

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL GROUP OF PARISHES.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parishioners and Friends

November 1st, the Feast of All Saints, marks the patronal festival of our beautiful All Saints' church. The history of All Saints' is securely set in the Tractarian movement of the mid 1800's, a movement that wanted the Anglican church to



rediscover its catholic traditions and heritage, to revive our understanding of the Church, creating a society where the divine was part of daily life, bringing together the whole company of the faithful in heaven and on earth. Yet what place do all the saints have in our day to day lives, particularly in these uncertain times?

Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We are to follow the example of the saints, both named and unnamed. In our country, the land of saints and scholars, we are blessed with a rich heritage of saints, St Patrick, St Brigid, St Kevin, St Columba, to name but a few. In our group of parishes we have St. Michan and St. Werburgh, a Celtic, or perhaps Norse, man and an Anglo Saxon princess. Any list of saints encompasses a rich and wide variety of people, from many nations and walks of life. What is it that unites them? They came to know their need for God in their lives, and dedicated their lives to Him.

These are people who have led ordinary lives, who have had many weaknesses and failings, as all people have, yet they have recognised God and thereafter they have dedicated the rest of their lives to Him. Here in the lives of the saints we have inspiration for the Church in the present and into the future. Their names and their stories have come through to us, passed on by generations of the faithful, passed as a beacon to guide us on our own journeys of faith, as examples for us to follow. From the earliest days of the Church, people told and retold the stories of people whose lives, and very often deaths, were an example of following the path of Christ. The very earliest martyrs of the church were likely remembered on their anniversaries by people who had known and loved them, these dates and their stories becoming part of the fabric of the church year.

As they shared communion on those days, they shared the same eternal meal with the host of faithful witnesses, bringing heaven and earth together. Indeed prior to the 10th century, there was no such thing as canonisation by the central church. Each faith community remembered those whose lives and faith had inspired them, just as we today remember those who inspired and encouraged us and who know rest on a different shore.

The names and examples of the saints that have been passed down to us were recognised by their communities as being people who had dedicated their lives to God, they were not selected by the church through a process of discernment. They were ordinary people, men and women from all parts of the world and walks of life, with flaws and weaknesses, yet the way they centred their lives on God inspired and encouraged other people, it set people on their own faith journeys, it brought comfort to people who, through the saints throughout the ages, have seen the divine at work in our world, have seen the presence of the divine in the very often harsh world we live in. The names and accounts of these early saints have been passed down to us as a precious gift, a precious gift that has inspired countless generations, who show us how life today is to be lived and understood in the context of life eternal; a larger, more inclusive view, where the example of the saints past into the present gives us the courage and the confidence to move forward

In the saints, we have been given an example to follow, a path laid out for us and for countless generations in the future, a path of hope that leads far beyond our present times of worry and fear.

God bless,

Ross

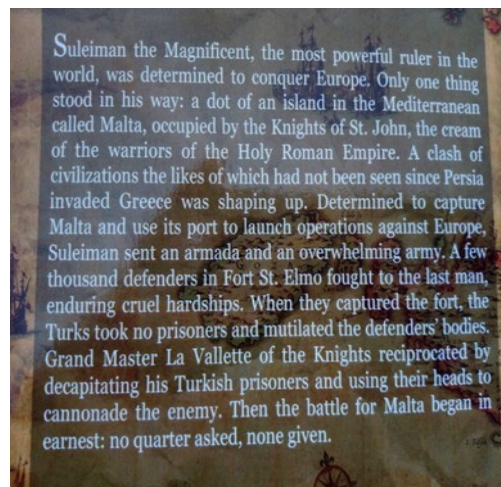
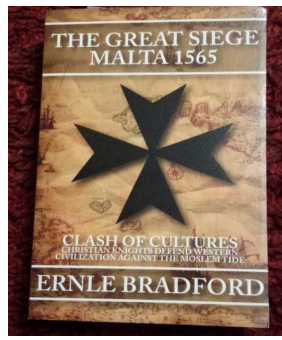
The Guild of All Saints'

