it. There needs to be a switch-off stage for a person’s brain, where they can literally go into cruise control. For some this is playing a board game; for others it’s sitting down and watching a movie. What you are looking for is a place where they can just stop. Look for it; you know your child better than me or anyone else and you will find it.

The iceberg

Teenagers go through a wide variety of emotions on a daily basis. When they arrive at youth group, you take it on the chin when they are having a bad day. What we perceived to be normal behaviour is now being magnified. Unfortunately, with their structure taken away and the severe lack of human contact, these emotions have become elevated. You have probably noticed it, but let them do it! They might be complaining, fighting, ignoring, refusing, being disrespectful towards others and even swearing. This is just the tip of the iceberg for them. It is what is flowing out from what is really going on for them. They might be driving you up the wall but the alternative of them showing no emotion whatsoever is something even worse. All the emotions

being shown are a direct protest against what is happening to them. Their mind and body are literally saying ‘This sucks’. They are bored, they feel helpless, they are afraid, they worry about their future, they feel powerless and disconnected, even though their phones have them connected 24/7.

We must remember that we are human beings, not human doers. Let them be angry; let them be frustrated and occasionally lash out. It can be beneficial. Your job as parents is to be there for them, to put an arm around their shoulder and tell them that eventually we will return to some sort of normal, to be that shoulder to cry on, to be that listening ear, to watch for the signs that they are struggling. It’s tough and it will be exhausting, but they need a constant who can be a reassurance, who can be a model for them and demonstrate how to operate. It was true four months ago and it’s true today: teenagers are role-model-seeking missiles, and they will lock onto whatever target they can find. So be that target, step up, be strong and support where you can.

Reach out to others and see how they are doing it. The best part about the church (and I’m not talking about the physical building—I’m talking about the organic, entity that represents Christ) is that we are all gifted differently; some practise patience a lot better than others, some encourage better and so on. Use the community you have around you to support you. No one has the perfect answer for how to deal with teenagers, but we can all learn from each other.

Do, please reach out if you need to. We are all in this together. You are in my prayers and I look forward to the time when I can see you and all your young people again. Until then, may the Lord bless you and keep you safe.

(On 5 May, Brian was interviewed by Spirit Radio about his experience during the lockdown. It is a very personal interview. You can access it on the Spirit Radio website on the morning show podcast catch-up.)

FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

FAMILY MINISTRY

Supporting children and families

by Lynn Storey

Who'd have thought when I took on the role of Family and Children's Worker that in a matter of six months we would find ourselves in such a season of change, a season of shaking, when everything we just took for granted has all become 'a tad tricky'. I believe it is a time for us to rise up, a time to be bolder and think outside the box!

Once all our activities were suspended, little did I think that we would still be having to stay apart and continue to do so for considerably more weeks to come. Surprisingly, I remember quite clearly the last sessions in both Play Café and Sunday Club and the wonderful time each group had together, face to face. My response in the days that followed was how best to connect with the children and the families. Initially I used the WhatsApp groups to keep up that connection, but that proved unsatisfactory as I considered how many groups parents might be in. I became concerned that although such connection was appreciated it might also be somewhat counterproductive. For some it may have been an additional pressure adding to an already overwhelming situation.



Play café online set



Zoom kids

I needed to find a meaningful way to bring that sense of care, love and belonging into the homes of our families. From this, our online video sessions began. It's wonderful to see parents sharing messages, videos and photos of their children joining in with crafts, singing and interactive stories. Seeing how these virtual gatherings have been a blessing to so many has been such an encouragement. So, here's a taste of what we've been doing over the last few weeks with Play Café and Kilternan Kids on Zoom.

Play Café @ Home on Zoom

We have videos posted online on both the Gathering Grounds and parish Facebook pages that parents can access, with their children, at a time that suits them best. Parents may be working at home while trying to juggle child care and home-schooling older siblings—a daunting task! At the same time, they are trying to adapt and manage a new way of living which has thrown up a huge sense of loss, isolation and many other big emotions for all family members. We have now started Play Café @ Home on Zoom. Both the videos and Zoom sessions have singing, story-time, craft and lots of fun. Our repertoire of songs and rhymes is expanding and each session links loosely to a theme: colours, animals, a tea party and so on, with lots more ideas, including a Teddy Bears' Picnic—watch this space!

