

PARISH NEWSLETTER

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From the vicar

Dear Friends,

Lockdown continues to be a struggle for everyone, especially the most vulnerable in our community yet such measures are deemed the correct course of action if we are to bring the Coronavirus under control. Many of you I know are frustrated, lonely, and fed up with having to remain indoors or limited to a set distance in which to travel, however, we all must stay safe, obey the rules so that we can once again gather for worship as a community of faith. During this season of lent, I am reminded of the difficult journey Jesus went through prior to his crucifixion. He had to endure suffering and isolation before he could rise again. Our suffering at this time is nothing like Jesus faced, yet, when we endure our hardships during this pandemic, we can look forward to a brighter and happier future when families and communities can once again meet as they did before and when a better life is just around the corner.

I recently said in an on-line sermon for the second Sunday in lent, quoting from St Mark's gospel -

"If any would come after me, let them deny self ..." During this pandemic, we are all forced to deny ourselves, refrain from taking risks with our lives or the lives of those around us and to re-evaluate our lives. Today, in the world of science and medicine, there is a galaxy of experts who take risks on our behalf, work to exhaustion, and live on the edge of burnout, because they seem to know where to put their values in life. All of them seem urged to pioneer against the tremendous odds of the dreaded Coronavirus. Doctors, nurses, carers, even shop workers and Gardai to name just a few, all have something within them which compels them to go on, to stay on, and to out-think the virus we have come to fear or to provide us with the necessary goods to sustain us or to keep us as safe as possible. Do we

have in our Christian faith the same investment of time and talents, as among the secular life? Jesus asks us to gain that sense of purpose which comes through commitment to what God wants for his world. We can learn it from Jesus as we see him carry his mission to Calvary. From him we get a clear notion of the purpose for which we were born, and, with it, we receive the vision and resources to carry it out.

May God bless you all during this season of Lent as we all have to deny ourselves those things we have taken for granted over the years. My prayer for each of you is to continue with the struggle placed upon us by current government restrictions in the hope that, like the first Easter, we too can rejoice that all will be well.

David

Ross Styles presentation.

As is customary in this group of parishes, when a curate leaves to take on their own parish, we make a presentation. Normally, this would be done following his or her last service when gifts are given at a party after church. Unfortunately, we cannot do this for Ross at this time, however, we are planning for something to happen at a later date. In the meantime, parishioners have been asking how they can contribute to Ross's presentation. If you would like to donate then please either send this to the vicar at:
The Vicarage, 30 Phibsborough Road, Dublin D07 Y9T3 or the Parish Office.

All donations will be acknowledged, and receipts issued.

Thank you.

Online Worship

The vicar has undertaken a course on video production, and it is hoped that during this time when we cannot be physically together, a weekly service will be broadcast on our YouTube channel [St Michan's Church, Dublin](#).

Details will also be posted to our Facebook page, [Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes](#).

While these videos might not be up to the standard set by Declan Brennan, we hope that they will help to keep you connected with the parish.

Annual revision of vestrymen

The revision of parishioners in the parish list is an annual event usually held at the vestry meeting each January. Due to current restrictions however, we are unable to do this. It is hoped that the vicar can arrange for the four churchwardens, together with the Hon Sec of the Vestry to meet virtually and conduct this revision.

St Michan's Flower beds

This is the time of year when the flower beds in the graveyard of St Michan's need to be cultivated and made ready for planting shrubs, herbs, vegetables and flowers. The vicar has agreed to allow Phibsborough biodiversity group to use two of these raised beds in St Michan's as part of the wider community's involvement in the parish. If anyone would like to take on a special project during the spring and summer using the raised beds, please contact the vicar and this can be arranged. Let's face it, it is a good way to get out and about (restrictions adhered to) during this current pandemic.



Damer Court

There are several rooms for rent in Damer Court.

If you know of anyone who is looking for accommodation, please contact Michael Kenny, Secretary Manager in Damer Court.

Tel: 087 2591816.

Now might be a good time to let friends know about Damer especially those whose children might be coming to Dublin to study.

