



# tidings

DIOCESE OF TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY



SUMMER ISSUE 2020





# SLIGO GRAMMAR SCHOOL

*One Body, One Spirit*

## *Home from Home*

**This is Sligo Grammar School, a Church of Ireland co-educational boarding and day school situated in the heart of Sligo Town, on the banks of the Garavogue River, a stone's throw from Lough Gill and Yeats' Lake Isle of Inisfree. The setting beautifully combines the easy pace of country life with the buzz of a small but vibrantly cultural urban centre**

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**Sligo Grammar School offers over 20 subjects at Leaving Cert. level with consistently excellent academic results. In 2018 over 60% of our students were offered University places both at home and abroad.**

**Sligo's rich cultural heritage is reflected in extra-curricular activities such as debating and public speaking, music, choir, chess, and evening trips to the theatre.**

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**Sligo Grammar School offers a rounded education which values all intelligences. We pride ourself on our friendly, family atmosphere. The wellbeing of our students is important and our pastoral care team includes a Transition Year, Junior and Senior School Co-ordinator, Guidance Counsellor, Chaplain and Matron.**

**Bursaries, scholarships and grants are available.**

**Contact the school for details at: [admin@sligogrammarschool.org](mailto:admin@sligogrammarschool.org) or phone 071 9145010 and visit us at [www.sligogrammarschool.org](http://www.sligogrammarschool.org)**

**Headmaster: Mr. Michael Hall M.Sc B.Ed**



# tidings

## SUMMER ISSUE 2020

The magazine of the Church of Ireland  
Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry

[www.tuam.anglican.org](http://www.tuam.anglican.org)

## COPY DEADLINE

All submissions for the Summer Issue of Tidings, including advertisements, must be in by **Friday 4th September 2020**

## VIEWS EXPRESSED

Views expressed in Tidings are those of the contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the magazine committee.

## DIOCESAN MAGAZINE

All advertising enquiries should be directed to: Revd Dr Andrew Ison  
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Printing: KPS Colourprint Ltd  
Knock, Co. Mayo



## THE BISHOP WRITES . . .



Little did I think when I last wrote in February for our Quarterly Diocesan Magazine, that we would have experienced all that has happened since. Coronavirus and Covid 19 swept up on us almost imperceptibly. Then, we were only vaguely aware of the virus affecting people in far-away places – first in China and then in Northern Italy!

Now, as I write again three months on, we are in a strange new place. Across the world, Ireland included, thousands have perished and many more left bereaved and traumatised. The pandemic has changed life for us all. We have had to learn to live with constant hand-washing, self-isolation, restrictions and a lockdown. Thousands have lost their jobs, many others have been furloughed and an economic crisis awaits us all. Social distancing, Personal Protective Equipment, Cocooning, Shading, the R number, Zoom Conferencing and Virtual Services are now familiar terms in conversations. Difficult and frustrating days indeed for us all and we wonder when and how it will all end.

The irony is that at a time when the Church has been most needed, we have had to close the doors of our church buildings. Services, meetings and events have not been possible. Even funerals, as we normally experience them, have been severely curtailed with those

attending graveside services limited to a handful of immediate family members only. Yet, with great fortitude and care, your clergy and many of the laity too have responded to the situation. I know of lots of small and imaginative actions across our dioceses that have brought comfort and practical support for those who are most vulnerable, and I thank you all.

I read recently about liminal space. It is a state and sometimes an outer situation where we can begin to think and act in new ways. It is where we are betwixt and between, having left one room or stage of life but not yet entered the next. It can happen when we lose a job or a loved one, during illness, at the birth of a child, or a major re-location. That surely is where we are right now.

In a liminal space we are not certain how things will turn out. We are no longer in control. We cannot stick to our 'ordinary routines' and neither are we required to perform to our usual successful patterns. Yet it is here, in the new space; the quiet, the slowing of pace, the uncertainty, the freedom, that we have opportunity to experience emptiness instead of fullness and with it, the challenge to fill that emptiness with something more substantial and grounded.

For me, and I hope for you too, the past few months, as well as being challenging, have seen an awakening within of perspective. It has been a time of renewed prayer and reflection, of appreciation of the natural world in all its beauty, of the importance of family, of friends and parishioners, of health and all of life's privileges. Amidst the isolation, fear, sadness, suffering and inevitable economic woes, may we all hold our nerve and appreciate this liminal space and the opportunities it presents.

+Patrick Tuam





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### **DUE TO CORONAVIRUS, ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE PROVISIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

#### **JUNE**

**Thurs 11th** Diocesan Board of Education, via Zoom, 2pm  
**Thurs 11th** Diocesan Finance Committee, via Zoom, 3.30pm  
**Thurs 11th** Diocesan Glebes Committee, via Zoom, 5pm  
**Thurs 11th** Diocesan Council, via Zoom, 7pm  
**Mon 15th** RB Week, Dublin

#### **JULY**

**Sun 26th** Government's Roadmap indicates Church services may be able to resume

#### **AUGUST**

**Sun 2nd** Claremorris Service, 12noon

#### **SEPTEMBER**

**Sun 6th** Claremorris Service, 12noon  
**Fri 11th** Ordination Retreat for Deacons and Priests, Glenstal Abbey  
**Sun 13th** Ordination of Deacons, St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala, 4pm  
**Mon 14th** RB Week, Dublin  
**Sat 19th** Diocesan Synod, St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam, 10.30am  
**Tues 22nd** Joint Working Group, Gort, 11am  
**Sun 27th** Ordination of Priests, St Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway, 11am

#### **OCTOBER**

**Sun 4th** Claremorris Service, 12noon  
**Mon 5th** Clergy Conference, Adare  
**Thurs 8th** Diocesan Council, Claremorris, 2pm





## AN ISLAND 'COCOONED'

Many of the catchphrases in use at this time centre around the idea of 'by staying apart, we come together'. Never has that been more evident than here on the island of Achill. Lying in the Atlantic at the most westerly point of Mayo, and joined to the mainland by a swing bridge, Achill and its community is, in many ways, its own little world. With a permanent population of about 2,600 living here all year round, Achill has a very high percentage of elderly people amongst that number. Roughly 1,000 of the community are over the age of sixty-five. This means that a very large percentage are experiencing what it is like to be 'cocooned' during the restrictions, and on this island very those restrictions relating to Covid19 are vital.

