

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL GROUP OF PARISHES.

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STOP THE PRESS

Curate moving to Co. Wicklow

It is great news for Ross, Fiona, Ben and Ava but sad news for us all in the Cathedral Group of Parishes. Yes, Ross is to take on his own parish in 2021. The archbishop has appointed him to be the new rector of the parish of Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy and Calary and I could not be more pleased for him and his family with such good news.

Ross has endeared himself to so many people in our group as a pastor, an excellent preacher, a good listener as well as his knowledge of the world and of course his input into the life and witness of this parish.

I know that Ross, Fiona, Ben and Ava will be sad to leave us but as he said in the recent online service, this parish will always have a special place in their hearts as indeed they will in ours.

There will be time in the New Year to bid Ross and his family a proper farewell (Covid restrictions permitting) but we use this time now to wish him every blessing as he prepares to move to Co. Wicklow.

Congratulations Ross on a well deserved appointment.

David

*Photo courtesy of
Declan Brennan.*



By now news of our departure from this wonderful group of parishes has spread! It is a great honour to have been appointed to the parishes of Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy and Calary and I am humbled by this faith in me.

However, it is tinged with sadness. I have really enjoyed my time as curate in the Christ Church Cathedral Group of parishes. I have learnt so much and I will always be truly grateful for the warmth and care that you have all shown to Fiona, Ben, Ava and me. We will be truly sad to say farewell, but we are looking forward to serving and getting to know the people of Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy and Calary and becoming part of their community of faith in the New Year.

Please keep them and us in your prayers, you will always be in ours.

God bless,

Ross

Previous Advents in our churches



Reflection for Advent



We are just about to enter the season of Advent, a season of hope and expectation. Each Sunday in Advent, we light a candle on our Advent wreaths, flickering and shining their light into our churches and homes. As the evenings grow shorter, we can see the candles clearly. They appear brighter and more distinct to us the darker it becomes, and as nighttime falls, they appear quite brilliant in the inky surroundings, little beacons of light in a sea of darkness. And the light from a single candle can be seen from a great distance in total darkness.

According to scientific study, the human eye could detect the flicker of a candle in total darkness, with a direct line of sight, at 46km away, or 30 miles. It seems an impossible task for a tiny little flame to emit light that can be seen from that distance, but it can. And the strange thing is that that little beam of light can be seen further, the darker the world around it is. Truly light can cut through darkness, the light only becomes stronger the darker it gets.

In our day to day lives, particularly with the current pandemic, it is all too easy to become downtrodden, to become overwhelmed with our worries and concerns. Covid-19 has shaken our world, our routines and our lives. Our world appears a very dark and uncertain place. Yet we are not alone. If a small bulb or a candle can shine far out into the darkness, how much further can the light of Jesus' love shine? As the mirrors of a lighthouse amplify and direct light into the darkness, so too can we take that light that Jesus brings to us and reflect it in how we live our lives and in how we share our lives with others, in how we treat others.

In this season of Advent, we can reflect that light and that love into the darkest corners of our world. Jesus is the bearer of that light, his healing love is there for all, yet it is up to us to open the door and let it shine into our lives, into our world. Let us not lose hope.



Royal Canal Ramble

by Paul Dawson

'Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time'

In these restricted times when our movements are limited it gives us an opportunity to explore places in our own locality. There is an amazing amount of green space within walking distance of Phibsborough that is well worth exploring. This is one of my favourite walks.

Take a walk northwards up along Phibsborough Road to Cross Guns Bridge and the Royal Canal. Turn left and walk up along the canal path. As the path rises by the 6th lock you can get an interesting view of some of the landmarks on the north side of Dublin. The dome of Corpus Christi Church on Griffith Avenue to the east, the chimney stack at the former printing works on Botanic Road, the imposing round tower, monument to Daniel O'Connell in Glasnevin Cemetery. Behind the round tower in the distance, the tall tower of the Metro Hotel in Ballymun and the chimney from the old Ballymun district heating plant soon to become an art centre. Out to the west is the grey spire of the Church of the Annunciation in Finglas west. Looking back downhill you can see the stands at Croke Park and the iconic chimneys of the old Pigeon House power station so much associated with the city that they are now protected structures.

