



KILTERNAN KLIPS

Building community, strengthening worship, growing in service

The quarterly newsletter of Kilternan Parish, Co. Dublin

Vol. 26 No. 3 Kilternan Klips | Autumn 2020

www.kilternan.dublin.anglican.org



NOTICE BOARD

News and notices from around the parish

WHAT'S ON

Keep up with what is happening in the parish

FEATURES

Articles and features of interest to the church

MINISTRY

Youth, family and liturgy, articles and more



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Contents

What's on in Kiltiernan	4
Notice Board	6
Rethinking ministry	10
Gathering Grounds reopens	11
Kiltiernan Parish emerges from lockdown	12
Coping with change and uncertainty	14
Community and wider Church	15
Stories from lockdown	16
Family and Youth ministry	19
An honest story from lockdown	20
Cranmer's Corner	21
Books	22
Poetry	23

Cover image: a young parishioner at the Teddy Bear's Picnic.



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The Rector on...

Learning to live out our calling

As a rector, I found being shut out of common worship on Sundays a painful and disorientating experience. Leading worship is part of the rector's identity and sense of calling, and I shared with many of you the void on a Sunday morning. Of course, the church has been very much open since March, even if the building was shut, but I nevertheless found it immensely moving to be able to pray the Lord's Prayer with other voices.

One of the collects we prayed together during this time contained these words: 'Gracious Father, revive Your church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for Your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord'. Surely these words are more pressing now than they have ever been, as we wrestle with the spiritual and practical impact of the coronavirus.

'We are going to have to make different and sometimes difficult decisions in this season, and we need to offer grace to one another as we readjust to life in community again.'

As I have reflected on the days ahead, it strikes me that the church has two choices. The first choice is simply to sit still and wait for this season to blow over, hoping to return to the good old pre-Covid-19 days (nostalgia sets in quickly). The second choice is to refuse to sit still. It's to recognise that something has changed and that, if the church is to remain holy, strong and faithful, it has to respond to those changes. This will involve a process of reimagining church. In the light of social distancing, we will have to reimagine our church services, our youth and family ministries. We will need to reimagine pastoral care, faith formation and outreach. We will need to explore new ways of being together and growing in faith.

As we reimagine, there are three commitments that should influence our thinking. *Love* — Our decision-making should be driven by our love of Jesus and for our neighbour. *Wisdom* — We need to stay up to date with the latest information, government guidance and scientific findings, but we will also need to seek God's wisdom through prayer and reflection on God's word. *Grace* — We are going to have to make different and sometimes difficult decisions in this season, and we need to offer grace to one another as we readjust to life in community again.

As Christ's disciples, we are learning to live out our calling to worship, pray, encourage, witness and serve in creative ways that minimise the risk of spreading the virus. As we move into the autumn, and provided that you feel safe to do so, I encourage you to find a way to re-engage with us — maybe find a Sunday service that suits you, or maybe drop into the Gathering Grounds for a coffee and a chat. If you are nervous about doing so, we understand, but be assured that we are doing everything we can to ensure that necessary protocols are being adhered to.

We look forward to seeing you.

**Blessings,
Revd Rob Clements.**

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PARISH TEAM

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Rector

Carol Barry
Parish Reader

Brian Hickey
Youth and Children's Ministry

Kevin O'Sullivan
Organist

Jackie Robinson
Church Warden

Christian Kraeft
Glebe Warden

Fintan Keogh
Church Warden

Bruce Fitzsimons
Glebe Warden

David Webb
Secretary of the Vestry

Gary Colclough
Treasurer

Pastoral Care

In this time of social distancing, clergy are not able to make home or hospital visits, but if you have an urgent pastoral need or would like a prayer, please contact the rector by phone (tel. 087 149 6605).

WHAT'S ON IN KILTERNAN

This is a tricky one! Usually the 'What's on' section is filled with activities for people of all ages. At this stage there are still questions around what is safe and feasible. As things develop during the autumn, we will use our email network and Facebook to communicate changes and activities.

What we can affirm is an emerging pattern of worship (more about that below) and the reopening of the Gathering Grounds.

NEW PATTERNS OF WORSHIP

Our church building is small, and as a result we must significantly restrict the number who can worship in church. With two-metre social distancing in place, we are limited to 24 people at each service. Even if that is reduced to one metre, we are still unlikely to be able to accommodate more than 34. To facilitate as many people as possible returning to worship, we have had to develop a new pattern of worship. This will be reviewed regularly and amended if necessary. In the meantime, we will continue to upload regular Sunday services onto YouTube.

- 9:00am: Said Holy Communion in the church.
- 10:00am: Family-based worship in the Kilternan Centre. We recognise that families with small children may have concerns about how children manage social distancing. We are also mindful of the need to safely facilitate prams and toddlers. As a result, we are planning to develop a more informal experience of worship in the centre. We would encourage those with young children to access this service rather than the 9am and 11am services. The centre is bigger than the church and is a more flexible space, and so will facilitate 35 people.
- 11:00am: Traditional worship in the church.

Parishioners are likely to have lots of questions. Let me have a go at answering some of them.

Do we really have to wear face masks in church?

At this time, the government has not formally made mandatory the wearing of face coverings at services of worship. Nevertheless, the main church leaders, including the Church of Ireland primate, have formally recommended the use of face coverings at all services of worship. This has been agreed as good practice. Children under the age of 13 are exempt from wearing masks.

Why is the early service at 9am and not 8:30am?

In order for this new pattern of worship to work, we need to spread church attendance as evenly as possible. A slightly later starting time may encourage more people to attend the 9am service.

Is it safe to have Holy Communion?

There are interim guidelines from the bishops of the Church of Ireland about how we may do so safely. More information below.

Can the congregation sing?

Singing has been under a lot of scrutiny since a few choral events were linked to super-spreader events. Several studies began immediately to determine how best to return to singing safely. Preliminary results are coming in, though it is likely that it will be some time before any of the studies are fully completed and peer-reviewed. I can't say when we will once again be able to lift our voices up to the old favourites. What I can say is that, when we do, it will be with masks and the music will be gentle rather than loud.

Can we have tea and coffee after church?

Tea and coffee became a valued time of fellowship after the 10:30 service. For the foreseeable future we must halt this activity. This can be reviewed as restrictions ease.

If I have small children, can I attend at 9am or 11am?

We are not going to say no to this, but the purpose of the 10am service is to cater specifically to the needs of young families. We would strongly encourage young children to attend the 10am service at this time.

Will the church be cleaned between the 9am and 11am service?

Pews that are used at the 9am service will be unused at the 11am service to ensure that there is no cross-contamination. All touch points will also be cleaned with antiseptic wipes between services.

What about Messy Church, Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds and the midweek Communion service?

We will review the viability of each of these over time in response to demand and changing legislation. Messy Church in particular poses challenges, and for now we would encourage Messy Church regulars to make a home in the 10am service.

PROTOCOLS FOR WORSHIP

Please do not attend church if you or a member of your household is experiencing, or recovering from, symptoms of Covid-19. We should note that this is an early stage in our return to worship. If you have health concerns, there are no prizes for returning to worship before you feel safe and ready.

If you plan on attending, and in accordance with our diocesan protocols, you will be asked to:

- Wear a face covering. We accept that not everyone is comfortable with a face covering. Nevertheless, for your own well-being and for the well-being and assurance of vulnerable people who may be in attendance, we would ask that you comply, particularly at this early stage. If you do not have a mask, we will have some available. Of course, this will be reviewed in accordance with government advice.