There has been the most wonderful response from all corners of the island. It was very quickly realised that while many people living alone did have local extended family also on the island who could at least come and say 'hello', albeit through the glass of the window, others are totally on their own as their families have emigrated or have found themselves unable to return to the island due to the restrictions. So, knowing this, the local community responded through the local GPs, the Achill Futures group and the Tourist board getting together to see what could be done to help those 'cocooned'.

The response was immediate and the Achill Community Services was set up in the offices of Achill Tourism. The Achill Tourism staff now manage a co-ordination centre with a phone line that operates from 9am-5pm, 7 days a week. A list of volunteers has been drawn up for every village and area. Calls can be made to the centre if groceries are needed, prescriptions needing to be collected from the Pharmacy, letters that need posting, bins put out for collection etc. The staff go to the Super Valu at the Sound to do the necessary shopping and the boxes

and bags are delivered to the volunteers around the island for distribution. This has also involved the local Link bus service volunteering.

This wonderful community service also provides, through St. Colman's Day Care Centre, home dinners. These are delivered to homes all around the island on five days a week to cover six days of the week. This is a service that St. Colman's provides all year round but now people have been invited to phone in and order meals should they need them. The staff of St. Colman's many of whom are part time, now work full time, volunteering the extra hours. Meals are prepared following with exactitude the Health and Scientific requirements. So the elderly people, especially those with no immediate family, see regular visits from volunteers calling to say hello from the safety of the front garden, see if anything is needed and deliver it if required.

But what are some of the things that make cocooning difficult for the elderly. One of the most obvious that is often mentioned is the absence of church services in both the Catholic and Church of Ireland churches. For those with computers or smartphones the virtual services and masses are greatly appreciated but the opportunity to meet up and pray is missed. For many of the elderly the outing to church on a Sunday is the chance to meet extended family and neighbours. Activities such as Knit and Stitch groups, Bridge Groups, Art classes, Gardening classes and of course the very important Day Care Centre keep the elderly community in touch with one another and their absence is keenly felt. But the spirit of care and community is alive and obvious to see here on Achill Island.

Maebh O'Herlihy



## SAFEGUARDING TRUST CANON DORIS TO STEP DOWN...

Canon Doris Clements has been overseeing training of clergy, parish panel members and leaders ever since Safeguarding Trust was first introduced in 1997....23 years in all! Along with Mrs Mildred Gilmore, they oversaw both the training and parish audits for some 20 years together. In recent years, following Mildred's retirement, Doris was joined by others.

Doris has now tendered her resignation from this role. Having to cope with various health issues, she feels it is time to step down. I wish therefore, to record our sincere thanks to Doris for all her hard-work, enthusiasm and diligence in overseeing this important

work over such a long period. She has always, in my experience, been dependable, thorough and never shirked from driving long distances, often at night, to ensure a group of leaders received the latest update in child protection procedures. We are most grateful and much indebted as a diocesan family.

Our current team of 'Trained Trainers' consists of the Reverend Carole Reynolds, Mrs Catherine Emerson, Mrs Heather Pope and Canon Jen McWhirter. They are willing to offer all available support to clergy as required.

## APPOINTMENTS

### Ordination of deacons

**Dr Paidi Delaney** to be Ordained Local Minister in the Galway and Kilcummin Group of Parishes from Sunday 13th September.

**Mr Clive Moore** to be Ordained Local Minister in the Killala Union of Parishes with liturgical and pastoral responsibility in Ballycastle and Crossmolina Parishes from Sunday 13th September.

**Mrs Caroline Morrow** to be Ordained Local Minister in the Kilmoremoy Union of Parishes with liturgical and pastoral responsibility in Killanley Parish from Sunday 13th September.

### Ordination of priests

**The Reverend Karen Duignan** to continue as Ordained Local Minister in the Kilmoremoy Union of Parishes, with liturgical and pastoral responsibility in Kilglass and Easkey Parishes from Sunday 27th September.

**The Reverend Maebh O'Herlihy** to continue as Ordained Local Minister in the Aughaval Group of Parishes with liturgical and pastoral responsibility in Dugort Parish, Achill from Sunday 27th September.

**The Reverend Carole Reynolds** to be Ordained Local Minister in the Galway and Kilcummin Group of Parishes with liturgical and pastoral responsibility in Kilcummin Parish, Oughterard from Sunday 27th September.





## TECHNOLOGY DURING THE LOCKDOWN

'Necessity is the mother of invention' is a well-known adage but in this time of the churches being closed it became a reality. To be honest, the phrase isn't really what I mean as everything I needed had already been invented, it was just that now I needed to learn how to do it. I am by no means a technophobe but you will know exactly what I mean. You will have all got some piece of electrical kit and got to that point when you have charged it up and the moment comes to switch it on. It is that moment you dread because you know you will be faced with questions as you set up the machine that you really don't know whether you should hit the YES button or the NO button. And having hit the YES button will you ever be able to undo that step.

Our TV stopped working just after Easter and so we needed a new one but like many when you go to the electrical retailer's website (you cannot go to the shop) the choice is phenomenal and no two TVs have exactly the same facilities. I didn't know what 4K meant or HDR for that matter. So I did what anyone of my age would do I called for a teenager! Problem solved. We now have a TV which has a mouse remote, you can talk to and watch Netflix on. I let the teenager set all that up!