Continue along the path and very soon the noise of the traffic fades and the sounds of nature pervade. Already you will notice that the canal is rich with wildlife. You will see ducks, cootes and moorhens, bees, butterflies and other insects. Stately swans glide through the water leading their flotilla of cygnets and the imperious ever-patient heron stands sentinel in the reeds waiting for an unwary fish to come his way. Very soon you pass Coke Oven cottages, continue along under the low railway bridge past the 7th lock and on towards Broome Bridge. This bridge, like many of the other

bridges on the canal was named after one of the directors of the Royal Canal Company. However, Broom Bridge is more famous for its association with Sir William Rowan Hamilton a noted 19th Century mathematician and astronomer. On 16th October 1843 on his way from Dunsink Observatory to Trinity College he discovered the formula for quaternion multiplication and wrote it on the bridge.

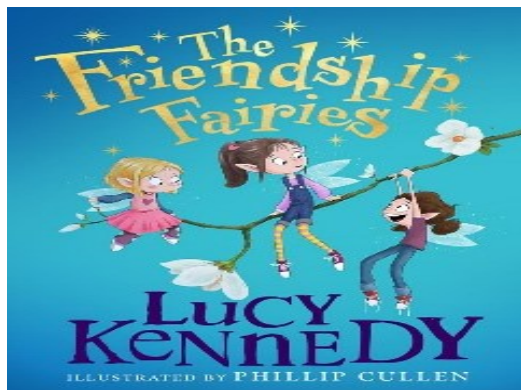
Follow the path beneath the bridge. In the distance you can see the new flyover built to replace the railway level crossing at Reilly's Bridge. Continue along the path and cross over the road at Reilly's Bridge and past the 8th lock. On your right are the new housing developments at Royal Canal Park which go all the way up to Ashtown. This stretch of the canal has been much improved in recent years and with its lawns and playgrounds is one of the few 'manicured' areas along the canal. Recent works include the widening of the canal and the building of a dock for mooring boats.

Very shortly you reach Ashtown village where you can get refreshment in one of the bars or restaurants overlooking the canal. From Ashtown you can get a train or bus back towards Phibsborough. However, if you are feeling energetic you can continue along the canal path past Castleknock over the M50 aquaduct up through the Deep Sinking and on towards Leixlip. Or, you can cross over the railway and head up the road past the Halfway House to the Phoenix Park which is about 10 minutes' walk. There you can wander through the extensive meadows and woodlands and visit Farmleigh, Ashtown Castle and the Zoo. Alternatively turn right and head down to the magnificent Tolka Valley Park developed by Dublin City Council. The park follows the Tolka River all the way back to Finglas Road and like the canal has an abundance of wildlife. I have recently spotted a Little Egret by the river as well as a Kingfisher, Greenfinches and Chaffinches. The reed beds beside the river are a great place for spotting dragon flies and butterflies.

Distance: Cross Guns to Ashtown 4.3 Kilometres
Walking time: 50 minutes approx.

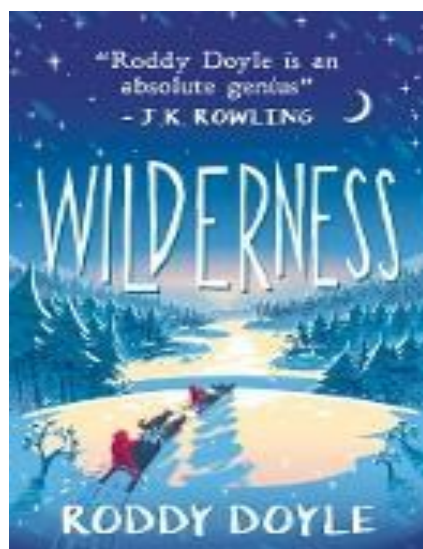
[The path along the Tolka from Ashtown to Finglas Road is around 3.5 kilometres and takes about 45 minutes to walk. Allow another 15 to 20 minutes to walk back to Phibsborough from here, or you can get a bus.]