- Ensure that your hands are sanitised, using the sanitiser provided or your own.
- Do not bring a prayer-book. The words of the service will be on screen.
- There will be a greeter there to seat you. Please sit where you are seated. I know that this isn't the Anglican way, that people tend to like to sit where they normally sit. However, in order to manage the required cleaning of seats and social distancing, there will be a system in place for you to be seated and we will have to fill up the church accordingly.
- Don't bottleneck! It will be lovely to see familiar faces again, but we ask people not to converse in areas that will restrict the movement of others.
- The greeter will take a record of who is in attendance for contact tracing. All records will be destroyed after three weeks.

INTERIM GUIDELINES RELATING TO HOLY COMMUNION

The production of the following guidelines concerning the administration of Holy Communion during the present pandemic reflects a great deal of painstaking discussion on the part of the bishops.

The bishops are aware that the continuing absence of Communion in both kinds (bread and wine) for lay people attending public worship will be a source of sadness for very many. The Eucharist is the central act of Christian worship and is absolutely essential to all that we are.

Nevertheless, the celebration of Holy Communion presents obvious challenges. It is inevitable that, for some time yet, recipients will receive in one kind only, namely the bread. We affirm that it is of course the intention to restore communion for all recipients in both kinds when it becomes safe to do so, and we would not wish a degree of nervousness surrounding the common cup to develop. It has to be remembered that the common cup has been used safely for many gen-

erations. For the present, however, we have no choice but to avoid sharing it.

The following guidelines have been offered:

- Instead of shaking hands with neighbours at the Peace, a sign of reconciliation can be conveyed in a different form, such as bringing together the palms of one's hands and bowing to the other with eye contact and a smile.
- Communion other than for the presiding minister should be in one kind only. Ordinary bread may be used. Both elements, namely bread and wine, are consecrated, but only the presiding minister drinks from the chalice.
- For the time being, it is preferable that only the presiding minister handles the vessels and administers the sacrament. Presiding ministers should cleanse their hands thoroughly with an alcohol-based sanitiser repeatedly during the liturgy.
- During the administration of the sacrament, the priest should not touch anyone.
- The distribution is best carried out with communicants approaching in a single line, standing with an appropriate distance between them.
- People should not kneel together at the communion rail.
- The wearing of masks and face coverings presents major issues. One of the key aspects of effective mask use is that, once put on, the mask is not removed for eating. Contact between hands and face should be avoided until the mask is removed for disposal or laundering. So how can mask-wearers possibly receive communion in the midst of an act of worship? Members of the congregation wearing masks may need to be facilitated by the placing of the sacrament in their hands immediately before the Dismissal and inviting

them to pause and consume reverently what they have been given as soon as they are outside the church. Given that there will be an absence of sociability outside the church after the service, this may be a feasible solution, but the issue of mask-wearing and the Eucharist remains a significant challenge.

ONLINE MINISTRY

Reflecting on 'online worship'

Last month I decided to count the number of people who have been involved in one of the online services. In total, 125 people contributed to a service, through the choirs, readings, praying etc. All ages were involved, from grandparents to schoolchildren. This doesn't include the number of children who contributed art etc., nor does it include duplication whereby maybe someone in the choir or junior choir also read or prayed. We would never have had that level of participation in our normal church services!

Of course, I'm mindful that online services are not accessible to everyone. That being said, I know of some people with mobility issues who find it hard to access church. Some of those welcomed the online service, as did some who have to work on Sundays, such as a number of nurses in the parish.

We hope to maintain an online presence as we go forward. This may include the recording and posting of live events, but we will also be recording a shortened version of Sunday worship. This is not intended to replace the blessing of church worship.

Wednesday Zoom prayer meeting: 8:00pm

— The Zoom prayer meeting was a lovely way for people to connect during the lock-down, and I would recommend that it continues at least until Christmas. The contact details for the service go out every Tuesday on the parish email.

NOTICE BOARD

REGISTER

Christian burial

It is with great sadness that we mourn the death of Daphne Athey. Daphne was a faithful servant of this parish for many years, beloved by us all. I've heard story after story about Daphne's positive impact on so many people here in Kiltiernan and beyond. Funerals during the time of Covid-19 are particularly difficult. I have no doubt that under different circumstances the church and centre would have been full as we remembered Daphne and gave thanks for her life. We remember her children Caroline, Janet, Trevor and Alan and her sister Hazel at this time.

Weddings

There was great celebration in the parish when Geoffrey Willis and Caroline Healey announced their engagement, and it is my honour to marry them on 5 September. Geoffrey and Caroline met at Table Tennis, and I think they take the title for the first marriage that began in the Kiltiernan Centre. We wish them God's blessing.

KILTERNAN SUPPORTING YOU DURING COVID-19

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

SUPPORTING KILTERNAN DURING COVID-19

Through all of this we are continuing the mission and ministry of Kiltiernan. If you are able, please support Kiltiernan 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 online for 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.

Keeping in touch: You might like to follow Kiltiernan parish on our social 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.

EASTER VESTRY

The Easter Vestry was cancelled owing to Covid-19; it was rescheduled for 1 September and held as part of a service of worship. I offer my thanks to last year's Select Vestry and I look forward to working with the new Select Vestry. The rector's report is printed in this edition of *Klips*.

There have been some changes in Select Vestry office-holders.

Gary Colclough has replaced Harry Simpson as parish treasurer. Harry has served the parish faithfully and with great expertise, and he leaves a great set of transparent accounts and healthy financial practices consistent with charity legislation and good governance. We thank him deeply for all his work, and we look forward to working with Gary in this area.

David Webb has replaced Carol Barry as parish secretary. Carol stood in temporarily last year when Jonathan Holt stood down as secretary. We are grateful for her work and faithful notes, and we look forward to working with David.

We are delighted that Fintan Keogh has agreed to replace Gary Colclough as people's churchwarden. He will be serving alongside Jackie Robinson.

OUTDOOR SERVICE AND BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Eventually we had a Sunday warm enough for an outdoor service, and what a day it was! The sun shone as we gathered outside the Gathering Grounds. After the service we had a prayer for children starting school. It was lovely to see some of our families returning to worship.

RETHINKING FAITH FORMATION

Tea and Theology

This short series in the rector's study proved to be a popular event with many parishioners. Before the summer break we had eight sessions on YouTube. This September we will pick up where we left off with a session on *The Church, The Spirit, The Trinity and The Final Victory of God*. The first of these, *The Church*, was uploaded on the parish YouTube channel on 11 September.

Faith pods

One of my targets in 2020 is to develop how we as a parish grow in faith. In Kiltiernan we have grown in numbers in recent years, which is encouraging, but I'm drawn to the call in Matthew 28:19 to make disciples of all nations, not just to increase church attendance.

This ambition was affected by Covid-19 but, embracing the new reality of small groups and the new language of pods, it is my intent to develop a number of smaller faith pods later in the year. More on this later in the year.

HARVEST 2020

This harvest will be like no harvest we have had before. Before making any plans, we will need to assess the nature of restrictions.

INTERVIEW WITH ALISTAIR DOYLE

We are delighted to welcome Alistair Doyle as our intern deacon for one year. Alistair is with us four days a week whilst he finishes his



training for ministry. Find out a bit more about him and what an intern deacon is below.

Hello, Alistair, and welcome. Some of us got to meet you when you were here on a college placement, but for those who didn't, tell us a bit about yourself.

Hi, everyone. I am Alistair, married to Cecilia, and we live in Dún Laoghaire. I have been a parishioner of St Matthias's Church, Killiney/Ballybrack, all my life, and over the last ten years I became actively involved in ministry and leadership within our church family. During that time I have served as churchwarden, glebeward, Select Vestry member and synod representative, both parish and diocesan. My journey to ordained ministry began after attending an Alpha Course and my rector asking me to lead a session on a Hermeneutics Course.

Following that, I served as a Sunday Club leader and then together with a team from St M's we established and ran Messy Church for five years. During this time I spent two years training as a diocesan reader and continued to discern my call to ordained ministry. I have just completed two years as an ordinand in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and will be ordained as a deacon on 20

September in Christchurch Cathedral.