However, we have also had to get around the problem that our churches were shut with, really, only a few days' notice and what were we to do. Wisely, the Dean got some of us to drive to Foxford and record Sunday services before we were not allowed to travel. However, for me there was still the thought of doing something local as I was sure I could replicate what the Dean had done and he wonderfully told me what to do.

My first attempt was on the 5th Sunday of Lent. I wrote out my script in full and wedged my phone in front of my computer screen, hit record and went for it. It went well but I couldn't seem to prevent it suddenly turning me into shadow and back into the light despite the fact that I maintained my position and the ambient light was also still the same. So I decided to try the video camera which was how the dean had recorded us. I knew I had one somewhere so a delve around in a draw found the box and everything was there. So, charge it up, find an SD card that worked and then again the issue of how to set it up to record myself while reading from the computer screen. The photo shows the set up. The video camera raised up on a bunch of boxes. The difficulty was I still need to be able to reach the record button on the camera. Hence the lunge out and in at the start and end of every service!

In addition, there was always what was behind you and to be honest my background was a mess, as you can see. Dave Walker who does a cartoon in the Church Times made fun of this recently. He had four scenarios, the scholarly one with bookshelves behind



the minister, the artistic, with flowers, sculptures and nice pictures behind, the spiritual with a cross and other religious symbols behind and as I have demonstrated, the realistic.

It turned out that what I had done so far was the easy bit. The procedure was then to take the SD card out of the camera and stick it in the computer and transfer the file. I learned the hard way that the format I had the video in was not compatible with Youtube. Fortunately, I had a programme on the computer that would convert music or video files to other formats and so I converted it. I then discovered that I couldn't share the video from my computer as I work from a desktop. I then had to transfer the video file from my computer to my phone, play it and share it with Youtube. I then could go back to the computer, go into Youtube and schedule it for whenever was needed. However, as the teenager then pointed out it was wise to have a thumbnail image to front your video so we created those in Word but Youtube wanted a photo format. We worked out that a screenshot was what we needed but couldn't do. So, in the end I would send the teenager an E-mail with an attachment who would then open the document on her phone, screen shoot it and then send back the image which we could load up to Youtube. Job almost done! Final thing was to copy the URL thing, you know that line at the top of the screen that identifies your video and copy that into a page on our own website and into a WhatsApp group (something else I had managed to create for the first time) so that people could find the video.

Have we changed forever? I don't think so but we have certainly moved forward. The video service is fine but it lacks many elements of worship and fellowship that meeting together brings. I think it is an additional tool we can build upon and this time is enabling us to have that opportunity to experiment and learn. It may help us reach members of our churches who are housebound or away from home. There is always something good to come out of any tragedy and this may be just one.

Andrew Ison



## THE INSPIRING SPIRE

Wednesday 11th March took the shape of most of my Wednesdays, but little did I realise that it would be the last of such days for a very long time. At 10.00am I walked down the hill to the Vincent de Paul shop where I worked a shift until 1.30pm. The conversation was lively as usual and the coronavirus did feature in musings on its seriousness or the wisdom of allowing Cheltenham go ahead. Some customers were anxious, some gung-ho - no worse than a 'flu you know.

At 1.30pm I waved gaily to Vera and Mary as they took over the shift, calling "See you next week" as I headed to the door and off to lunch with some friends. The chatter was non-stop as we caught up on each other's lives. We talked about winter holidays both taken and planned, a new grandchild, plans for summer ahead and, yes, coronavirus. The seriousness of the news reaching us from Italy was certainly causing us anxiety, the uncertainty an underlying fear. But we parted happily, our future plans intact and I went to Supervalu to do some shopping for dinner. Little did I know that it would be a long time before I saw my lunch companions again, or that it would be the last time I would be in the shop. I still haven't been as I write this from my cocooning or self isolation. The previous autumn I had been diagnosed with an autoimmune illness. I was, and still am, very much in the experimental stages of medication, and, as with all autoimmune diseases, I am very susceptible to bugs and viruses. Covid-19 could be very dangerous for me. So on Friday 13th March, on medical advice, I went into self isolation.

Looking back nearly eight weeks later, there is a surreal aura about my life. Immediately I cancelled all the dates in the diary. I contacted our priest-in-charge, Elaine, to apologise for not being able to assist with services, which I had been doing as a parish reader. Little did I realise that the unthinkable would happen and the doors of our churches would close for an indefinite time.

The first week was fine. Although events were being cancelled and advice issued about how people should live, who thought we would need a coughing etiquette or to sing certain songs while constantly washing hands, the cocooning for the over seventies and those like me with underlying problems had not begun. Schools, pubs, restaurants were closed but my husband could still do the shopping. We would pack a picnic and drive to a deserted beach for walks and fresh air.

Then bang – lockdown complete. My over seventy husband and I looked at each other in disbelief. But we, like the whole country, have adjusted. One of the lessons of this adjustment is to take a day at a time and roll with it. I think, if we had been told it would be eight weeks, ten weeks, sixteen weeks as very, very slowly restrictions on our freedom would be lifted, it would have been very difficult. One of the most disconcerting things is the lack of structure in the week, how each day melts into another. Sunday? No Wednesday? Looking at my diary on a Monday morning, the crossed out plans for dinner parties, birthdays, concerts, choir rehearsals, gardening club, book club showed an emptiness to our lives. Easter Week was particularly sad. Services on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, gone. Decorating the church on Saturday, gone. The glorious service on Easter Day, gone.

But human beings are resilient. We find different ways of communicating, of keeping busy. Facetime, Zoom, and WhatsApp keep us in touch with family and friends. The chemist delivers our medication, the butcher our meat, the deli cheeses and pates and treats. All left on the on the doorstep with a ring of the bell and a cheery wave. Supervalu delivers the essentials every week including wine! A kind neighbour brings the paper every morning. The generosity of people is astonishing.