Kilternan Kids on Zoom

Brian and I settled on a weekday for our Zoom session with the wonderful Kilternan kids, all of whom we are really missing! We have got into a nice rhythm with a familiar pattern that the children all seem to enjoy and appreciate. A time to chat and share things the children are grateful for; things and people they are missing; new challenges they are enjoying; and the little caring things the children have been doing to help others in the community and beyond, from baking bread and delivering Easter Eggs to sending hugs—the list goes on. We have a game, an action song, a short Bible passage/storytelling and prayer; the most popular is our scavenger hunt around the house for items we then use as a prayer focus. It is amazing the games you can enjoy while on together—colouring, word searches, memory games, to name just a few. The hardest part is ending the meet-up on Zoom, which often feels unsatisfactory and abrupt, so Brian came up with the brilliant idea of playing 'Rock, Paper, Scissors': each player, when out, says his or her goodbyes before leaving. All those children of primary school age are welcome to join us. In the interest of Safeguarding we issue new login details each week. Please contact Lynn or Brian for further details.

In between our virtual meet-ups, allow your children time to

play. I've heard so many wonderful stories of the simple and imaginative play happening in so many homes using items around the house or being out in the garden: making a tent in the sitting room and 'camping' overnight with s'mores and campfire songs; making and playing musical instruments using recycled and household items; playing circus by making a tightrope between two trees in the back garden. All have one thing in common—imaginative play. Children may be missing their friends at school and in the playground, or battling feelings of worry, boredom and isolation. Play has never been more important, and it is through play that children learn and become more resilient and secure. There are lots of simple play ideas on the 'Let's Play Ireland' initiative launched recently by the government: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/lets-play-ireland/>.

Family worship at home

Sitting in front of a book or watching a service on screen may not always be suitable, especially for those with young families. Don't let that stop you! Building patterns of worship at home is the most wonderful way of cultivating a worship life in our children.

So, whether you are a parent, a grandparent, aunt or uncle, or friendly neighbour, you can still gather together for a worship experience. This may sound intimidating to you, like something for which you are not equipped, but it does not have to be difficult. In fact, now is the perfect time to start doing a family worship time, and to keep doing it long after coronavirus leaves us.

There are so many ways to engage your kids in church, no matter what age they are. We regularly send out worship-at-home sheets for family use, but you might also find the following useful:

- Diddy Disciples. The author Sharon Moughton-Mumby has

created a section specifically for families to use at home. She describes it as 'The even *newer*, all singing—you add the dancing!—resource for families with children'. Weekly audio interactive storytelling, prayers and songs for babies and toddlers: www.diddydisciples.org/thechurchathome.

- If you head to their Facebook page you can join Bedtime Prayers (Compline) live for children aged 8+ years and their grown-ups! It goes on air just before 8pm: <https://www.facebook.com/diddydisciples/>.
- We Wonder at <https://www.wewonderpod.com/> works for families who might also have very young children (3+). It's usually around seven minutes long; take out some playdough or colouring and spend time together. It repeats the story three times: once to listen, once to wonder and once to talk to God. It is a really nice way to bring reading the Bible into the structure of your day in a relaxed, quiet way.
- Faith at Home with ROOTS is another excellent resource for families to use whilst staying at home. Each week a different theme (Hope, Love, Courage, Patience, Resilience etc.) is explored through a simple activity and some short prayers: <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/faithathomewithroots>.
- Each week you will find the activity sheets and resources for that week's readings (Lectionary-based) on the new Dublin & Glendalough Kids page. You can also follow the adventures and thoughts of Copperpot the Orangutan along with Revd Cathy Hallissey.

Holy Week Easter Lego Brick Challenge

During Holy Week, children were encouraged to participate in the Easter Lego Challenge. The challenge lasted eight days, starting on Palm Sunday and finishing on Resurrection Sunday.