Parish Envelope Scheme

Those of you who normally take a box of envelopes for your weekly collection are advised that this year's boxes are available either in the parish office or in All Saints' Church. We realise that you may not be able to collect your box, however, the vicar is willing to do this for you and deliver them to your home as required. Simply contact the vicar (in confidence) and he will arrange this. Some parishioners already have given their year's collection in one lump sum and we thank them for this generous way of keeping the parish finances going. The parish envelope scheme is a way to ensure that regular collections are given and if you qualify, we can claim a tax refund on the annual amount. If you have not taken a box of envelopes in the past but would like to do so either this year or next year, please let the vicar know.



Chantry List Revision

Each year, around this time, the Chantry list is revised. This list comprises the anniversaries of those family members, friends and colleagues who have died and who are remembered on the Sunday nearest their date of death. If you would like a loved one or friend remembered in this way at our service (either Online or as a congregation gathered together) then please contact the vicar and he will include such names on the list for the coming year.

The Sick

Due to current restrictions and advice from the archbishop and the dioceses, clergy are encouraged not to visit in people's homes, residential care settings or hospital in the event of sickness. Those in hospital will be visited by the appropriate chaplain and only in the case of an end-of-life scenario is the local rector/vicar allowed to visit. This makes pastoral ministry difficult for all clergy yet not only do they keep everyone safe by adhering to these guidelines, but they also keep themselves safe as well. Please be assured that clergy will continue to uphold all these who are sick in their prayers. If you wish to have anyone included on the prayer list, then please contact the vicar.



Parish Finances

A very sincere thank you to those parishioners and friends who donated to general parish funds following on from the appeal earlier this year and to those who helped finance the purchase and installation of a new boiler for All Saints' Church. Without your help and support, we would be much worse off than we are. The management of our general funds continues to be an enormous challenge but we will overcome this temporary hiatus in our cash flow as we begin to prepare for the second half of this year when it is hoped things will return to some sense of normality.

Our parish Hon Treasurer, Eric Logan writes;

Those parishioners who attend the Annual Easter Vestry each year will know that for most years I report a dismal picture of our finances in the group of parishes. Some years we manage to break even or show a modest surplus, but the over-riding trend has been successive deficits.

Covid-19 has had an extremely adverse effect on our finances. One of our main sources of income is from visitors to the vaults at St. Michan's and we would expect to generate income in excess of €85,000 each year from this. Because there have been no Church services our income from Church collections and the Envelope scheme have decreased also. In addition, we cannot hold any of the usual fundraising activities such as sales of work etc. The deficit for 2020 is estimated at around €90,000. That deficit amount is before adding the costs incurred during the year on the renovation of St. Werburgh's Church €111,000. I estimate that the deficit for 2021 will be in the region of €70,000. Even if Covid-19 restrictions are lifted in the middle of the year I do not think that we will see tourism picking up until 2022. Clearly the Group cannot continue to sustain losses of this size. We are in a very perilous financial situation and we urgently need to generate additional income.

We expect that the estimated deficit of €70,000 could be reduced with the curate's move to a new parish. The savings on assessment from the dioceses together with some rental income from the curate's house will assist in reducing this deficit. This is not likely to happen until mid-year.

However, we have an urgent need of funds immediately to help our cash-flow.

It appears that many members of the Envelope Scheme have been keeping their envelopes in anticipation of the Churches re-opening. But as we need the funds now, I am asking could your contributions be sent directly by bank transfer or by cheque to the Parish Office. Simply note what period of weeks that your contribution covers. It will be counted along with actual envelope amounts in making our claim to Revenue for Charity Tax refund.

For those who receive this newsletter who are not part of the Envelope Scheme I am appealing to you to contribute to parish funds.

Please send your contributions by bank transfer directly to our bank account, details of which are set out below. Alternatively, please send a cheque directly to the Parish Office. Cheques should be made payable to "Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes"

Thank you.