The garden is immaculate. Every fence, piece of garden furniture and shed is painted to within an inch of its life. Creativity in planning and cooking meals, innovative exercise plans - a very different way of life.

I would not be truthful if I did not admit to very low days. Days when walls are climbed and the fog of self pity descends. These days, I have discovered, cannot be denied but wallowing has to be cut short.

Our house is across the road from Christ Church, our church. It has a spire reaching to the sky with a cross on top. I can sit in my favourite chair and look at it. I can sit on our deck in these glorious weeks of weather, and see it glinting in the sun with a backdrop of bright, cloudless blue. I can look out the bathroom window at two in the morning and see it surrounded by stars and bathed in the silvery moonlight. Sometimes, just like us, it becomes lost in the mist but then reappears again, reaching towards the heavens as it has done for many years, enduring the wild Atlantic storms.



And we will endure this too. We are blessed. Our families are safe, we are protected. We can pay our bills, we don't have to juggle our working lives and home schooling. We do not mourn for a loved one we could not bury. We can watch our garden grow and blossom with green shoots every day. We have

free concerts morning and evening with melodic birdsong. We have each other and we have our faith.

Frankie Hill-Thornburgh

## NOTIFICATIONS



Mr Arthur Sweeney, Parish Reader in Killala Parish, has been recommended by a Selection Conference for training for full-time stipendary ministry in the Church of Ireland.

We congratulate Arthur and wish him every blessing as he digests this news and prepares to enter the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in September. Having already completed the one-year Foundation Course, his full-time studies will last for two years before he is ordained a deacon. He will be one of eight candidates embarking on training for full-time ministry this Autumn and the only one from the Republic of Ireland!

Please remember Arthur and his colleagues at this time of change.

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## BALLINA CHURCHES TOGETHER

### Ballina Centre of Mission

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The arrival of the Covid-19 Pandemic in our midst, has changed our approach to ministry and mission. In the early days of the outbreak as churches closed, denominations had a problem to solve – how could we continue to have a meaningful church experience for people? As churches closed their doors and we could no longer congregate - we considered how we could connect with the isolated and lonely, the elderly who were 'cocooning' and those with vulnerable health issues. These are indeed - exceptional times which have challenged all of us to reconsider how we may engage as Christians with society and people in our local communities. One of the greatest dangers

of this pandemic is the issue of social isolation. As a result of this, new terminologies are now part of our everyday vocabulary, such as 'social distancing' 'self-isolation' and 'cocooning'. All these essential and important measures are part of our social responsibility towards our friends, colleagues and neighbours. However, isolation and loneliness hurt, and are detrimental to peoples' health and mental well-being. As humans, we have a deep need to be connected, to belong, to have friends. At times we all seek solitude, but few would choose to be isolated and lonely, especially as we are aware, that 'it is not good to be alone'. Social isolation is not the same as chosen solitude and it is a particularly difficult experience for people who live alone. People feel isolated, anxious and concerned about their lives in the future. Many of the people we work with need pastoral care, encouragement and practical care. All this required that we continued to do our work, but in different ways as the needs presented themselves. As a faith community we need to be a calm and compassionate presence in the lives of those who are anxious. We can bring hope, in reminding people - 'That this too shall pass'. One of the most powerful gifts we have been able to give people is that of a





*Hello,* If you are self-isolating, we can help.

We are representatives from Ballina Churches Together & The Big Blue Bus. Please feel free to contact us via email: [bctballina@gmail.com](mailto:bctballina@gmail.com) or call: Emma (087) 434 7612 or Marion (086) 844 6536.

If you're self-isolating due to Covid-19 we can help with:

☐ A friendly phone call ☐ Prayer

Coronavirus is contagious. Therefore we will take every precaution to make sure we're only spreading kindness. That being said, there are still ways that we would like to offer a bit of encouragement in these difficult times. If you feel like these things would be a blessing, please feel free to email or call.




'listening ear'. Many people feel overwhelmed by the sudden and swift crisis which has come upon the world and most often, what they need is someone with whom they chat and express their fears. We have been able to do this every day, through regular phone conversations which are upbeat and cheerful, through laughter, words of hope and comfort. Sometime people simply need a listening ear, where they can vent their fears and frustrations. Text messaging, Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp groups all facilitate dialogue.



Thoughtful emails, letters and cards in the post, we provide words of encouragement and hope, reminding people that they are in our thoughts and prayers. Acts of kindness, such as leaving bunches of flowers and plants for containers on the doorstep, brightens the days of those who are self-isolating or 'cocooning'. Doing the shopping, collecting medications, and running errands all provide practical care on a weekly basis. Others have received sad news of loved ones and friends who are ill or have died from the illness in the UK. To them we seek to give words of comfort and support at this difficult time. We have prayed for those who are ill and with those who are grieving. Since the beginning of the crisis in March, our work for Ballina Churches Together has changed. Initially, people scrambled to react and readjust to the new reality of church closures, working from home and home-schooling our children. We were no longer able to use the Big Blue Bus for weekly drop-in and

kids-clubs. Neither could we meet for the weekly bible study and in response we have changed how we do our work and adapted to meet the new challenges. During the first week of lockdown, we printed hundreds of leaflets and distributed them through St Vincent de Paul, in their food parcels. The leaflets shared our contact details and offered a telephone call, or practical help to anyone self-isolating, or needing assistance.

One lady, who we are providing pastoral care to has the condition of MS. She is crippled with fear about her illness, uncertain about what the future holds and struggles with the isolation and lack of human interaction. She needs friendship, support, and encouragement daily. Enforced social isolation is wearing away at her well-being, but we can give her support, companionship and hope at this difficult time.

A few of the isolated farmers who visit our Blue Bus 'drop in', have expressed their feelings of isolation. Regular phone calls have helped them feel less anxious and feel more connected. The Syrian community seem confused by the current situation but regular contact through telephone calls and WhatsApp has helped them.

