

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL GROUP OF PARISHES.

All Saints' Church, St Michan's Church St Werburgh's Church

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Issue 6.

14th May 2020.



CONTACT



Parish Office—(01)
8724154

Email:
office@stmichanschurch.ie

The Archdeacon:
087-2630402
Email:
pierpoint.david@gmail.com

The Curate:
087-9892941
Email:
stylesross@gmail.com



Gospel
Reading:
John 14: 15—21



I hope that this newsletter finds you all safe and well. It has been exactly two months since we last gathered to worship together in our beautiful churches, on Sunday March 15th. Our world, our society and our own personal lives and habits have changed much in those two months. Covid-19 has changed us radically – our routines, our work, our schooling, our shopping habits, our social lives. Understandably our levels of fear and anxiety have increased. For some the changes have been even more profound, sadly through illness or bereavement.

I recently spoke to a friend whom I had last seen on March 8th. We have known each other for years, and only see each other occasionally, yet it usually only takes a few minutes to catch up. When I spoke with him, barely two months since last we had met, I asked that same casual question, 'Any news? How are things with you?'. There was no quick casual answer. All I got in reply was silence. The ubiquitous Irish answer of 'grand' did not apply. He wasn't grand. The weight of the last two months, all that he and his family have endured, through sickness, financial distress, bereavement, was encased in that silence. There was no quick reply. All that he had experienced took more

than a few minutes on the phone to describe.

In our reading from St. John's gospel for this Sunday, the sixth Sunday of Easter, we hear Jesus tell us, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments'. And the greatest of these commandments is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and to love your neighbour as yourself.

Even though our church buildings have been closed for two months, the church is still open. The church is its people, it is the community that comes together to worship and give thanks. We have aimed to remain connected through YouTube, Facebook and this newsletter. It is important to stay connected, to stay together as a community of faith, to worship and to love the Lord our God. It is also important to love our neighbours, to support one another. And that is the important thing that has not changed over the last two months, our sense of community, of friendship and the need to reach out and help each other, to listen and to care. The world around us may have changed but we have not. Covid-19 has not changed who we are, it has not changed how people care for each other, rather it has increased it. As we progress on our national path to gradually ease the lockdowns, we will emerge as a more caring and reflective society, united through our common experiences.

Stay safe and well.

God bless,

Ross

Parish Notes

Parish notice during Covid-19 lockdown

Following the decision to temporarily cease acts of public worship across the Church of Ireland due to Covid-19, there will be no services in St. Michan's Church or in All Saints Church for the foreseeable future. The buildings are closed but the church is more than a collection of buildings, it is a community of faith and, as such, the church never closes. At this time, we must follow the example of the early church and join together in prayer from our own homes. In order to keep in touch and pray together as a community, we are putting in place several ways to enable this. We will continue

with this newsletter, which will be emailed or posted out each week to parishioners. If you would like to be added to our email list and consent to us adding your name, please email Patricia at office@stmichanschurch.ie.

Secondly, we will be recording short services and reflections, which will be posted on our face book page:

Christchurch Cathedral Group of Parishes,
<https://m.facebook.com/cathedral/>.

We also now have a YouTube channel, St. Michan's Church Dublin, which will have recorded services and reflections each week. At this time, when we are all self isolating and many shops are closed, it can be difficult to access shopping or other services. If any parishioner needs any assistance, shopping or other supplies, please do not hesitate to contact the vicar on 087-2630402, email: pierpoint.david@gmail.com or the curate on 087-9892941 or email: stylesross@gmail.com.

Shopping can be left on doorsteps and social distancing can be maintained.

Newsletter Mailing List

This newsletter came into being as a means of staying connected as a community during these strange and unusual times. If you would like to continue receiving it, or alternatively, if you would like your name removed from our mailing list, please contact us and indicate your preference.

Email address: office@stmichanschurch.ie ,

Telephone: 01-8724154.

Songs of Praise:

We are planning to host a Songs of Praise video on our YouTube channel at the end of each month. Parishioners and friends are asked to send in their choice of one hymn and tell why it means something special to them. We are asking for one hymn each initially but, if the present situation continues over the summer months, then people may be asked again for more hymn suggestions!

This Songs of praise will be interspersed with pictures and images from all three of our churches in the group.

Please send your choice of hymn to the archdeacon at pierpoint.david@gmail.com or text him on 087 2630402 or to the curate at stylesross@gmail.com or text to 087 9892941.



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.



Craft Corner by Aisling Sheridan

This week I'm sharing a fun and simple puppet from a pattern I found in a book from a charity shop. I've simplified it slightly to make it easier for younger crafters.