On All Saints' day 1875, Dr Maturin founded the guild (which still exists today) to incorporate the several branches of parochial workers into a religious organisation connected with the Church. These included, the choir, the various youth organisations, the Mothers' Union, the sanctuary guild, the sewing guild, the Sunday School, the parochial Library, the Savings Bank, the mission branch, and the Temperance branch(!). In essence, the secular works of the Church. The guild has a Rule of Life which requires its members to be regular at worship, in particular the service of Holy Communion; to practice hospitality; and to be regular in prayer and support the church in any practical way possible. Among the many notable Guild meetings were those held by Dr Maturin who wrote on subjects such as: Preparation for the observance of Advent; The Epistle to the Romans; Doctrinal differences between the churches of England and Rome; The state of the Faithful Departed. Canon Hogan continued this last discussion in citing the collect which may be used before the Blessing at the close of Holy Communion (BCP), which begins, *"Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of them that depart hence in the Lord..."* and he stated '...those who put it there can scarcely have realised its full significance. It is really a prayer for the dead as well as for the living'.

All Saints' has for many years been the focus of dignity and solemnity in liturgy and of radical social reform within the Church of Ireland and it can be summed up in the words of the late Archdeacon Jenkins *'...the church and its organisations are the logical expression of belief, centred in the Incarnation, the Word made Flesh, the Altar, the Eucharistic worship, the pleading of the Cross of Calvary, the new life springing from the Resurrection; here is the heart of parochial life. Sanctuary and street were bound together in conjunction indissoluble, and separation would be fatal for both... All things come of Thee and of Thine own have we given Thee'*.

Book Reviews by:

A book review from Ken Worrell of *The Great Siege: Malta 1565*



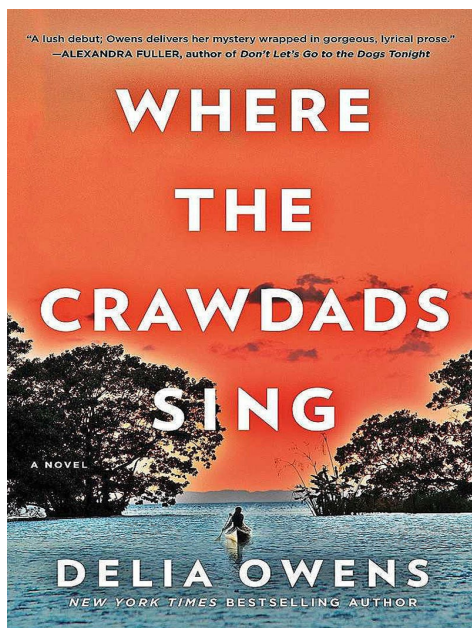
Warning! Once you start this book you will find it hard to put it down...

This book is available on www.wordery.com, now as it was out of print for a few years. Originally published by Penguin books.

Book Review by Olive Kenny

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

A lovely book for the coming days and weeks



For years, rumours of the 'Marsh Girl' have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome

Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life - until the unthinkable happens.

Living in interesting times

There have been pandemics since the earliest of times. With the growth of civilisations people lived in complex urban dwellings in close proximity to one another, forming city states and countries. Trade and warfare carried disease from one state to another, spreading deadly infectious diseases, death, economic collapse and frequently influenced the political and socio-economic fortunes of the ruling classes and their citizens.

So much death and destruction of lives and livelihoods by an invisible force. I wonder what psychological and spiritual impact living with death all around has on the individual and the community. It was into this world that Julian of Norwich was born (1342–c1416). The Black Death struck her hometown of Norwich twice, once when she was thirteen, and a second time when she was nineteen. It was so devastating that 75% of the population died.

At the age of thirty she became seriously ill, the priest was called to give her the last rites. As the crucifix was held up to her face she received from Jesus sixteen visions of his suffering, and of his Mother the Blessed Virgin Mary. These visions she named “Showings”. It was after this experience that she left the secular world and requested permission from the bishop to become an anchoress to devote her life in contemplation of these Showings.

As we struggle with our own pandemic, it seems appropriate to reflect on the writings of a woman who witnessed devastating loss of life and the rejuvenation of the city, and experienced in the midst of that, the transformative love of God.

Her Showings revealed to her a God of love and compassion, who does not condemn us for our failings, as the church taught, but sees our failings as an opportunity to learn and grow. Likewise she learnt to appreciate the miracle of the human body, created by God, as a perfect system, *‘the body is held in its clothes, the flesh in the skin, the bones in the flesh, and the heart in the breast. So we are —body and soul— draped and contained in the goodness of God.’*

In her fifth Showing she sees a hazelnut:

He showed me a little thing the size of a hazelnut, nestled in the palm of my hand. It was as round as a ball. I looked at it with my eye of understanding and thought, “What can this be?” And the answer came to me, “It is all that is created”. I was amazed that it continued to exist. It seemed to me so little that it was on the verge of dissolving into nothingness. And then these words entered my understanding. ‘It lasts and will last forever, because God loves it’. Everything that is, has its being through the love of God.