Each day of the challenge there was a Scripture reading. Families could download the Lego challenge booklet, which included instructions and responses. Children were invited to build a scene using Lego.

We had hoped to launch this through the school and the Gathering Grounds, but no matter—it was still a wonderful thing to promote through our online services. Children were invited to take photos and share. You can see a wonderful montage of images on our YouTube channel and also some are in the *Klips* centre spread.

Parents remember: it's OK

- To not aim for 'outstanding' in home schooling
- To relax the rules on screen time
- To not have a colour-coded activity chart
- For your children not to know how 'just to be'
- For children to be missing their friends
- For siblings to argue
- For you to need some time out
- It's OK to just be there.
- Everything else is a bonus.
- Get yourself and your family through.



COMMUNITY AND WIDER CHURCH

CHURCH LEADERS DISCUSS CHURCH REOPENINGS

Following a video conference meeting on 1 May, the leaders of Ireland's main churches discussed the reopening of churches and church buildings for collective worship and the possibility of their reopening for private personal prayer.

In a joint statement, the leaders of the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Roman Catholic Church, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Irish Council of Churches said that 'while we all look forward to the day when we can again gather together for collective worship in our churches, we accept that at this time it would not be appropriate to consider a full return to such gatherings'.

You will note questions below regarding the opening of church buildings for personal prayer. This is something that we will constantly review in Kiltiernan and we will keep you informed via email if current restrictions should change.

The joint statement in full: *As leaders of the main Churches in Ireland, we recognise that Christians across our land long for the day when we can all gather again inside our church buildings for fellowship and collective worship.*

We want to commend our ministers and clergy for their prayerful and creative use of various online platforms and other means that have brought encouragement, through God's word and through prayer, to His scattered people. At the same time, we lament the fact that our congregations are unable to gather together in person for worship. We recognise, however, as we have said previously, that to be a community in the real sense of the word means that as individuals we acknowledge our interdependence. In loving our neighbours, it is important that we all look out for one another and continue to adhere to government advice on social distancing and other measures. The current restrictions are challenging, but are for the common good and the protection of everyone across our island.

While we all look forward to the day when we can again gather together for collective worship in our churches, we accept that at this time it would not be appropriate to consider a full return to such gatherings, apart from the limited number of people who are able to meet for funeral services. At this time, we are not calling on the Northern Ireland Executive to remove the current general restrictions on gathering together for church services, but we are asking that the issue is kept under regular review, so that when it is safe to do so there can be an easing of these restrictions.

The issue of church buildings being permitted to open for individual visits and private prayer, where this is desired locally and can be done so safely with appropriate social distancing in place, is, however, a different and a separate matter. Where the medical and scientific advice indicates that this limited step is possible, we would urge the Executive to consider easing this particular restriction sooner rather than later.

Over the past number of weeks, we have seen the vast majority of the people embracing these challenging, but very necessary, restrictions—working together for the benefit and good of all. We give thanks for this demonstration of love and concern for all in our community. As we enter into the second full month of this emergency on our island, we urge everyone to remain resolute and vigilant, encouraging one another on, so that we can come through this together.

CHANGES IN THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS

There have been a lot of changes recently in the house of bishops. Revd David McClay is the newly appointed Bishop of Down and Dromore, replacing Bishop Harold Millar. I know Bishop David from my days as a youth worker in Willowfield Parish, where David served as rector. Bishop David has been a controversial character at times, but no one can doubt his commitment to the renewal of the church and his service to those in poverty.

We also welcome the Venerable Andrew Forster, who is to be-



Bishop John McDowell, the new Archbishop of Armagh

come the next Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, succeeding the Right Reverend Ken Good. Bishop Andrew had been rector of Drumglass (Dungannon) since 2007. Prior to that he was rector of Drumcliffe in the diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh. He also served as Church of Ireland chaplain and dean of residence at Queen's University Belfast and was formerly curate in Willowfield Parish.