What has it been like for you during the shutdown? What have you been doing? Have you learned anything about yourself, your faith?

I'm sure like most of us, I found those first few months of lockdown very challenging. Cecilia had to work each day, as she manages a Circle K Petrol Station. At home I was trying to complete my studies through online lectures and Zoom seminars and to write assignments. Toby's schoolwork had to be completed, and we have also had two adult children at home. Richard, who works for Dell, had to work from home, and Chloe was also completing college work online. Between domestic chores and ensuring that we got out for regular exercise, it was a particularly difficult time.

I did, however, enjoy the silence outside, hearing the birds and the regular periods of solitude while taking exercise. The peace certainly made it easier to come closer to God.

I certainly missed being part of the college community and the joy of communal worship, but the lockdown did afford me the opportunity to be more intentional about praying for individuals of my parish who were

NOTICE BOARD



Alistair and Cecilia Doyle.

in need of God's help. The greatest gift of the time of pause we all experienced was to observe God's love in action, to see the acts of kindness and generosity as the people of God truly loved their neighbour as themselves. I took heart from this; it confirmed that 'God's got this', He is in control.

You will be joining us as a deacon in September. What does it mean to be a deacon intern?

Primarily the role of the deacon is to serve and support the people of God. Practically, the purpose of the internship year is to provide a focal point in making the connection between learning and practice and to complete academic studies for the MTh. degree programme.

How are your studies going? As part of your diaconal year with us you are going to be writing a thesis. What topic have you chosen?

My studies are going fine. I am not a natural-born academic, but I do find all the work interesting. The dissertation that I will complete this year is to be a study on what

the Church of Ireland can learn from Messy Church to improve All-Age Worship.

What are your passions in ministry?

The gathering of God's people in communal praise and worship is my greatest joy. I love helping people to learn about Jesus; I suppose quite simply you could say sharing the good news.

What will you be doing in Kilternan over the next year?

Many exciting things, I am sure, as we reimagine how we can be church in this season, how we as a Christian community connect with God and with one another. I hope we can find ways to be more visible in and connect to the local community. I am really looking forward to learning from the entire ministry team, who all have great gifts and experience.

How can we support you and your family?

Please pray for us. The deacon year is in fact less than ten months and there is a lot of learning and academic work to be accomplished. Pray for us to have patience with

each other when we are under pressure, pray for our friends and relationships as we move away from our church family in St Matthias's, and pray for Toby as he starts his secondary education in the High School.

MUSIC NOTES: RETHINKING MUSIC

A new outlook

This September will see a 'New Normal'. Choirs will be heard but not seen. Owing to the limited space, we don't have room for choir and congregation. Hymns and other songs will be played through the system. Fortunately, it will be our choirs who will be pre-recorded.

Who's making the music?

We've now got two services to cover.

The Parish Choir will sing weekly at our 11am service in the church.

The Junior Choir will sing fortnightly at our 10am service in the Parish Centre.

The new **Youth Music Group** will make music for the alternate Sundays at 10am service.

We're looking for joiners

Check out 'What's On' for details on joining us for music in the parish. You can contact the Music Director, Kevin, at music@kilternanparish.ie for further details.

Blessings & events

Since lockdown the choirs have had to meet online. If you followed our online services, you saw how busy we were. We were blessed to



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The Senior Choir practising and recording two hymns for Geoffrey and Caroline's wedding, outdoors and socially distanced.



The Junior Choir practising and recording with Kevin.



Bookshelves kindly donated by Phyllis Keeley in memory of her brother Bill Keeley.

get involved with a massive virtual choir involving churches across the island. *The Irish Blessing* has had over one million views and you may spot a few familiar faces. We were thrilled to publish our own local version, which you can check out on our channel.

Youth Music Group

This new group is for teens and youths, anyone aged between 12 and 24.

You can join if you just enjoy singing, or play any instrument from guitar to keys, drums, violin, trumpet — anything. We'll meet once a week, provisionally on Tuesdays at 7–8pm (TBC), to rehearse and record songs to be played fortnightly at the 10am Sunday service.

NEW BOOKSHELVES

Two new bookshelves kindly donated by Phyllis Keeley in memory of her brother Bill Keeley have now appeared in the Gathering Grounds. I'm sure you'll agree that they look lovely. With current restrictions, we are not allowed to stock them with books yet, but we hope eventually to have them stocked with books that can be purchased.

TOWER WORK COMPLETED

The work on the church tower has now been completed, and so far, so good! This August was wet and there was no evidence of water ingress. A big thank-you to churchwarden Bruce Fitzsimons, who took the lead on this project, and to everyone who contributed financially. So far, €14,491 has been raised for the Church Tower Appeal.

We welcome advertisements promoting events and appropriate activities in *Kilternan Klips*. Contact Annemarie McCleane (Parish Administrator), Office@kilternanparish.ie, tel. 01-295 2643 for more details.

RETHINKING MINISTRY: EASTER VESTRY ADDRESS

The Rector's address to the rearranged Easter Vestry, which was held over from Spring. It is reproduced here in full, as many were not able to attend.

Earlier in the year I attended a clergy conference led by Bishop Stephen Cottrell, now the newly installed Archbishop of York. Archbishop Stephen is a brilliant communicator. He spoke about five words in the Church of England ordinal that are used to describe the office and work of a priest: *servant, shepherd, messenger, sentinel* and *steward*.

In all his time training and preparing clergy, he said, very few saw their primary calling as 'sentinel', though perhaps ironically, he suggested, it's the one the church is most calling out for.

'Sentinel' is an old military term for a guard or a soldier who keeps watch, cognisant of threats, at the gate of the city. As a sentinel, the clergy person occupies a strategic vantage point, looking attentively at both God and the world. The clergy person as sentinel reflects on what he or she sees all around him/her, what is changing in our society, what is happening in our culture, what are the needs in the world and in the church, what is God doing and what might Scripture teach us. As we enter uncharted territory as a consequence of Covid-19, the church is crying out for sentinels.

My mantra this year is going to be 'rethinking ministry'. As a result of Covid-19, the church has had to rethink how it does ministry and mission. We have realised that it is not simply a matter of biding our time till we can get back to the good old ways as it was before. Of course, there is mourning in that, especially in a church like Kiltiernan, which had been in a period of growth, both in worship and in the Gathering Grounds. It's appropriate that we lament that, but it is more pressing that we move forward together.

We will need to rethink our church services. This will demand creativity and flexibility, and we will have to embrace a new norm that small is beautiful. We will need to change how we worship and when we worship. In order to balance the demands for worship and the requirements of safety, we are going to move to three services on a Sunday. Two will be in the church and one in the centre. The service in the centre will be more informal and young families will be encouraged to attend it.

My mantra this year is going to be 'rethinking ministry'. As a result of Covid-19, the church has had to rethink how it does ministry and mission. We have realised that it is not simply a matter of biding our time till we can get back to the good old ways as it was before.

We will need to rethink music, and Kevin is exploring good practice so that our choirs and music groups can continue. We will need to rethink faith formation, and we are looking at developing a number of smaller 'faith pods', smaller cells perhaps lay-led. We will need to rethink

family ministry and youth ministry. We will need to rethink how we deliver pastoral care, perhaps moving to a neighbourly strategy rather than a clerical model. We will need to rethink how we administer our buildings and how we manage our finances.

This all sounds a bit overwhelming, but we will move slowly and thoughtfully as we seek to discern God's will. In that I am blessed to have the support of the staff team, who never stopped ministering and caring, even in the midst of the lockdown, and of the many willing parishioners who simply checked in with neighbours and upheld the parish in prayer.

In the book of Acts there are two moments when the church experiences significant growth. One is at Pentecost, when the Spirit comes and huge numbers are added to the church. The other, oddly, is in Acts chapter 8. It begins: 'That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria.' This was seen as a moment of catastrophe for the church, a weakening of its base and means of support, but what happened was that faithful believers started proclaiming the good news where they were, and thereby the church started to spread.