Marion and I (Emma) are currently in the application process to volunteer to be a 'listening ear' with the Aware support line, phone service which provides support and care to those struggling with depression, made worse by ongoing situation.

At Easter time, we continued our Children's work by distributing gift-bags to the children in the housing-estates which we visit through the Blue Bus. Each bag was filled with craft ideas, colouring pages and pens, crisps, and sweets. We will continue to distribute these monthly until we have the bus out in the community once more.





Our weekly prayer meetings for Ballina Churches Together are currently held on Saturday and Sunday evenings (7:30pm-8:30pm) through Zoom. On Wednesday 6th of May, we began our weekly Bible study on Zoom, we had 15 people attend online. We are watching the 'Life explored' video series which will run for seven weeks. This series explores the question – "What is the best gift God could give you?" This short film series explores some of the ways in which we try to find happiness and ask the questions – "What is the one thing we dream about having?" Are you really looking in the right place?" Anyone who would like to join our Zoom Bible study on Wednesdays at 8pm this will be ongoing until 17th of June.

The Zoom link and details are:  
<https://zoom.us/j/96149885721>  
**Meeting ID: 961 4988 5721**

We can be contacted through our Ballina Churches Together Facebook page @BallinaBus.

Our trips to Sheffield have also come to a halt. This year's Church Army's 2020 Centres of Mission conference will be held on-line from Tuesday (12th May) to Thursday (14th of May). The guest speaker will be Graham Cray, who is currently an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of York and the diocesan advocate for pioneer ministry and fresh expressions of Church. Topics to be explored will include discerning, listening and joining in with what God is doing in the community – 'Missio Dei'. We will also discuss disciple-making and shaping the church to be hospitable, relational, and missional. Marian will continue her residential training (lectures) with Church Army from May 21st to 23rd this will also be run on-line.

Emma Rodrigues and Marian Edwards

## EDUCATION AT HOME UNDER LOCKDOWN

### Comments by National School Holy Trinity Westport children

Usually I have to go outside to get some fresh air, but now I have to do the complete opposite. I have to stay inside as much as I can and help the Coronavirus not to spread. During the pandemic I have been doing all sorts of things: baking, making, climbing, rhyming, playing, swaying, reading, kneading (in baking) and colouring as well. I can deal with it at home. My brain has now gone to mush from staying at home so I hope I can go back to school soon. But luckily I do find it kind of fun at home.

**By Ben, 2nd class (8 years old)**

I think the confinement due to Covid-19 is a good way to spend more time with your close family. I also think that doing home-schooling can be a way to learn independently even if I miss school. But I don't think it is too good to restrain everyone from meeting people for too long because for us children and even adults are finding it hard not to meet our friends and family. But it is great that in Westport there are lots of nice walks to do and there's a lot of time to play outside in the lovely sunny weather at the moment.

**By Roselle, 5th class (11 years old)**



# tidings

DIOCESE OF TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY

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## WHERE'S THE HAIR-DYE?



Once upon a time, when I was young, I studied a novel by Albert Camus called 'La Peste.' Published in 1947 it tells the story of a plague sweeping through a city in Algeria and how its inhabitants coped in the face of the onslaught. I have thought a lot about that text over recent weeks for the comparisons are unavoidable as our safe old world of former days give

way to a surreal and terrifying new normal. Who could have imagined as we planned activities and outings and holidays as recently as Christmastime that these days would unfold as they have.

It seems to me we now fall into different groups – those fighting for their lives as sufferers of Covid19; those going through the agonies of bereavement; those front-line carers whether clad in PPE at the bedside or diligently cleaning hospital floors, or digging graves in cemeteries and those of us kicking up a fuss that we can't get our hair cut or find a bag of self-raising flour. Some bear all this with patient resignation while others rail against governments, establishments, commercial companies and... God. We each have our coping mechanisms and we each have our breaking points.

In truth at first it was all a bit of a novelty. There was almost a childlike glee at being 'locked up' in our homes with all our 'stuff' and relative comfort. As a wife whose husband travels the length and breadth of the country, it was an unexpected boon to have him to ourselves, without distractions for a prolonged period. Back then it seemed it was all happening 'out there,' far away from the familiarity of our firesides. It hit home quickly when a lovely lady whom I have recently got to know informed me of the details of what she described as 'the worst illness of her life'. With that, the peril of the days we are confronting finally hit home for me.

And then there are the daily statistics which mount with terrifying rapidity. Numbers become meaningless but each evening we hold a collective breath and pray that a decrease will be announced, that we will finally be told we are over the worst but too often hopes are dashed and we fail to see light at the end of this overwhelmingly dark tunnel. Our helplessness engulfs us.

Each one of us has a story to tell, each of us has our own preoccupations and responsibilities. For me these days it's trying to explain to a young adult with Down's Syndrome – that no, she cannot go to work today; that no, she is not able to see her friends; that no, she cannot go to meet her new niece and namesake and no, we will avoid checking out ailments at the health centre because it's not, if possible, a place we want to go to; and finally no, I don't know when we will ever get back to normal. So, we'll just bake some more, we'll colour in cards, we'll watch television, we'll saunter up the road another time and we'll get the day in. Human beings are gregarious creatures; we need other human beings. We starve if we are denied social interaction but the social interaction we risk is that ultimate reliance on a masked face and a gloved hand.

And where is your God? the cynic asks. And why such suffering? We have few answers to all this but we have got to believe that our God is here. Right in the middle of it. Not punishing, not judging – just being. Alongside the supermarket checkout girl, alongside the terrified young nurse; alongside the distracted mother cradling her baby from her partner's fists, alongside the man who's turned to drink as he contemplates the collapse of his business. We have got to believe our God does indeed reign and is with us, alongside us in every moment of these perilous days. He is with us even in our moments of temper and frustration when the Wi-Fi fails, when the washing machine breaks down and the food delivery does not arrive. He is with us when the phone rings and it is the worst news of all, the battle lost for life.