Book Reviews by: Ben and Ava Styles



The Friendship Fairies by Lucy Kennedy

The fairies, Emme, Holly and Jess are best friends and they go to fairy school together in Magic Manor. They learn how to have good manners and be kind, as part of their schoolwork they are sent to human school to teach human children everything they have learned. They have lots of fun and sometimes they are a bit naughty! I loved this book!! **Ava**



Wilderness by Roddy Doyle

Tom and Johnny are on a husky safari in Finland with their mum, their half-sister Grainne stays behind to meet the mother who abandoned her. Tom and Johnny are having so much fun on their adventure to think of home until they find themselves lost in the snow and their mum is missing. It is a really enjoyable story and it makes you want to visit the huskies in Finland! **Ben**

Recipes

Spicy Butternut Squash soup—Fiona Styles

Ingredients

1 tbsp rapeseed oil
1 medium onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 (1.1kg) butternut squash, peeled, seeded and cut into cubes
1.4L chicken or vegetable broth
1 tbsp curry powder
1/2 tsp salt
15g honey
20g natural yoghurt, for garnish

Method

- 1) Heat oil over medium heat in a 6L stockpot. Add onions and garlic and saute until soft but not brown (about six / seven minutes.) Add the butternut squash, broth, curry powder and salt and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until squash is tender (about 12 / 15 mins.) Remove from heat stir in honey and puree until smooth.
- 2) Ladle into serving bowls (season with salt / pepper to taste) and add a dollop of yoghurt.

MINCEMEAT: (Anonymous)

This delicious mincemeat is suet free and suitable for vegetarians.

Makes 6 pots

Ingredients:

700g (1½ lb) cooking apples, peeled and chopped.
1 orange, rind and juice
1 lemon, rind and juice
330ml (11 fl oz) cider or apple juice
500g (18oz) Brown sugar
500g (18oz) sultanas
250g (9oz) currants
125g (4 ½ oz) mixed candied peel
100ml (3½ fl. oz) Irish Whiskey
1 tsp mixed spice

Method:

Place the apples, orange and lemon juice and rind and cider (or apple juice) in a large saucepan. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer for 10-15 minutes until the apple has cooked. Stir in the sugar, mixed spice, sultanas, currants and candied peel. Stir until the sugar is dissolved, then simmer for a further 15 minutes. Remove from the heat, allow to cool. Stir in the whiskey and pot into sterilised jars.



Advent 1955

A poem by John Betjeman

The Advent wind begins to stir
With sea-like sounds in our Scotch fir,
It's dark at breakfast, dark at tea,
And in between we only see
Clouds hurrying across the sky
And rain-wet roads the wind blows dry
And branches bending to the gale
Against great skies all silver pale
The world seems travelling into space,
And travelling at a faster pace
Than in the leisured summer weather
When we and it sit out together,
For now we feel the world spin round
On some momentous journey bound -
Journey to what? to whom? to where?
The Advent bells call out 'Prepare,
Your world is journeying to the birth
Of God made Man for us on earth.'

And how, in fact, do we prepare
The great day that waits us there -
For the twenty-fifth day of December,
The birth of Christ? For some it means
An interchange of hunting scenes
On coloured cards, And I remember
Last year I sent out twenty yards,
Laid end to end, of Christmas cards
To people that I scarcely know -
They'd sent a card to me, and so
I had to send one back. Oh dear!
Is this a form of Christmas cheer?
Or is it, which is less surprising,
My pride gone in for advertising?
The only cards that really count
Are that extremely small amount
From real friends who keep in touch
And are not rich but love us much
Some ways indeed are very odd
By which we hail the birth of God.

We raise the price of things in shops,
We give plain boxes fancy tops
And lines which traders cannot sell
Thus parcell'd go extremely well
We dole out bribes we call a present
To those to whom we must be pleasant
For business reasons. Our defence is
These bribes are charged against expenses
And bring relief in Income Tax
Enough of these unworthy cracks!
'The time draws near the birth of Christ'.
A present that cannot be priced
Given two thousand years ago
Yet if God had not given so
He still would be a distant stranger
And not the Baby in the manger.



From the archives:

1st February 1966

A letter from Archdeacon Jenkins to the parishioners of All Saints' Church, following the fire in their beloved church. A poignant letter in our own times of difficulty and uncertainty.

Our thanks to Mr. Ernie Hanton for providing this material from his treasure trove of historical documents and photographs.

LETTER from the VICAR

My dear friends, 1st FEBRUARY 1966

In the course of its history All Saints' has been through many a difficult period and once again its people are being put severely to the test. Some of us will never forget the sense of horror and powerlessness as we watched the flames shooting up from the roof of the north aisle. Our lovely church - the focus of much affection and devotion, the spiritual home of many a generation of men and women and boys and girls, the scene of countless beautiful and impressive services, has been very badly damaged and bears many a scar. The scene of destruction when I went in this morning would have brought tears to the eyes. However we have very much for which to be thankful. Much of the church has been saved and the stout walls stood up magnificently to the fire. I am quite confident that under Divine guidance and with faith and courage the beloved All Saints will once again bear its witness, perhaps even more vigorously than before.