Some people will see the shutdown as a nail in the coffin of the church. I don't. Let's keep our eyes open. Let's see what God is doing. And let's reimagine ministry!

EXCITED TO BE OPEN AGAIN

We are excited to open! Of course, owing to Covid-19 there have been lots of changes in how the Gathering Grounds is managed and run, but it is still the same place, offering people good coffee and a listening ear. Until we get used to new practices, we will have to hold off on Tuesday soup and Thursday lunches, but give us time and we will find creative ways of doing this. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Baking bread

During one of the online services I baked bread. I linked the process of baking bread to that of prayer. It was a fun process coming up with the similarities; using specific ingredients and following a recipe can remind us that Jesus taught us how to pray. We have that guide that we can use, though we know that our thoughts are always tapped into God's presence and that we are heard, always. Once we have our ingredients together, we must take time to knead the dough, prove the dough and bake it. There is no shortcut to these steps if you want to make a good loaf of bread. To pray for our world, our community, our leaders, those we love and ourselves takes time. Intentional time. And like with any good or bad habit, the more you do it, the more it takes hold in your life.

Shortly after I made the bread prayer video, I ran out of yeast! So, like many others, I was forced to research sourdough. In the beginning it felt overwhelming. There were so many different approaches to this process and lots of steps; what seemed to be a huge amount of time (and flour) was to be devoted to this effort. I finally picked a process and started. Following the process initially required me to check and recheck the steps on my phone, but eventually it became as natural as making a cup of coffee in the morning. Now I feel like I know my sourdough starter that sits on top of the kitchen hood. When I feed it, I can see it grow; it looks healthy, it swells with energy and happiness, and it produces yummy bread. If I



happen to miss a day or two, the starter deflates and goes flat and runny. I think this is how our souls respond to the word of God. We were created to be filled with God's word and nothing else can take its place. I know what it feels like when I am out of routine and not regularly reading the Bible, and life usually feels deflated, less productive and more difficult. I also know what it feels like when I am in the habit of feeding myself daily with God's word, and it always feels good.

'Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him' (Colossians 3: 15-17).

Covid-19 cookbook

One of our projects in the Gathering Grounds this term is to put together a recipe book/cookbook! I know that everyone in this community has

good recipes to share or tips and tricks in the kitchen — I would love to hear from all of you because I know you all have at least one! Recipes can be for breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert, baked goods, family pleasers, one-pots, quick and easy, healthy, comfort foods, or time-worthy dinners. Tips and tricks would be wonderful to share too! If you have several recipes/tips & tricks, please share several! It will be your contributions that will make this a success. This will be sold at Christmastime as a fund-raiser in the parish and community.

I need all contributions to this project by the end of September. Thank you so much in advance!

DLR grant

We were pleased to be awarded a community grant of €1,000 from Dún Laoghaire County Council for the reopening costs of the Gathering Grounds. This recognised the impact of the Gathering Grounds on members of the local community. The aim of the Gathering Grounds is that it runs as a self-sustaining social and spiritual enterprise, and it was certainly on the way to delivering that until it was forced to close.

KILTERNAN PARISH EME



CHANGES FROM LOCKDOWN



Clockwise from top left:
Our church in splendid isolation during lockdown;
The Gathering Grounds as it reopened 'with a grateful heart';
The outdoor service;
The bags of hope from the Zoom Kids' Club;
Preparing and serving safely;
Lockdown bread (otherwise known as sourdough) by Clara Richardson.

COPING WITH CHANGE AND UNCERTAINTY

Some faith-filled ideas for families when facing new or emotionally demanding times and transitions (Part 1)

By Lynn Storey

A time for everything

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

- a time to be born and a time to die,
- a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- a time to kill and a time to heal,
- a time to tear down and a time to build,
- a time to weep and a time to laugh,
- a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
- a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- a time to search and a time to give up,
- a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- a time to tear and a time to mend,
- a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- a time to love and a time to hate,
- a time for war and a time for peace.

—Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

We have certainly had a lot of change these last few months. Change in normal times is difficult for many of us, bringing discomfort, worry and anxiety. The passage above is a familiar one to us all—most of us will not only have heard this passage a lot but will have read and even sung it. As we navigate this unprecedented time of uncertainty and transition, and begin to return to some of the activities that we maybe took for granted, the passage is a good reminder now that everything has a season and that there

is a time for every matter in life. Verse 11 reminds us that ‘He has made everything beautiful in its time’. Each activity is for the right time, bringing about God’s purposes. Nonetheless, both adults and children alike will be finding all this change and uncertainty difficult to cope with. Through all this, one thing we do know is that God hasn’t changed and that we are called to enjoy life in the present with Him. However, we still need to think of the uncomfortable feelings, worry or anxiety that all these changes have brought to our lives. I hope that some of the tips and strategies will be of help to families over the coming weeks and months as you journey through this season.

Tips to encourage talking

Fort-building: There’s a science to this. Kids constructing their own spaces, feeling enclosed and safe, feeling a freedom, as the space is different from the one full of rules and norms outside. A ‘home from home’ where children feel safe physically and emotionally. Forts can be particularly therapeutic for the anxious or worried child. Forts also help to nurture parent–child connections, but there is one rule—the child must be in charge; parents and guardians can only help to build or enter by invitation only. You might ask permission to enter (maybe bearing the gift of a torch or a snack!). Once inside, there is opportunity to enter the child’s play, chat and listen without outside distractions.

If you normally do a reflection or a family Bible study, perhaps incorporate the fort-building into the Bible study, as it reminds us of God and the safety of being hidden in Him. We can remind ourselves that God is our strength, our refuge, our

fort and our shelter. **Psalm 46.1: ‘God is our mighty fortress, always ready to help in times of trouble.’ Psalm 18.2: ‘The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take shelter.’**

In the car: Going for a drive or while dropping and collecting children from activities or friends’ houses can be the perfect opportunity to have a chat without eye contact. Some children find face-to-face sharing quite intense and off-putting. Your child might respond better when you are looking elsewhere while you talk. I’ve had some of the best chats in the car over the years with both my children.

Sharing stories: What scared you as a child? Were there things that worried you? What or who made you feel better? Children love to hear your stories of when you were their age and to know that they’re not alone in their feelings when they are afraid or uncertain.

Routines: Establishing daily routines helps children feel safe and secure. Why not introduce the Faith 5 evening/bedtime routine, when the whole family each (1) share their ‘Highs & Lows’ (you could use the visual of your thumb and call it ‘Thumbs Up & Thumbs Down’), (2) read a Bible story together, (3) chat about the story and (4) finish with a prayer or blessing.

Tips to encourage listening

Often, when our children come to us with a worry, concern or problem, our immediate response is to jump in and problem-solve for them, or to tell them that there’s no need to worry. However, fixing the problem or dismissing their feelings may not be what they actually need.

Ask them: What do you want from me? To **take action**, to **give advice**, or simply **to listen**? Nine times out of ten, they just want us to listen!

Reading books about worries together with your child can open up opportunities to conversation and to listen to what's on your child's mind. I would recommend reading either of these two, which should be available in your local library or, if you would like to borrow either of them, contact Lynn.

The Huge Bag of Worries by Virginia Ironside or

Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival.

Some questions to ask your child whilst reading together:

I wonder what the things that can worry you are?

I wonder what does worry feel like in your body?

I wonder is there anything I can do to help you when you are feeling worried?

You can go further with these open-ended wondering questions:

I wonder which of these worries you can take to God?

I wonder is God interested in our worries?

I wonder what happens when you give your worries to God?

Simple open-ended questions are best to allow your child to talk and you to listen.