Perhaps the most prominent change recently has been the appointment of Bishop John McDowell, who translates from being Bishop of Clogher to become Archbishop of Armagh. Archbishop John was my bishop when I served as curate in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen. I found him to be a caring and thoughtful man, with a great vision for the church. I think we are in good hands with him at the top.

I would ask that we as a parish hold them in our prayers as they guide the Church of Ireland through these times.



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

On page 440 of our prayer-book, we read of a spiritual communion: *Those who are incapable of receiving the sacrament are to be assured that, although not receiving the elements in the mouth, they are by faith partakers of the body and blood of Christ, and of the benefits He conveys to us by them.*

During the coronavirus pandemic, many people who would have received Holy Communion regularly are not able to receive the comfort and benefits of the sacrament. This is a huge loss, but it is not the first time that the church has been in such a position. Throughout Christian history some Christian people have found themselves isolated from the sacramental life of the church for all sorts of reasons, and particularly in times of plague, famine and warfare.

At such times the church has encouraged people to make what is called a spiritual communion. It is a way of uniting yourself with Jesus and entering into communion with Him even though you are not able to receive the sacrament itself.

In Mark 5: 25–34, there is a woman who comes to Jesus but only touches the hem of His garment. She still receives healing and blessing. In a way, spiritual communion is like

this. We are not able to receive the sacramental bread and wine, but in a spiritual communion we still come to Jesus and He still receives us.

As part of the service, there is an act of 'Spiritual Reception'. We used the words at our online communion service on the third Sunday of Easter. It reads:

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing Your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of Your dear Son, I offer You praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life, I pray that You will unite me with all the baptised and with Your Son Who gave His life for us.

Come, Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send Your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with Your presence.

The church to which we belong is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ, of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one Who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.

LECTIONARY RAMBLINGS: PENTECOST AND THE FEAST-DAY OF SHAVUOT

Sometimes when we read the New Testament we can miss its Jewish roots. For example, during Easter we can quickly rush to the Eucharist without noticing that it was the Jewish Passover that was being celebrated in the upper room. It's a shame that we were not able to celebrate the Seder meal during Holy Week as planned; we might have noticed how a deeper understanding of the Jewish faith enriches our own.

Likewise, we can easily miss the fact that the events of Acts 2: 1–21 are set against the backdrop of the feast-day of Shavuot. Here, followers of Jesus (including the apostles and Jesus' mother Mary) were celebrating the Jewish festival of Pentecost and were 'filled with the Holy Spirit'.

The Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)

was originally a covenant renewal festival and is perhaps the oldest feast on the Jewish calendar. Eventually, this feast became what we know as Pentecost because it occurs 50 days after Passover. Later in Judaism this feast became a commemoration of the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai (Ex. 19–20).

It's not a simple coincidence that the two holidays fall at the same time; they're historically—and theologically—linked. Both festivals deal with the giving of divine knowledge, and both are festivals of covenant renewal.

Fifty days after sacrificing the Passover lamb, the Israelites received a covenant from God. Fifty days after the sacrifice of Jesus, our Passover Lamb, believers received a new covenant from God.

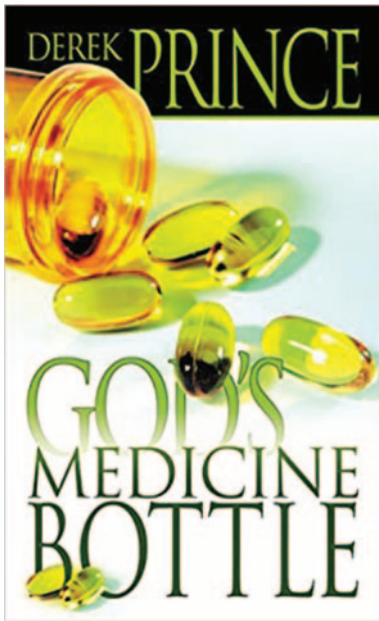
On the same day that the Jews were celebrating God's giving of His Law on tablets of stone, the Holy Spirit came and wrote His law on the hearts of many.