The citizens in Camus' Oran survived the plague but not before much was revealed about the way we human beings live our lives. So what does our present day 'peste' reveal about me? What does it reveal about you? We struggle on...

Alison Rooke



## LEAVING WITHOUT PHYSICAL GOODBYES

On Sunday 23rd February I announced to my parishioners that I had been appointed Rector of Ballybay Group of Parishes, Co. Monaghan, in the Diocese of Clogher and would begin my ministry there on 4th June.

At that time there were no reported cases of Covid-19 in Ireland and so I presumed that our usual pattern of Sunday worship in Omev Union of Parishes would continue until the end of May when I would depart for Monaghan. Likewise, I assumed that our monthly coffee mornings and other social events which I was planning would go ahead too. I did not realise then how rapidly things would change and how much our normal parish life would be disrupted. By the middle of March our churches were closed, we could no longer gather together to worship, we were forced to stay apart and, thus, prevented from doing the usual things which we had taken for granted.

I had been looking forward to the Holy Week and Easter liturgies in the parish churches, but this year we had to observe Holy Week in very different circumstances than usual due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead of meeting together in our churches on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, we remembered the events of Holy Week from our own homes rather than gathering together.

Prior to departing for Monaghan, I had also been looking forward to continuing to visit parishioners in their homes, but this practice had to cease due to the restrictions which were imposed. I have tried to keep in touch with people by phone, but it is not the same as seeing them in person.

As we have been unable to meet together as a community to worship, I have encouraged parishioners to consider viewing worship services online or on television, or listening to them on the radio. In addition, I have suggested various liturgical resources which people may wish to use for their own private prayers and devotions. People do miss coming together and there is a realisation that, with regard to church services and parish activities, things may not go back to how they were for some time.

North-west Connemara is a seasonal tourist hotspot and from mid-March to late autumn the area is usually very busy and this has an impact on our church attendance with considerably more people attending during the summer months than the winter. However, this year things will be very different. At present, the hotels, hostels, B&Bs, pubs, bars, coffee shops, restaurants, galleries and all non-essential businesses are closed, and I fear that many people will face great

challenges to their security of work and income in the coming months.



A deserted Main Street, Clifden, April 2020

However, despite the uncertainty and challenges which lie ahead, often it is in times of crisis that we can clearly see God at work in the selfless acts of so many who put others before themselves – in recent weeks people have taken the initiative and reached out using the phone and text messages to contact the elderly and those living alone to see if they can do anything to help them. Although the Covid-19 virus has effectively shut down our county, it has also, I feel, brought out the best in people and awakened our need for community and connectivity.

Like most clergy, I've always found it difficult to leave a parish as it means leaving behind very good friends and things which are familiar. For me personally as a priest, during this time of uncertainty when many are anxious and afraid, and we are faced with a series of unprecedented challenges which are impacting upon every aspect of the fabric of our society, it will be even harder to leave and move on to a new parish. It will not be possible to say farewell to people in person – 'goodbyes' will only be able to be done over the phone. It will also be challenging moving to a new parish and not to have a service of institution which would provide me with an opportunity to meet and greet my new parishioners. I may not be able to see them in person for some time, nor will we be able to have church services until late July.

Nevertheless, I think that the restrictions which have been imposed in recent weeks have caused me, and others, to reflect on the many things which we had previously taken for granted: our health, travel, socialising, sports and such like. Ironically, it was only when things were stripped back that many really began to truly appreciate what we had. Perhaps by remaining in our homes during the Covid-19 pandemic, there may be an opportunity to rediscover the value, as we read in St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, of "always giving thanks" (Eph 5:20).

Elaine Dunne



## COVID-19 AND THE CHRISTIAN (AND WHY SOCIAL DISTANCING WITH JESUS IS NOT NECESSARY).



I have had many weeks to get used to a new way of living, but the restrictions placed on me and my family due to COVID-19 still seem surreal. I keep expecting to wake up and reflect on my dreams, moving on with life as it was.

But this is no dream – it is reality.

My diary has become redundant and irrelevant, teasing me with events, meetings, concerts, synods and talks that were all written with confidence at a time when the notion of cocooning was confined in our imaginations to butterflies or moths.

We have missed several family events that are now postponed, including a grandson's christening and a son's wedding, as well as Easter gatherings where we were looking forward to enjoying fellowship and laughter around a festive table.

There are more prosaic events of course of which we are also bereft – walking more than two kms from our home, a restaurant meal, popping into the supermarket without feeling like you are a hardened and mischievous criminal ("Honestly, your honour - I did need some milk and bread!").

Most importantly, I miss face to face conversations with people - as Christians, we are born to fellowship. The word 'fellowship' comes from the Greek word, KOINONIA, which means "to share in common", and expresses the idea that we are drawn together for mutual benefit – encouragement, spiritual growth and learning (and fun too!). We need our words to be heard, to share our joy and to receive empathy in our pain and despair.

We are, of course, living in a time where technology can play an important role in communicating with our loved ones and my recent encounter with ZOOM has been both successful and comforting, facilitating as it does, family chats, often from several parts of the

globe. Then we have, Facebook, WhatsApp etc, all helping us to avoid a sense of isolation.

Isolation – a scary word for most of us as we break from routine. Separation, seclusion, segregation, loneliness, quarantine – all forms of grief in a way. As a person who revels in the company of others these words send a shiver down my spine – I need connection and reciprocal relationships, not to mention a hug or two.

It is not long since we celebrated Easter, many of us viewing our services on YouTube, looking through the window of our suspended lives and contemplating once again the incomprehensible sacrifice that was made for us by a loving Father.

Our reluctant embrace of this temporary isolation does not suit us, despite the imaginative and creative ways we have of keeping in touch. Yet, while we ponder on this inconvenience, we cannot even contemplate the isolation and the separation experienced by Jesus from his Father as he took on our sin in that glorious moment of substitutionary atonement. That was loneliness, that was isolation but above all – that was love.