Other simple techniques that show your child that you're listening include making eye contact, asking them to expand on or explain something they said, acknowledging and validating the feelings or thoughts they express, and repeating something back to them to show that you have heard them.

In our next edition of *Klips* we'll think about some ways to deal with big feelings, racing thoughts or anxious energy.

If you have any further questions or need to chat, please do get in touch with Lynn.

Adapted from *Tips for Parents of Anxious Children and for Anxious Parents* by Lydia Monds and the Church of Ireland Children's Ministry Network.

DUBLIN & GLENDALOUGH SUPPORTS BEIRUT PARISH FOLLOWING PORT EXPLOSION

The United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough are supporting relief work in Beirut following the devastating explosion in the city on 4 August (see photo, right). The massive blast in the city's port area caused at least 180 deaths and 6,000 injuries and left an estimated 300,000 people homeless (at the time of writing).

Lebanon is part of the Diocese of Jerusalem, which has been engaged in a partnership link with Dublin and Glendalough for almost five years. Dublin and Glendalough are sending €10,500 to All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beirut via the Diocese of Jerusalem. Of this, €10,000 will support the work of the Anglican parish while €500 will assist Armenian Church families in the city.

The money had been earmarked in the Diocesan Council for Mission budget for the development and deepening of the inter-diocesan partnership. However, following the explosion the decision was made to give it directly to the parish in Beirut and the Armenian Church community.

In Dublin and Glendalough we pray with our sisters and brothers in solidarity, in hope and in love.

DOGS GOING MISSING

Gardaí are appealing to the public to take extra crime prevention measures when it comes to caring for your pet, particularly high-value breeds of dogs.

If a dog is stolen, it's important to act quickly:

— Immediately report the theft to Gardaí.

— Report the loss to your local authority, your vet and your dog's microchip company.

— Spread the word on social media:



post clear photos and detailed descriptions both on your profile and on any other groups and pages you are connected with, and encourage people to share quickly.

— Create posters and flyers, and distribute these around your local community. Check your insurance policy; it might be able to cover some of these costs.

— Report the theft on as many missing-animal websites as you can and keep an eye out on social media and selling pages.

In an instance where a lost animal is found, ensure that the rightful owner is being contacted before returning them.

For more information on how to keep your dog safe:
<https://www.garda.ie/!6MPWQ3>

CONGRATULATIONS! CANON HORACE MCKINLEY

It's not every day that one of our neighbours gets to celebrate 50 years of ordained ministry.

Horace was ordained a deacon in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, by Archbishop Buchanan. Having served his curacy in nearby Taney Parish, Horace has ministered in Whitechurch for 44 years.

Well done, Horace, a role model for us all!

STORIES FROM LOCKDOWN

We put out a special call for people to share stories or things they had done during lockdown. Here's what we got in reply.

'A not-so-shaggy dog story' by Sunny the Dog

My name is 'Sunny' and five years ago I was found abandoned in County Wicklow. A rescue home in Arklow fixed me up and found me a home in glorious Foxrock, with my new Mum, Coo, who loved whippets just like me.

When Covid-19 arrived, I found myself in seventh heaven. Coo was there for me every day, all day and night; we were in lockdown. What fun! She took me for walks where I met children who petted me and talked to me and called me by name. I stood very quietly beside Coo so as not to frighten the smaller children. I did not allow Coo to take me out in the wet or when it was ever so hot.

In the house I made sure Coo took enough exercise, as I made her play musical chairs. When she was comfy on a chair, I demanded she get up and make way for me. Likewise, when my food ran out in my dish I demanded more.

We looked after each other, which is as it should be, and now I miss her when she goes out, but she rushes home to be with me!

'A family in lockdown' by Helen Olliffe

Lockdown was very hard at the start for us all and will never be forgotten!

Restricted to being indoors all the time was especially hard on Andrew, who loves to get out and is a very sporty child. Trying to tell your child that he can't go to rugby, football, tennis or swimming for the foreseeable future and is not allowed out to play was so hard. So indoors it was for many weeks, and working at the kitchen table and home

schooling took its toll on us towards the end. Anxiety and stress levels were through the roof.

We tried to keep ourselves as busy as we could and we have very special memories of our Covid journey, as follows:

Andrew and I did PE with Joe every morning at 9am before work and home schooling started. It was amazing; that exercise kept us feeling alive and got us ready for the day, and we never missed a class. We were there for the whole journey and are so grateful to Joe Wicks; we even got the T-shirts to prove it!

Another help for us—especially for Andrew—was the Home School Hub Programme on RTÉ at 11am each day. He thoroughly enjoyed this and well done to RTÉ, as it was a great success; I even learned a few bits along the way that I had forgotten! He loved doing his videos each day and sending them in to RTÉ for their Home School Extra Programme, which immediately followed. He featured quite a few times on the TV and was so delighted with himself. It kept him so focused each day. We both got emotional watching their very last episode.

We had a family of blue tits nesting in our bird box in the garden and they had four babies, and we watched them all fly out one by one when they were ready to leave the nest, which was very exciting!

Adrian decided to put a floor in the attic and put Andrew's model electric train set up in the attic—this is work still in progress but nearly finished!

It was very hard to get our head around what was happening in the world, and even harder for our children, but they do adapt to new ways. I was parked in my car at the



lights in the village and I saw a very young boy come to the pedestrian lights with his mother and hit the button with his elbow—amazing to see this! Just remember that children do forget quicker than we do and bounce back more easily, for which we must be so grateful, and they need to be praised for this! Andrew kept me on the straight and narrow when I had bad days and I will be always grateful to him.

'A family meal' by Linda MacWilliam

Lockdown for us meant that the highlight of the day was our family meal. Grandad's good ol' deep fat fryer (which was always banned to the garage in its previous home!) found a new home in our back garden. Our family produced some wonderful and delicious creations, including homemade chips and Tempura just about anything! Lots of hillwalking needed the next day.

'My discovery during lockdown' by Kate Cahill

My discovery during lockdown was:

1. We need very few items.
2. I found the most important thing was your family and friends.
3. Looking after your safety and everyone else's.
4. Kindness and generosity to as many as possible, helping your friends and neighbours.
5. Prayers and positive thoughts.

'Making bread' by Clara Richardson

Even though it took a little while, I mastered the recipe for sourdough bread during lockdown, (see photo centre spread).



Mary White's hats.

'Hats aplenty' by Mary White

I brought four balls of yarn back from Melbourne, in readiness to make some hats during the summer. Didn't realise that I'd more 'spare' time than usual! As I ran out, Wendy sent me some surplus balls (of red!) from her stock in London. All put to good use!

'A labour of love' by Jane Newell

My daughter Emily went to live in Toronto last February; she had been planning this exciting new adventure for quite a while, and we thought of the new holiday plans we could make visiting her in her new abode.

I felt like making her something special for her birthday and knew that a hand-knit would not tick any boxes, so I decided on a quilt. I thought about the design and what colours I'd use, new fabric or old. I had a lot of help from my sister Katie, who cut the fabric for the design I had in mind! Sewing the quilt was definitely a labour of love, as it took a couple of months to make. I had great chats with our sewing group while the work was in progress.

When the quilt was ready in time for Emily's birthday, I wrapped it and set off to the post office, only to find that all post to Canada had



Jane Newell's quilt.

been suspended.

Looking back, the time spent in lockdown this year was bitter-sweet. We had the pleasure of having Charlie and Sophie home with us, we spent time together, ate together and had long sunny walks. I spent my evenings sewing the birthday quilt for our lovely girl!

And here it is! It arrived a month late, and she loves it!

'A quiet time to create' by Marinet Brennan

Covid, despite the heartache, worry and uncertainty that it brought, also brought a time of stillness, a time of quiet. A time to spend with family, to work on relationships, to create memories.



A time for creativity. I started this children's novella at the end of 2018 and during the time of shutdown had time to finally complete it.