Both events had similar symbols: on both occasions there were voices, wind, fire and smoke. The Hebrew word translated as 'thunder' in Exodus is *kolot*, which means voices or languages.

Shavuot occurred after the Exodus, which marked the birth of the nation of Israel. Pentecost occurred after the crucifixion and resurrection of the Messiah, marking the birth of the church in the age of the Spirit.



Shavuot (Pentecost) by Moritz Oppenheim.



God's Medicine Bottle, by Derek Prince

Over the past few weeks I've been spending a lot of time with my mother, and to help pass the time we've done a bit of spring-cleaning. In particular, we have been going through drawers full of old family papers: certificates of every kind, ration books, recipes, orders of services, newspaper clippings of family births, marriages and deaths (hatching, matching and dispatching, as Mum calls it!), all going back to the year dot!

In amongst all these papers I noticed a little book, the title of which caught my eye. It was called *God's Medicine Bottle* and it was written by a man called Derek Prince, a Christian who has written extensively on biblical subjects.

Derek begins his story by recounting a time in his life when he was stationed in the deserts of North Africa with the British Army during WWII. As a result of living in the desert, he suffered serious skin damage through exposure to the sun and sand. After months of pain he was eventually hospitalised and went through umpteen tests. A year later he was finally diagnosed with Chronic Eczema, an illness from which he could get no relief.

Shortly before his hospitalisation he had welcomed God into his life, but with time on his hands in hospital he found himself drawn to read the Scriptures once again.

After reading Proverbs 4: 20–22, he felt that God was trying to point him towards a path to spiritual healing that would help him in his recovery. He continued reading his Bible and found further references to God's healing powers.

Proverbs 4: 20–22 — 'My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my

sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.'

The Great Physician was providing him with the ultimate prescription which would lead him back to health, and he was going to take God's word as if it were prescribed medicine. This medicine bottle is available for us all, and if we take it as prescribed, it will work for us too.

I loved this little book; it took just a day to read, and although it was written in 1984 it is still relevant to us today. It is simply written and contains many quotes from the Bible which are explained thoroughly, making them easily understood.

During this current pandemic it would do us all good if we focused our attention on the directions on God's Medicine Bottle. We are all in need of God's healing, and this book shows us the route (or directions for use) to full health.

I look forward to reading more of Derek Prince's books and would be happy to pass this book on to anyone who would like to read it.

Carol Barry

A REFLECTION FROM HISTORY

Carol Barry sends us a note that fell out of a book in her Mum's house. There is no information about the writer, but we attach a photo from the time. How interesting in light of our current situation!

In 1918–1919 the Influenza Pandemic killed almost one fifth of the world's population at this time. This flu came just as World War 1 had died down. It has been recorded as one of the most devastating epidemics in recorded history. This influenza killed more people in one year than the Black Plague did in four years 1347–1351. The influenza killed between 20–40 million people. It is also known as the Spanish Flu. The influenza is seen to be a national disaster. The flu was more deadly to ages 20–40. It was unusual to be a killer to those ages since young and elderly people were more infected by it. 28% of all Americans were infected by this disease, it is also estimated that almost 700,000 people died from influenza in America. This was ten times as many people as died in the World War. Half of the soldiers that were killed at war were killed by influenza and not by the enemy.



A US emergency hospital during the flu pandemic of 1918–1919.

Indeed, can you imagine having to go through that without the medical care we have today? We have much to be thankful for!

HOME WORSHIP

Some guidelines for worshipping at home

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed (and transformed) as His people. Of course, we lament the loss of gathering together as the body of Christ, but we can still worship at home. Perhaps we can use this time to develop healthy patterns of worship and prayer at home. Here are a few thoughts and resources that may help you to do just that.

Online resources

Many of you are using the online YouTube services. I suggest that you treat it very much like a service of regular worship. Find a quiet moment and still yourself. You may not be sitting in the pew, but God is present with us through His Spirit. You may like to light a candle at home or place a cross in a prominent place.