Yet, on further reflection of this Showing she states:

‘Such a tiny object stood for all creation! I became aware that we should dismiss as nothing all that is created so that we can fully receive and adore our uncreated God.’ ‘No soul will find peace until it empties itself of all forms.’

During this coronavirus pandemic we have learnt to let go of many things.: freedom of movement; celebrating events with friends and families—many weddings, baptisms and confirmations have been postponed; work places and schools as we have known them have changed; our church buildings closed for many months, and even now are open to limited capacity. For families and friends the hardest of all has been not being able to be physically present with those who are dying and the bereaved.

However, in the ‘letting go’ the world was transformed. The earth, our home, was breathing again, the skies became bluer, carbon emissions dropped significantly, the natural environment has begun to regenerate. The enforced slowing down of the pace of life for many, but by no means all, gave us as individuals and as a society the opportunity to look at ‘what always has been’ and reimagine ‘what could be’. It gives us time to let go of the world as we have known it and to ‘receive the uncreated God’.

Will we learn from our experience, be transformed, change the way we see the created world around us, review our priorities, work for a more just, equitable and environmentally friendly world?

Julian writes: *“During our lives on earth we experience a wonderful mixture of well and woe”. Yet ‘God is with us....He is with us in paradise...drawing us ever upward by virtue of the spiritual thirst...He is with us on earth, guiding our steps...And he dwells eternally with us inside our souls, directing and protecting us.’*

She concludes her reflections on her Showings with the wonderful words:

“All will be well, all will be well, and all manner of things will be well.”

Submitted to the National Association of Healthcare Chaplains, the Carer
by Susan Dawson, Presbyterian Chaplain for Dublin Hospital.

(Edited for the purposes of this publication).

Luscious Chocolate Chip Cake by Maire O'Reilly

This is a very easy to make cake, children love making it, in fact it is already made, it just needs to be assembled.

Decorate with favourite sweets to create a novelty cake.

You will need:

1 Packet x Chocolate Chip Biscuits (Ginger Nut Biscuits are also good, as are Gluten Free biscuits)

250ml x fresh cream

1 cup x strong coffee (cooled)

1 x handful flaked Almonds, sweets or grated chocolate to decorate

Palette style knife (make sure its a safe to use one for kiddies)

A plate (Your fanciest for Sunday!)



Method

- 1 Whip the cream until it is soft but firm
- 2 Dip a biscuit fully in the cold coffee and immediately use the palette to apply a dollop of cream to one side. Dip another biscuit and sandwich the biscuits together.
- 3 Stand these on the plate.
- 4 Continue like this, applying a dollop of cream to one side and add to the 'train', 'worm', 'snake' - whatever it is going to be at this stage, until all the biscuits are used up.
- 5 With the palette knife smother the remaining cream over the top and sides, completely covering the biscuits.
- 6 'Helicopter' some flaked almonds or grated chocolate over the top
- 7 Place in the fridge for at least an hour

Top Tips:

Liquorice All sorts sweets converts this cake to a lovely colourful train for birthday parties.

For Adults, a dash of brandy in the coffee converts it to a sinfully luscious after dinner desert!

Best eaten on the same day – no problem there!

Raspberry Bakewell Cake by Olive Kenny

Ingredients

210g ground almonds
210 g butter, softened
210g golden caster sugar
210g self raising flour
4 large eggs
1tsp vanilla extract
Finely grated rind of 1 lemon
375g raspberries
3tbsp flaked almonds
Icing sugar, to serve
Cream or crème fraiche to serve.