'A parent's reflection' by Neil Goolding

Looking back at the start of lockdown, it didn't really deeply affect me in a negative way. A certain level of calmness fell over our house: no long commutes to work; no rushing here and there; no madness in the morning as everyone heads to work or school. Honestly, it was quite pleasant: walking the dogs up Three Rock and Fernhill early every evening; generally sunny out; rolling out of bed just in time for a morning work call; playing board games (a game of Risk went on for three days ...); Zoom calls of quizzes and games with family and friends; the children getting to grips with remote learning — it had a sort of 'at home' holiday feel about it.

As time passed, a realisation that we're in this for the long haul brought a certain level of anxiety.

This was happening here, at home, not in some foreign country that you hear about on the news. Frustration set in as activities and holidays were cancelled (and refunds chased), but I think that the biggest impact was on our children: not admitting it but actually missing school; missing their friends, sport etc. Having their own mobile phones actually helped them to stay connected during this time. As we return to some sort of normality with the return of schools and heading back to work, I hope that we don't measure the success of handling the pandemic by how much we return to pre-pandemic norms. We've done things differently during this period, some good, some bad, and I hope that we incorporate the good parts into our new post-lockdown norm. There are those who have of course sadly lost loved ones, but there are thousands facing long-term unemployment, which will have a devastating impact on their families. As we see our country and world around us re-ordered, let's hope that new imaginative ideas and opportunities lessen the impact on those who have taken the hit for us all during this period.

Making masks during lockdown

During March, one of our parishioners, Katie Holland, set up a group with two other sewists from Northern Ireland, Masks4AllIreland. This group, set up on Facebook, quickly became a group of over 700 sewists, all working from home to produce and donate reusable cloth masks from a specific pattern designed by the team to provide the best possible mask for front-line workers who had no access to PPE at that time.

Her home very quickly filled up with fabric, masks and cutting equipment, so the parish agreed to set up a Fabric and Mask Distribution Hub in Kiltarnan Parish Centre. A small team of volunteers, led by Katie and Kerrith Fisher, was established and over 8,000 metres of fabric was washed, ironed, cut, packed and distributed



Katie Holland, a leader of the mask-making volunteers.

all across the country to sewists across the 32 counties making masks. Masks were delivered and posted to the Hub and were then donated to hospitals, nursing homes and any front-line workers who were in need of masks to enable them to work safely.

The need was great, and demand for masks in the early days of the pandemic was urgent, as many workers had no access to PPE through their workplace.

The 10th Kiltarnan Scouts also rose to the challenge and provided essential support to this 32-county project in a number of ways: by building an order-processing website to allow front-line staff to order masks from the project and sewists local to them to offer and deliver masks as needed; by raising almost €8,000 to provide fabric to the sewists making the masks; by delivering fabric and masks daily all around Dublin and Wicklow; and by using leaders' contacts to secure donations of fabric from Dunne's, Penney's and other suppliers. Scouts took to their sewing machines at home and made masks and ties for the project.

Many of the people sewing these masks around the country were cocooning and have said that being in daily contact with the

mask-making community was a lifeline for them; it gave a sense of purpose to their day, and new, lifetime friendships through WhatsApp groups and Facebook pages have been established, through a shared commitment to helping where there is a need and supporting each other.

To date, 95,000 masks have been donated by the Masks4AllIreland project to front-line workers and other groups working with vulnerable and disadvantaged adults in our community. This wouldn't have happened without the support of Kiltarnan Parish and Reverend Rob, and the input of 10th Kiltarnan Scouts, using the skills and time we all dedicated to this project. We can safely say that we saved a considerable number of lives and supported our front-line workers by enabling them to go to work safely.

A new sister project, the Mask Makery, has been set up to sell reusable cloth masks to the general public, and the profits from this go towards continuing to supply fabric for the donation of masks, as demand is still high. If you would like to purchase a cloth mask to help to supply fabric to this project, please visit www.themaskmakery.com.



Kerrith Fisher, a leader of the mask-making volunteers and new member of the Parish Safeguarding Trust Panel.

CHANGE IN PARISH PANEL

At Kiltiernan we take the safeguarding of children and young people seriously; we see it as central to our commitment to care. We follow the guidelines meticulously outlined by the Church of Ireland Safeguarding Trust policy.

A big part of this is the parish panel. There are three members of the parish panel: the rector and two others appointed by the Select Vestry. The work of the panel is supported by the parish administrator and the youth and children workers. The main areas of responsibility are oversight of all matters regarding safeguarding in the parish, the promotion of good practice in the recruitment, assessment, training, management and support of staff and volunteers, and responding to any safeguarding concerns.

Jonathan Holt and the rector are on the panel. Jane Newell has decided to stand down this year, and we thank her for all of her work in this area. Her position will be filled by Kerrith Fisher.

Let's take the chance to find out a bit more about Kerrith:

Kerrith, tell us a bit about yourself.

I am a mom of three who have all attended KCOINS and a member of the parish since 2009. I am involved with Messy Church and many of you would know me as a barista in the Gathering Grounds. I really enjoy the sense of community that is built through the parish and I am grateful to be a part of it.

Why do you think this area of safeguarding is so important?

Children and young people are an essential and vibrant part of the church. It is key to involve them in a meaningful way—it strengthens the bonds of our community. In order to achieve this, it is important to offer a safe and secure environment for them to learn and grow. Safeguarding is not just about the children, however; it is also important for the adults in leadership roles to adhere to the guidelines and policies within Safeguarding Trust so that they can support the young



people they work with more effectively.

What should we expect from you if you drop in to one of our youth activities?

I hope that all participants in the activities I drop in to will see me as a friendly face who is a support to them in their role in the parish.

TO ALL OUR PLAY CAFÉ FRIENDS

We are keen to reopen Play Café, welcome new members and see you all again just as soon as we safely can—we miss seeing all your lovely faces! When we reopen, like everything else these days, there will be some changes, but our aim is to create a warm, welcoming space for little ones and their parents, minders or guardians, where everyone who chooses to join us feels safe. We also have plans to introduce a ‘Bumps & Babes’ session for expectant parents and those with babies not yet on the move! We are very conscious that this has been a difficult time for all of you right now, and of how much you have missed in the run-up to giving birth and the months after. We are excited to meet your new arrivals.

We were delighted to connect

with those families who could join us for our weekly Play Café @ Home Zoom sessions. Thanks also to everyone who sent photos and videos of your little ones enjoying our recorded videos. We hope to continue this hybrid presence for Play Café, reaching and supporting as many families in the community as we can.

We send a **big high-5** to all those who started **preschool** this month. We hope you are all settling in and having lots of fun. We reassure you all of our prayers for you and your families under these strange circumstances.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon, and in the meantime keep in touch with updates on the Kiltiernan Parish Facebook page.

CHALK PRAYER WALK

We are hoping to set up an outdoor Chalk Prayer Walk around the church grounds for families in the parish and community (and those young of heart!) to come and creatively enjoy prayer. This will take place over the course of a weekend in September or October (date TBC & weather permitting!). More information through the parish weekly email and Facebook page.

AN HONEST STORY FROM LOCKDOWN

By Brian Hickey



KILTERNAN YOUTH
MINISTRY

It was a Thursday. I'll never forget it. I began my day as I do most Thursdays. I was up far too early for assembly. I arrived in shortly after 8am so that I could check my emails/messages and let the parents of my youth group know that we were meeting this week. I had everything planned; I just needed to buy a few supplies for the madness. Assembly came and went, and I moved on to 6th class for my RE lesson. Once I had finished up my lesson, I got straight in my car and left to go and pick up what I needed for youth group. While I was shopping, the news dropped from our former Taoiseach about government restrictions and a lockdown of sorts—words that at the time were completely alien to me but which I have become so accustomed to hearing now. There was only one decision that could be made. Youth group had to be cancelled until this virus subsided. The safety of those in my care has always been the most important thing.