You will need:

1 wooden spoon

16inch circle of fabric or paper

Ribbons, lace & any other trimmings you fancy

Coloured knitting yarn

8 – 12 large wooden beads

Glue

Markers

- 1 Cut out your circle of fabric or paper. I used a piece of an old apron and cut it out with pinking shears, but ordinary scissors are fine. If you're feeling really in details, you could hem the circle and sew on a lace or ribbon border, but this isn't essential!
- 2 Cut a small hole in the centre of the circle so that you can slot the handle of the wooden spoon into it. The back of the spoon bowl will be the face of the puppet.
- 3 Tie a pretty ribbon about 1 inch from the top of the fabric to give the dress a waistline.
- 4 Thread 4 – 6 wooden beads onto knitting yarn and knot to secure, then stitch or tie around top of the spoon handle to make a dangly arm on one side. Repeat for the second arm.
- 5 Plait some knitting yarn to make two plaits. Glue the plaits to some pretty braid and/or lace and glue to the top of the spoon bowl, with the plaits hanging down the back of the puppet.
- 6 Finally, draw a smiley face with the markers and get your puppet twirling and dancing!



Recipe by Clodagh Kingston

Gingerbread friends

Ingredients:

350g (12oz) plain flour

5ml (1 level tsp.) bicarbonate of soda

10ml (2 level tsp.) ground ginger

100g (4oz) butter or block margarine

175g (6oz) light soft brown sugar

60ml (4 level tbsp.) golden syrup

1 egg, beaten

Decorations of your choice



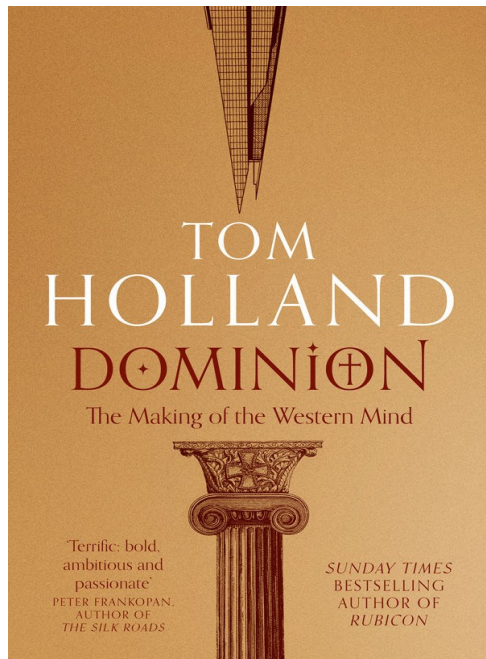
Method:

- 1 Grease or line 3 baking sheets.
- 2 Sift the flour, bicarbonate of soda and ginger into a bowl.
- 3 Rub the butter into the flour until the mixture looks like fine breadcrumbs.
- 4 Stir in the sugar.
- 5 Beat the syrup into the egg and stir into the flour and butter mixture.
- 6 Mix to form a dough and knead until smooth.
- 7 Roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface to about 5mm (1/4 in) thick.
- 8 Using your cutters, cut out figures and place them on the baking sheets.
- 9 Bake in the oven at 190°C/375°F/Gas mark 5 for 12-15 minutes until golden.
- 10 Cool slightly on the baking sheets, then place on a wire rack.
- 11 Decorate with icing or chocolate and enjoy! We made frogs, zombies and lots of people and bears in chocolate outfits!

Top tip: We doubled the recipe and after kneading, we wrapped and froze some of the dough for use another day.



Book Review by Ross Styles



Dominion by Tom Holland. Published by Little, Brown 2019. ISBN 978-1-4087-0695-4

Many years ago, as a student studying History in UCD, I was fortunate to attend a lecture given by historian and author, Tom Holland. Holland seemed adept at doing the impossible, bringing the study and enjoyment of the classical civilisations back into vogue, through books such as *Rubicon* and *Persian Fire*, and through his TV programmes on the BBC. His success lay in his skills as a communicator, breathing life into these stories of ancient empires.

In his latest book, *Dominion*, Holland charts what he describes as the Christian revolution and how Christianity has shaped western civilisation as we know it. The reader is carried swiftly through a historical account of the influence of Christianity on the formation of western society, highlighting notable Christian figures and events. This book is not a theological thesis on Christian morality, rather the role of Christianity in shaping the ideals and outlook of a secular western world, told through the eyes of an agnostic historian. It is an enjoyable and challenging read.

Prayers that we can say together at home:

God of compassion,
you hear the cries of all who are in trouble or distress;
accept our prayers for all those whose lives are affected by Covid-19:
strengthen them in their hour of need,
grant them perseverance and courage to face the future
and be to them a firm foundation on which to build their lives;
this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O Lord,
from whom all good things come;
Help us to follow your teaching,
so that by your holy inspiration
we may know those works that are good,
and by your merciful guidance we may perform the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