In due course this situation will end but what will we have learned? Hopefully to value all we have. Our sense of gratitude, appreciation, joy, love and wonder will be heightened as we contemplate the variety and diversity of and in our world.

And perhaps in our quieter moments we might also reflect on, and appreciate more than ever, the sacrifice that was made for us on the cross, an embrace of grace from a Heavenly Father who wants no part of Social Distancing with his children.

Geoff Scargill

Geoff is a Trustee of St. James' Church, Crinken, Co. Dublin (Dublin & Glendalough)





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## QUIET DAY

The Annual Quiet Day for clergy and readers of TKA was held in Saint Mary's Cathedral, Tuam on 4th March. As is now our custom, our brothers and sisters from the diocese of Limerick and Killaloe were warmly invited to joined and they did so with enthusiasm.

The day began with a celebration of the Eucharist, presided at by Bishop Rooke and assisted by the Deans of Limerick and Tuam, Very Revd Nial Sloane and Very Revd Alistair Grimason. The Quiet Day reflections were led by the (then) Bishop of Clogher, Rt. Revd John McDowell. Little did we know that, a little over a week later, Bishop John of Clogher would be appointed Archbishop John of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland, by his fellow Bishops and Archbishop. Our new Primate took up office on 28th April, sadly and historically without the usual fanfare or enthronement service because of the Covid 19 restrictions. On the day that he officially assumed the See of St. Patrick he spoke to us through the media of a Press Statement. More of that in a moment. First there was the TKA & LK Quiet Day to account for.

In the morning session, Bishop McDowell spoke about Christian life in a world of Brexit and a rapidly changing 21st century Ireland, considering the place of the Church of Ireland in these contexts: where we had come from and where we are going to.

After lunch the Bishop led our thoughts on the theme of baptism; it's completeness and comprehensiveness as a dominical sacrament.

The day came to an end by both the Bishop and Tuam and the Bishop of Limerick thanking Bishop John for his addresses.

Normally when a Bishop becomes an Archbishop, and especially when that Archbishopric is Armagh, there

is much too-do in the Church of Ireland and in the press about what impact this new leadership appointment might have on both Church and Society. This time round, for obvious reasons, the speculation was rather muted. None the less, Archbishop John did address us all in a Primatial Pastoral Letter to the whole Church of Ireland. The full text of this can be found on the Church of Ireland and TKA websites. Here are just a few extracts.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever" (Psalm 118:1)

'From my point of view at least, it could hardly have been more appropriate that Psalm 118 is set for today's Morning Office (28th April). As I read it, the overwhelming impression that it leaves on my mind is as an expression of gratitude, dependence and optimism. And those are the sentiments uppermost in my own mind and heart today as I take up the office of Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.'

'As a Church we have the potential to model (and in some instances to create) a witness of deep-seated unity that transcends political, social and generational categories. But we can only do so by being true to ourselves, so that we may more fully "become what we are". We need to become what our Lord most certainly was, someone who listened with supernatural patience.'

'Had the plans for the General Synod gone ahead (NB Historical Note: General Synod 2020 was postponed because of the Covid 19 restrictions) we would have been presented, as a Church, with many opportunities to explain and to listen; to speak and to hear.

Some of those opportunities would have been, on the face of it, very ordinary. I am thinking here of the opportunity to consider the final pieces of legislation in relation to the amalgamation of the Dioceses of







Limerick and Killaloe and Tuam, Killala and Achonry, where the General Synod made space for careful listening and a deepening of communion (koinonia) between those who would be most immediately affected by the transition. A period of true dialogue and listening (adroitly led by the two bishops concerned) and leading to the building of trust and to positive outcomes with warm feelings likely to germinate seeds for the future.

In this category I'm thinking also of the final stages of the Bill on Diocesan Representation on the General Synod. This was where a group of people from every diocese in Ireland listened patiently to the "whys and wherefores" of equitable (rather than strictly proportionate) representation. In so doing, they had to acknowledge that the voice of Jesus is at least as likely to be heard where we are numerically weak as in places where we are strong.'

### In the context of the Covid 19 pandemic Archbishop John said:

'And as we reflect on the sacrifice of Christ, I want to pause for just a moment to notice and give heartfelt thanks for those people, especially those working in hospitals and care homes, who have put the saving of the lives of others above the protection of their own lives. Some have already paid the ultimate price for their bravery and their compassion.'

### Archbishop John concluded his Pastoral Letter with these words:

A great sifting process is going on in the world at present. We are at the end of an epoch, never mind an era. Old social systems and ways of life are being unmade and new systems and habits and attitudes will have to be brought together to replace them. On top of our historical and social divisions in Ireland, we are being caught in the down draught of a global wind. New animosities will evolve and old ones may survive.

How blessed we would be if we as a Church, amid such unprecedented times of flux, can show ourselves worthy of our calling as peacemakers and reconcilers – even if it is costly – because we rest in his steadfast love which "endures for ever". Only then might we be able to stand and answer the plea that calls across generations, not least here in Ireland: "We want peace ... tell us what to do".'

## EDUCATION AT HOME UNDER LOCKDOWN

### Comments by Second Level student in Galway

The day we were told that schools would be closing was an event more synonymous with a dystopian film than an average school day. I recall everyone's initial excitement. Phrases such as "we have five weeks off!" and "this means no Chemistry test!" were heard, as can be expected, however once the surprise died down what remained was uncertainty, anxiety and an element of fear. What was then a prolonged Easter holiday, has now escalated into an endless period of waiting, and the long term measures of dealing with a global pandemic. But what is it like for a student in the midst of Covid 19 isolation?