That was on 12 March. By the time this is read, it will have been over six months since I met in person with that youth group. I have struggled deeply in this season. A virus that thankfully I never got but which was contracted by hundreds of thousands of people and claimed the lives of far too many left me shellshocked. The symptoms that I contracted were a heavy load to hold: my value, in the work I do, zapped away and my purpose in not being able to do what I do.

We are blessed in our age of technology that we are able to use the internet, so we could stay connected. Zoom—an app I had never heard of—became second nature. I began running Zoom groups for the junior youth and also helped facilitate Kilternan Kids with the amazing Lynn. These were tough to do. I actually had parents

ask me how I was doing it. Most of the time I had to fill myself with coffee and run about in my garden to energise myself. If leading a youth group in person is tough, doing it from your own house is even more difficult. In person you can make people do what you have planned, but if they suddenly decided that they didn't want to engage over Zoom you were kind of stuck. That was frustrating. Speaking of frustration, I celebrated my birthday in lockdown. Last year I was surrounded by my church family; I believe we had youth group that evening, and they made me a card. It filled my heart. Fast forward to this year and the best present I got was being able to have two teenagers whom I hadn't seen join me on a Zoom call to record a prayer, but even just seeing their faces gave me a lift. I never anticipated when I took this job here in Kilternan that my levels of love and care towards a particular group would be so large. There wasn't a day that I didn't think about the teenagers in this community.

If I am being honest, I can't say that I prayed for them every day, because I was carrying a lot of anger and frustration in my heart and mind. I'm the sort of person who needs to be kept active and motivated, and having that removed opens up the possibility of overthinking things.

When I did overthink, some of the craziest scenarios were being played out in my head, all centring around my job and the young people I work with. Gentle whispers pretending to be truth were telling me that I am no good at my job, the youth were fed up with me, or they've moved on from me. It just leaves a pit in your stomach, and quickly I'd find myself upset again. It led to a complete abandonment of my routine of self-care. Everyone has their own thing they do: some

bang a drum, some play sport, some vent on social media and others read books. I'm a bookworm. I find it helps keep me sharp while sitting in cruise control. One book I always made sure I got into was the Bible. Centring myself on God's word is the most important thing to me. It helps me know God more and as a result love God more. If I can love God more, then I can love people a lot more. That's the simple message I tell myself; it works for me but mightn't be for everyone else. I even stopped reading my Bible and the best way I can describe how I was feeling at this time was that I was like breath on a mirror; I just felt like I was completely fading away, forgetting the truths that I myself try to teach younger people.

Even as I sit here and write this piece it hasn't left. There is this emptiness that has taken up residence in my soul. My sadness, my anxiety, my anger is at the door, banging it down, trying to take my joy away.

It's certainly not me holding it back. I would have caved in a long time ago! Paul, when speaking to the Romans, told them that nothing—NOTHING!—could separate us from the love of God. Even when it feels like I am hanging on by a thread, God is holding me close. Think of a child jumping into a pool for a parent to catch them. In their mind all they see is the water and the danger, but the mother or father is always going to catch them. It's the exact same with God. I could let my fear, anxiety, anger and sadness in and let that dictate my decisions, my actions or my life, or I can rely on God to keep my path straight, to go before me and walk alongside me, to rely not on my strength but on Him.

No, I don't feel too good in this season; my mind has had a field day during lockdown, and I still have negative thoughts, but I choose to stick with Him Who is faithful.



Collect (for those to be ordained):
*Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts,
by Your Holy Spirit You have appointed various orders of ministry in the Church:
Look with mercy on Your servants now called to be deacons and priests.
Maintain them in truth and renew them in holiness,
that by word and good example they may faithfully serve You to the glory of Your name and the benefit of Your Church, through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

We are delighted to have Alistair Doyle with us from September. One of the great joys is to be able to celebrate his priesting, as Alistair will be ordained as a deacon on Sunday 20 September. Hopefully we will be able to stream the service live in Kiltarnan.

The Church of Ireland maintains the historic threefold ministry of bishops, priests (also called presbyters) and deacons. Its ministers are ordained by bishops according to authorised forms of service which we call the 'ordinal', with prayer and the laying on of hands.

The ordinal says that 'Deacons in the Church of God serve in the

name of Christ, and so remind the whole Church that serving others is at the heart of all ministry', and there is no similar parallel wording or phrase at the ordination of priests and bishops.

While the diaconate has a unique place within the threefold ministry, the norm remains in the Church of Ireland that deacons are expected to be ordained priest about twelve months after their ordination.

So, what happens to a deacon at ordination? Alistair will kneel before the archbishop. He will be told that in the Church of God deacons serve in the name of Christ, and that deacons are a reminder to the whole Church that serving others is at the heart of all ministry. Deacons wear their stole over their left shoulder and across their chests, where it is tied. It calls to mind Jesus demonstrating service by washing His disciples' feet.

He will be told that deacons have a special responsibility to see that those in need are cared for with compassion and humility.

He will be told that deacons are to strengthen the faithful, to seek out the careless and the indifferent, to minister to the sick, the needy and those in trouble, to help the oppressed, and to promote unity, peace and love.

He will be authorised to baptise, preach and teach, to read the Gospel, to lead the people in prayer, and to assist in the administration of Holy Communion.

He will be reminded, too, to keep prayer at the heart of his ordained ministry.

The role of the deacon reminds us all of the centrality of service. While the ordinal is focused on the particular ministries of bishops, priests and deacons, the Church of Ireland believes that these are simply ministries, three amongst many. We affirm the idea of the priesthood of all believers and we dismiss the idea of hierarchy within our ministries. We are all called to serve God. Any act of ordination should encourage each of us to consider how God wishes us to serve.

LECTIONARY RAMBLINGS

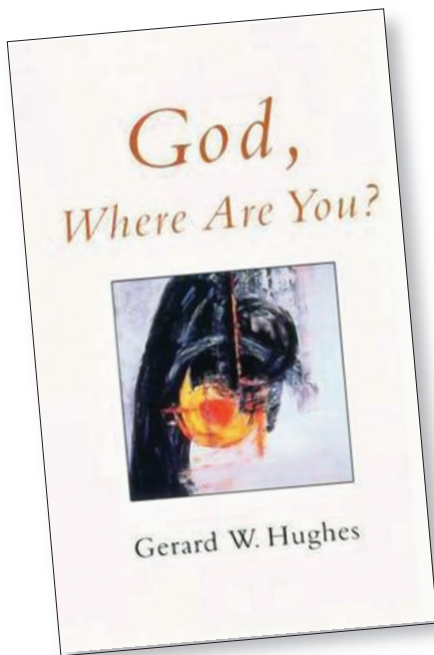
In November this year we will celebrate Christ the King Sunday, or what we sometimes call the Reign of Christ. We will choose from three readings: Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24, Ephesians 1:15–23 and Matthew 25:31–46.

The celebration of Christ the King has had a resurgence in recent years, as the church has rediscovered the significance and centrality of the idea of the Kingdom of God, or the Kingdom of Heaven. There are several theologians to thank for this, perhaps most notably N.T. Wright. Wright (*pictured below*) published a book called *How God became King* in which he explores ways in which the Gospels are really a contrast between God's Kingdom and Caesar's kingdom—or, to think a bit more generically, God's Kingdom and the kingdom of this world. This is something that became lost over time. While the creeds were 'focused on Jesus being God', the 'Gospels were all about God becoming king'.



Perhaps this helps us when we look at Matthew 25:31–46. This is a well-known passage. Jesus comes as King and gathers the nations before Him. He separates the people into the sheep and the goats, not by who is the most powerful or winsome (kingdom of this world) but according to how they have cared for the most vulnerable (the Kingdom of God).