Now there must be no break in the continuity of our parish life. Through the really magnificent work to-day of Mr. Mooney and his helpers the large Schoolroom will be ready by Sunday for all our services. What those young men did is typical of the attitude of the parish as a whole and I am deeply grateful for it and to all of you. Canon Kerr too has been most helpful and is supplying us with some church furniture which is not available from our own resources at present. There are some things we may miss in our new surroundings but never forget that when God takes away one thing from us He always gives something different in its place. I am full of hope for the future and I trust I shall have the strength to do all that the new situation will require.

There has been a constant stream of telephone calls and visitors to-day to express their sympathy and I am deeply touched by it all. To them and to so many of my brethren who offered to help I would like to say a

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sincere thank you.

I am launching immediately an emergency fund and have already received several donations which are listed elsewhere, in the magazine. They have been a wonderful encouragement. Its general purpose will be to help to rebuild and re-equip All Saints. Of course, as yet there are many uncertain factors, but I do not think the insurance money will cover anything like all that we shall have to do. For the moment I am acting as treasurer of the fund and contributions should be sent direct to me.

I know how we all feel for Mr. Leeson - he has a very warm corner in our hearts, and we know the destruction of the organ has been a real blow to him. Even as I write I can recall the inspiring strains of "For all the saints" as the procession wound round the church at our last Patronal Festival. Never mind, we must not live in the past, but look to the future in the spirit of Haggai Chapter 2: verse 9.

As you will realise I am writing this letter under difficulties and I am sure you will forgive its many flaws.

For the present

God bless you all,
Yours sincerely,
Raymond G.F. Jenkins.

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Then once more pray:
Down with thy knees, up with thy voice:
Seek pardon first, and God will say,
Glad heart rejoice.

(Herbert's Poems + The Church)

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Margaret Hanton and Anthea Seager.

Our parish choir last performed at sung eucharist in All Saints Church on Sunday 1st March this year. It feels like a lifetime ago. Life changed for everyone. Practically every social activity stopped, including singing which suddenly became a dangerous thing to do!

Our musical director Gerard had a solution to our lack of all things “Choir”. From early in lockdown in late March until the usual break for summer at the end of June, Gerard supplied us with very welcome weekly emails that included the sacred music relevant to each Sunday in Lent, Easter period and so on to end of June. He encouraged us to sing along with the pieces on YouTube.

After the summer break, choral singing was still not permitted. Reports that choir rehearsals were linked to outbreaks of Covid-19 in several countries meant there was no possibility of any physical rehearsal for some time. Following some discussion on zoom between Gerard and the choir it was agreed to try virtual rehearsals on zoom. We were all delighted to be singing with Gerard’s direction for several weeks, but progress was difficult. These rehearsals are on pause for now, but hopefully with the latest vaccine news, there is at last real hope of a return to normal rehearsals and church singing.

Unfortunately, not in time for Advent and Christmas. We especially will miss our annual parish Nine Carols and Nine Lessons and the beautiful music on Christmas Day.

We have been enjoying the YouTube services which David and Ross have recorded, and enjoyed listening to the recorded hymns, but of course really missing doing them ourselves.

Maybe by next Easter!!



Photo courtesy of: Maria Kinane of Kinane Studio

(Joke!)

PROTOCOL FOR CRIBS FOR CHRISTMAS 2020!



1. A maximum of 4 shepherds will be permitted in the Crib.
2. All will have to wear a mask and observe social distancing
3. Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus will be able to stay together as they form part of a family bubble
4. The donkey and the ox will have to obtain a declaration of non-contamination certified by the Department of Agriculture
5. The Three Wise Men will be subject to a 14-day quarantine, regardless of whether or not they have tested negative for Covid as they come from a non-Schengen Area
6. The straw, moss, palm branches and other decorations must be disinfected with alcohol
7. The angel flying over the Crib will not be allowed due to the aerosol effect produced by the batting of his wings
8. The choir will be restricted to one person because of the risk of contamination
9. No shepherd shall be more than 65 years old or in a vulnerable category
10. All non-essential participants (Romans, sinners...) are forbidden
11. Pilate will explain to all authorised participants how to wash their hands.

Prayers that we can say together at home:

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.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.