Eric Logan – Honorary Treasurer

Parish Bank Account details: -

Bank: AIB, 140 Lr. Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9

Account Name Select Vestry Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes

Account number 00163078

BIC: AIBKIE2D

IBAN: IE91 AIBK 9322 0500 1630 78

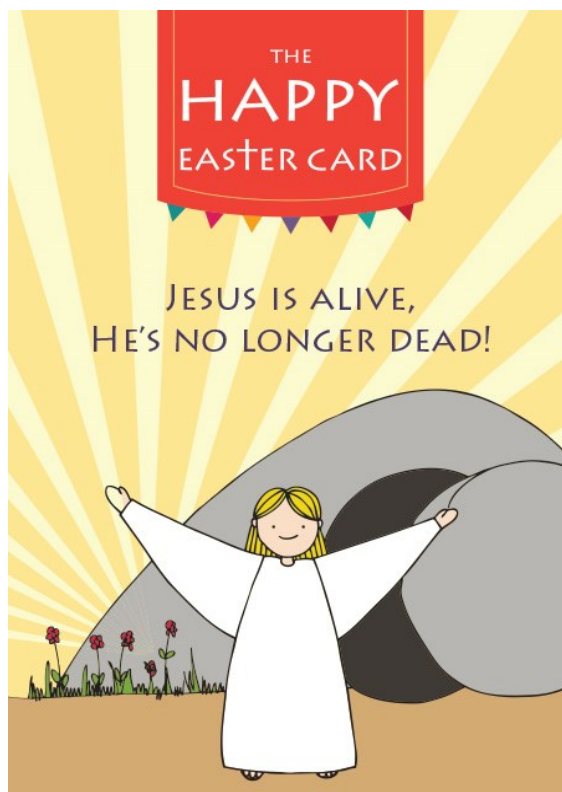
'Happy Easter' Eggs and Cards Available to Order Now

The *Happy Easter Egg* is available again this year alongside a new addition – the *Happy Easter Card*. Both are great tools to help reinforce the story of Easter.

Both the egg and the card come with the Happy Easter Story booklet inside. This tells the Easter story in easy-to-read rhyme and with great illustrations. There's also a free Easter competition, an online video version of the Happy Easter Story, and all sorts of other things to do. The card offers a great way to keep in touch with children and families whom you cannot meet in person at the moment.

Both the card and the egg have been commended by Archbishop Michael Jackson. "The focus given to the true meaning of Easter from a Christian perspective ought, of itself, to commend this particular egg to you as your No. 1 purchase this Easter," he said.

The high quality Irish chocolate egg and honeycomb crisp milk chocolates (total 195g) are from ethically sourced cocoa beans, made in Ireland and supporting Irish businesses. For every Happy Easter Egg purchased, 10c is donated to the Irish charity the Hope Foundation.



To find out more and to order visit the website: www.happyeasteregg.ie.

Please note that deadlines are tight – 8 March for eggs and 15 March for cards.

Recipes



BAILEYS BISCUIT CAKE

INGREDIENTS:

1 LOAF TIN
400 GRAMS RICH TEA OR DIGESTIVE BISCUITS (BROKEN)
100 GRAMS MALTEESERS
100 GRAMS BUTTER MELTED
300 GRAMS MILK CHOCOLATE
1 TIN OF CONDENSED MILK
30 MLS BAILEYS (OPTIONAL)
2 CRUNCHIES (BROKEN)



METHOD:

PUT BISCUITS, MALTEESERS AND CRUNCHIES INTO A BOWL AND MIX WITH MELTED BUTTER.

MELT CHOCOLATE AND ADD CONDENSED MILK.

ADD BAILEYS IF REQUIRED

MIX ALL INGREDIENTS TOGETHER AND PUT INTO A LOAF TIN.

PUT IN FRIDGE TO HARDEN

IF MIXTURE VERY SOFT ADD EXTRA MALTEESERS OR BISCUITS.

**Prayers that we can say together at
home:**



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and
the glory are yours
now and for ever.

Amen.

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.

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger
threatens
your everlasting arms are there
to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and
strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O Lord our God,
source of all goodness and love,
accept the fervent prayers of
your people;
in the multitude of your mercies
look with compassion
upon all who turn to you for
help;
for you are gracious, O lover of
souls,
and to you we give glory, Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

Amen.



The Revd Ross Styles and his wife Fiona and their children, Ben and Ava in Newcastle Parish Church following his institution as Rector of Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy and Calary.

Photo courtesy of United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough.



Add your voice