The question we should ask ourselves is, if Christ is not King in our lives, then who or what is?



God, Where Are You?
 by Gerard W. Hughes.
 ISBN 9780232522266.
 €16.
 Reviewed by Alasdair Jackson

The lockdown gave many solitary hours to those of us who live alone and I spent a lot of those hours re-reading books collected over the years. One in particular held my attention. It was *God, Where Are You?* by Gerard W. Hughes. I'd bought it in October 1997, the year it was published. No memories from that first read came back to me but the title made me curious, so 23 years

later I read it again.

On the back cover there were several paragraphs giving a flavour of its contents. This is one of them: 'The author's memories provide a fascinating and absorbing account of one man's view of the Catholic Church's development in the twentieth century: from belief that there is no salvation outside the Roman Catholic Church to belief that there is no salvation outside the world, for God is in, as well as beyond, all things.' This certainly indicates that Gerard Hughes's views changed radically over time.

He was born in 1924 and in 1942 entered the Jesuit noviciate. *God, Where Are You?* was written when he was in his seventies. It's his look back at his life as a Jesuit.

This is a 'telling it as it is' autobiography. Two of his sisters died by suicide, his father suffered from depression and he himself had a brush with depression. On all of this he opens his heart.

For me the book held two attractions. One was to just enjoy his word pictures of what life was like for a Jesuit before Vatican Two and the changes it then brought to that life. The second was to follow over time how his views changed and how he dealt with difficulties and doubts.

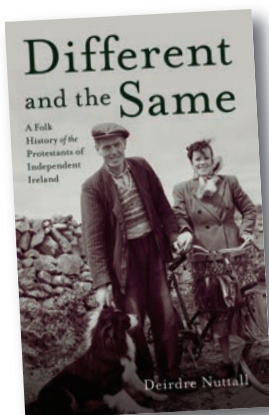
He was an early apologist for ecumenism and in the late sixties, as

the Catholic chaplain in Glasgow University, got into trouble with the archbishop over Protestants taking communion. Clashes of this sort upset him but didn't change his determination to work with people of other Christian denominations.

Solo retreats brought him peace and renewal. After one island retreat he writes: 'At the end of eight days I felt as though all my senses had been cleansed and as though I had discovered for the first time in my life that God really is the God of unconditional positive regard, present in all things, the God who is always for us' (page 138).

Towards the end of the seventies he moved to St Beuno's, a Jesuit house in Wales. His brief was to develop it as a spirituality centre. It was a success and retreats were offered to anyone who wanted to come, be they Catholic, Protestant or agnostic.

The theme running through this autobiography is an emphasis on a God of love rather than a concentration on articles of belief. 'The unity of the Church must be a unity of the Spirit, which is not the unity of conformity. The Spirit of God is a Spirit of truth, justice and peace, a Spirit of unity which embraces all creation, God is always greater than any Church, any religion' (page 204).



Identity is an important aspect of all studies of the past, as much of what we do, build, say and believe is based on it and expresses it. In a fascinating new book based on responses to a questionnaire and in-

terviews carried out between 2013 and 2017, Deirdre Nuttall explores the experience of Protestantism in Ireland in the twentieth century. The chapters in *Different and the same—a folk history of the Protestants of independent Ireland* (Eastwood Books 2020, €25 hb, ISBN 978-1-9161375-6-1) each deal with different 'stories', including 'origins', 'identity, loyalty and culture' and 'feeling different and the same'.

The book challenges assumptions and reveals aspects of identity that are not normally shared outside the community or which are taken for granted within it and therefore not normally deemed to require discussion.

As regards the material world,

the chapter on 'Stories of Land and Landscape, Rural and Urban' perhaps has most to offer, as it looks at the influence of plantations and Ascendancy ownership in the shaping of the landscape, as well as at the smaller landowners and farms and more recent events such as the Land Commission and ongoing traditions such as the importance of the annual harvest festivals.

This is a fascinating book—incidentally published by the company owned by Nick Maxwell and Una MacConville—that puts the views of individuals into historical context, highlighting the complexity and importance of questions of identity in understanding both our past and our present. *Sharon Greene*

MY SENSES

By Alva Pigott

Near perfectly pure air fills my lungs
 Heat from the hazy sun gives a glow on my skin
 The smell of freshly cut grass fills the air
 Wonderful green colours of faraway fields
 Happy bees on their mission buzzing in the air
 landing on dandelions
 The dog stops to roll in the daisy-filled grass
 No airplane sounds in the pollution-free blue sky
 Only birds singing from every direction
 A tiny ladybird lands on my hand — summer is coming
 A total calmness is present; like never before
 A waiting feeling
 Birds form a perfect V shape above me as they head home
 Then ...
 The hum of a distant Luas brings me back from my dream
 Now, a time for reflection, a first for everyone,
 Lots of emotions, news in the air every hour,
 our future, decisions to be made.
 One thing we know, we will all be different after this.

AFFLICTIONS

By William D, May 2020

Droughts, rain, fire and floods
 Threatening our abodes and our livelihoods.
 Storms and hurricanes, wars, refugees
 Seeking safety from more tragedies.
 Volcanic outbursts polluting the air,
 Earthquakes, tsunamis, fostering fear.
 Global warming, glaciers receding.
 Polar icecaps melting, decreasing.
 Decimation of forestry threatening wildlife,
 Recessions, austerity harming human life,

All the while living under the awful pall
 Of a catastrophic nuclear war outfall.
 Now by a coronavirus pandemic beset,
 With the elderly and ill especially upset.
 ‘Wash your hands, avoid your face, Know the signs, stay at your place’.
 Social distancing recommended
 With a spacing of two metres intended.
 At first like an animal caged in a zoo,
 I walked back and forth with little to do.
 Later feeling institutionalised from the lockdown bout,
 I feared the consequences of again getting out!
 Afflicted with a dubious fear,
 I’d an unreal feeling my end could be near.
 Businesses were closed to prevent its spread,
 The nation obsessed by a dying dread.
 Yet the nation needs to get back to norm
 For the economy to try and recover its form.
 The caretaker Government not staying aloof
 For Government borrowings are to go through the roof
 As it strives to battle this ongoing bane,
 Led by doctors and C.M.O. Dr Holohan.
 Intensive care facilities greatly expanded,
 Nursing staff together willingly banded.
 Hospital Emergency departments, formerly overrun,
 Quickly transformed to almost no one.
 Areas of close contact to be avoided,
 Fear of flying, air traffic grounded.
 Schools closed, children at home
 Under a requirement not to roam.
 Church services and burials totally changed.
 Sporting / musical events cancelled/ rearranged.

Holidays rescinded and refunds sought,
 Many disappointed, some overwrought.
 The lockdown made the elderly pause;
 They’d forgotten the joy that shopping was.
 No real safety until a vaccine is found
 And people inoculated all around.
 One could feel end times were nigh
 And search for evidence in the sky.
 Man has the wherewithal
 To provide the extinction of practically all.
 One could be forgiven to think
 Our world is teetering on the brink.
 Just before this millennium dawned
 Grave warnings of the end were spawned.
 Life could easily be such a dread
 That the living would live to envy the dead.
 Still, all is seldom doom and gloom;
 For optimism there is a little room.
 It is likely that whate’er the decline
 The sun will likely continue to shine.
 With fewer jet trails across the skies
 And less road traffic, the air purifies.
 Holidays at home might be a blessing
 If jobs were done that needed addressing.
 Be thankful that the weather was good;
 Were it not, there’d be more over which to brood.
 In 1918 with the Spanish ‘flu
 There were few radios and no TVs to view.
 This pandemic arose with Spring in the air;
 Had it been Autumn it could be worse fare.
 So, take a leaf from St Pio’s life, hurry:
 A dictum of his was ‘Pray, Hope and Don’t Worry’.

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