There are other worship-at-home resources available on the Dublin and Glendalough church website: <https://dublin.anglican.org/news>. There is a weekly service upload with some guidance on how to use the service. Where there are two or more praying together, it is suggested that before commencing you decide on who will lead which parts of the service. In particular, you might like to designate a person to read the Scriptures, and a person to lead the prayers. These services also have audio hymns to sing along to, and a sermon by a local preacher (I preached on 3 May).

Using the prayer-book

There is a liturgy of daily prayer in the Church of Ireland prayer-book for use at home. It is well tested, and I would commend it to you. There are many ways to access it. Many use the traditional prayer-book; others prefer to use the daily

worship app on their phone. This draws together prayers and the readings of the day, so it is very useful. You can download the app on your phone: search for 'Daily Worship from the Church of Ireland'.

If you use a traditional prayer-book, you might consider finding a quiet place in your home, and perhaps a regular time for worship. Do what you find helpful and sustainable for you. The daily order for morning prayer is usually printed on the inside front page of the prayer-book. If your prayer-book doesn't have that, you might find it useful to pray the order of morning or evening prayer on page 101. There is a table of appointed readings, beginning on page 27. We are currently in year A. At night, you might also like pray Compline (page 154) or the Late Evening Office (page 162).

Praying at home

The prayer-book is full of wonderful prayers; you may already use the weekday prayers on page 136, or some of the prayers and thanksgivings starting on page 145. There are also plenty of good prayer resources online. You may like to use the resources of 24/7 Prayer and SIM International for intercession. You can download their resource here: <https://www.facebook.com/247PrayIreland/> <https://www.facebook.com/siminternational/>

Of course, you do not need any of those to just pray. At this time you might particularly pray for:

- Our bishops, church leaders, the RCB, our diocesan staff.
- Our healthcare workers, for the effective use of their skills and for their protection.
- Our political leaders, that God will guide them as they make difficult decisions that will affect our society.
- The vulnerable in our society, those who have fewer resources to see them through these

troubled times, and that we might be alert to their needs and respond with loving service.

- For mission agencies and our mission partners who are working with some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in God's world.

I received this Covid-19 prayer guide from home by Carol Hennessy. You might find it useful:

- Coordination—that the health authorities, government and all the other organisations that make up the fabric of our society would communicate well together and work well together at this time. The situation is changing rapidly and the authorities need real wisdom and determination in prioritising public health needs.
- Calm—that people would remain calm, work together, and look out for each other.
- Containment—that the virus would be contained and slowed down so that our health workers and health system will be able to cope with those vulnerable groups that will need special care. Proper hand-washing is the major frontline strategy to slow the spread.
- Cures—for scientists and clinicians working flat out to get vaccines available, and for insights into what type of current drugs are useful.
- Community—we will probably need a higher degree of social isolation at some stage; pray for wisdom, good mental health and ways of creatively staying connected for people if and when that time comes.

Check out the Youth and Children's section for some ideas on worshipping as a family at home.

Revd Rob



Serving Wicklow and South Dublin since 1880, the Collier family offers bespoke funeral services for all faiths and philosophies.



Our Service room can comfortably accommodate up to 130 people.



There is parking space for 40 cars available on-site.



A separate drawing room with a fireplace provides a comfortable room with added privacy.

Old Connaught Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 PX65

T: +353 1 272 0777

www.colliersfuneraldirectors.com E: info@colliersfuneraldirectors.com

TAXI FOR HIRE

Fintan Keogh

086 268 5865

(Local Taxi Service)



Take a Taxi



ROSSPRINT.ie

GREYSTONES

Leaflets & Brochures

Branding & Stationery

Websites

Promotional Products

A VERY PERSONAL SERVICE

print signage web

ian@rossprint.ie | 01 287 6612

Kilternan Picture Framing

Over 200 Frame Styles
Available

- Art Framed
- Photographs Framed
- Sports Memorabilia Framed
- Documents Framed



Showroom at Willowbrook,
Enniskerry Road,
(Just behind the Kilternan Gallery)

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

Sat 10am to 1pm.

Contact Geoffrey Willis (01) 295 5597/

086 374 5586