Method

- 1 Grease a deep 23cm loose-bottomed cake tin and line the base with parchment paper.
- 2 Blitz the ground almonds, butter, sugar, flour, eggs, vanilla extract and lemon zest in a food processor until well combined.
- 3 Spread half the mix over the cake tin and smooth over the top. Scatter half the raspberries over, then dollop the remaining cake mixture on top and roughly spread – you might find this easier to do with your fingers, scatter over the remaining raspberries and lightly press into the cake mix. Scatter with flaked almonds.
- 4 Bake at 180 degrees Celsius for 20-25 minutes until golden and a skewer inserted into the cake comes out clean.
- 5 Cool, remove from the tin and dust with icing sugar to serve.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH:

Sympathy:

In loving memory of Fionnuala Maher—Letter received from Maire O'Reilly, Parishioner and Volunteer in the Shop of St Michan's— *"Thank you to all my friends in the Church and Shop for your expression of sympathy when my sister Fionnuala died and for very kind words during her illness. Maire."*

Catherine (Kitty) Pierpoint

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Archdeacon on the death of his mother, Catherine (Kitty) Pierpoint. Her funeral was held in Mount Jerome Victorian Chapel on Monday 5th October. We remember Kitty's family in our prayers at this difficult time: her children Wesley, David and Nigel, her daughters-in-law Denise, Anne and Judith, grandchildren Matthew, Nicola, Karen, Amanda, Claire, Rachel and Stephen, great-grandchildren, relatives and her wide circle of friends.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

From the archdeacon



On behalf of my brothers and myself together with our families, I wish to thank so many parishioners, friends and colleagues for their messages of prayerful support, by letter, card, email, text and phone. Your support at this sad time is so much appreciated that you will never know how much this has meant to us as a family. I especially wish to thank the members of An Garda Síochána for their kindness in giving my mother a Garda escort and Guard of Honour on the last leg of her earthly journey.

Kitty had been in very good health just a couple of weeks before she died and was alert right up to the day before she died. While it has come as a shock to us as a family, it is something she herself always wished for, a quiet and peaceful death. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, many family and friends were unable to be present on the day of her funeral however, they did watch the live stream service and have commented how personal it was that two of her sons had the privilege of conducting the service. Finally, thank you to the Archbishop for his presence on the day and for giving the final blessing and to Fr Joe Kennedy, Garda Chaplain and close friend of mine for reading the Old Testament lesson.

David Pierpoint

Parish notice:

As we enter level 5 restrictions at midnight on October 21st, and remain at level 5 for six weeks, we will be unable to worship together in person.

Understandably there is some trepidation and uncertainty. As a community of worship we need to remember that we are all here for each other and encourage everyone to check in on each other as loneliness and isolation at this time is increased.

With the exception of weddings (maximum 25 guests) and funerals, public worship is not permitted in churches or other indoor places of worship. Therefore, St Michan's Church and All Saints Church will remain closed for public worship until 1st December.

The Archdeacon of Dublin, the Venerable David Pierpoint and the Reverend Ross Styles remain available by both phone and e-mail - to pray, for a chat or for anything you may need.

Our newsletter will be published on our website and a link will be uploaded to this page. We will pre-record some Sunday services and they will be available on our YouTube channel

(St Michan's Church Dublin) and a link to these will also be uploaded on this page.

We continue to pray for all in our group of parishes, for the sick, for those who have died, those who are bereaved, for all who are alone and for all those who care for us.

Other News:

We offer our congratulations to James Kenny, son of Olive and Michael Kenny, on getting a 1st class honours in his Biomedical degree from Trinity College Dublin and his subsequent success in earning a place to study Graduate Entry Medicine in University College Dublin.



A reflection sent in by Olive Kenny:

Stay in the Moment

The practice of
Staying present will
Heal you. Obsessing
About how the future
Will turn out creates
Anxiety. Replaying
Broken scenarios from
The past causes anger
Or sadness. Stay here,
In this moment. – *S. McNutt*

CHRISTMAS IN A TIME OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

Arrangements are now being made for worship at Advent and Christmas. This will be a liturgical first in that most likely all our services will have to be held online including the annual service of nine lessons and carols and our Christmas Day festival services.

In an attempt to be as inclusive as possible, I am asking that parishioners to send me (pierpoint.david@gmail.com) their choice of favourite carol together with your reason for your choice.

We will endeavour to use those carols or hymns which have the highest number of requests in our online carol service. I look forward to receiving these in the coming weeks. *David*



Prayers that we can together at home:

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

O ALMIGHTY God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Seen growing in a neighbour's garden.....a light still shining. Hope for the future in these dark times.....

Remember the clocks go back this weekend Saturday 31st October 2020.