Every morning, I wake up a little later than normal, I sit at my desk and prepare for online classes. And just like that, the school day commences and it's full steam ahead. Honestly, continuing with school work allows me to escape from the reality of the world for a while and focus on something else. It's only when you do the same thing every day that the novelty of wearing your pyjamas for a prolonged period of time wears off. I begin to miss the

banalities, the brisk walk to school every morning and chatting to my friends at lunch. Even the monotonous tasks become nostalgic, because we never really appreciate something until it's gone. In the midst of this fear we must search for a glimmer of hope in the future.

Coping with the impact of Covid 19 is a difficult reality, however we must persevere. Take a little extra time each day to reach out to a friend, read a book, or think about something you appreciate right now. We can easily be influenced by the pressures to improve ourselves at the moment, to learn a language or obtain a new skill. While that is how many choose to pass the time, some people may prefer to focus on their mental health and take care of themselves without any external pressure. In a time of crisis, we must look out for one another, be a part of the action taken by the nation and be able to navigate our way back after this time has passed.

By Susan Morton, 5th year student.



## THE CORONAVIRUS – A PERSONAL ACCOUNT

by Debbie Watkins

The effects of the coronavirus came to us as a family on the 12th March 2020. Until then, it was a strange story that we read about in the news, a malevolent new illness that was advancing from China to Europe but which hadn't yet touched our lives.



Debbie Watkins making her 'ceramic landscapes' in her home studio.

I work part time as a teacher in a mental health day centre in Clifden, teaching ceramics to adults from all over Connemara. On the 12th March my three daughters packed up their books for the last time in their schools. I learned later that day that I was to stay at home until the 29th of March, in line with all secondary school teachers nationally. It is May and my three daughters and I are still at home. My husband is self-employed and he was obliged to close our gallery business shortly afterwards. Fortunately, as an artist he is still able to carry on with his own work behind closed doors. We are in receipt of the Covid-19 emergency payment so we have some financial security in the short to medium term.

My eldest daughter should be sitting her Leaving Certificate exams in a couple of weeks but this has been postponed until the end of the summer, if it goes ahead at all. She has adjusted to this new timetable although there is uncertainty about the issue still and there is a heavy strain in the knowledge that she must continue studying on her own for a further three months.

We have all adjusted to our new lives in lockdown and we have adhered meticulously to the guidelines from the government. It wasn't easy at first and our teenagers found it hard to understand why they couldn't meet up with their friends, especially as many were rumoured to be meeting in the evenings early

on. It seemed like an impossible demand to put on them but they accepted it after a short while and they have adjusted well to a more confined but mostly congenial life with us at home.

A typical week involves everyone getting up at the usual time. Our girls retire to their rooms after breakfast to make contact with their schools online. They receive assignments on Monday mornings and they keep in regular contact with most of their teachers. Some classes are conducted through Zoom where they can chat with teachers and other students in a live forum. They find their way back to the kitchen at mealtimes and we take extended breaks outside when the weather is fine. Weekends are for relaxing so everyone can do exactly what they want to do. We all go out for short walks during the day, sometimes in pairs, sometimes on our own. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful part of the country which is all the more enjoyable in fine weather.



'Streamstown Hills, Connemara' – ceramic landscape by Deborah Watkins.



'New Growth, Connemara' – ceramic landscape by Deborah Watkins.



My parents live on the east coast and are being cared for by my brother. We keep in contact through WhatsApp and have regular video chats. We are happy in the knowledge that they are safe and that they do not have to risk their health by going out into the community.

This morning we watched a helicopter land on the GAA pitch opposite our house where it collected a person from a waiting ambulance. The operation may or may not have been Covid-19 related but it left me with an enormous sense of gratitude for all our front-line workers and for my H.S.E. colleagues still working in the Elm Tree Centre. I feel grateful to belong to a society that cares for all its citizens and for a leadership that cherishes its people first.

Personally, I have found that there is not only balm but delight in all manner of industry and it comes easily to me as a creative person. I continue my ceramic work at home, I sew face masks for colleagues, family and friends, I crochet, I knit and I bake. Sometimes, there is an overwhelming sense of joy that is hard to justify but it comes with the knowledge that we are safe, that my loved ones are safe and near at hand and that we belong to a caring society. If I fear anything it is the return to life outside our home and to living with the risk of the virus in the future. For now, it is easier not to think too far ahead and to cherish the small bright moments that each day brings.

## WORKING DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

I have continued to work full time in my place of work since the lockdown on 29th March. As Education Guide in Connemara National Park, and a public servant, my job is considered to be part of the essential services network.

Normally, Easter begins the tourist season in Connemara. The visitors are usually very much in evidence on the roads, making their way to Connemara National Park and Kylemore Abbey. But this year things are very different... the roads are empty. It's a very strange feeling driving to and from work with little or no traffic going in either direction.

My job involves visiting schools to do biodiversity/nature sessions with classes, taking groups on guided walks in the Park area and having schools visit for nature activities. But since lockdown started, my job has become office based, my office being the National Park, this is not such a bad place to have to work every day!

There are eight of us working most days, three office-based and the balance are general operatives, looking after maintenance and the farm animals. Our canteen area is not the biggest and social distancing can be difficult, so we now have two lunch break times, when we can all sit the correct distance apart. We have all become very aware of our own hand hygiene and everyone else's, wiping

down door handles and tables and making sure we have hand sanitizer in numerous places throughout the office area.

The car park of the Park is closed to the public, but the walking trails are open to local people and with little or no visitors, I have noticed that nature has re-taken what once naturally belonged to it. We have a herd of native red deer and they are very much in evidence on one of the trails. They are just lazing around one of the fields, not paying attention to anyone who happens to be walking by.

The wild flowers, primroses, wild garlic and bluebells, that would normally be trampled at this time of year, have grown in abundance. The birdsong is much easier to hear as there are no traffic sounds to drown it out.

In effect, I live in two bubbles – a work bubble, with my fellow workmates and a home bubble, with my husband. At home, we only see our neighbours or anybody else for that matter, when we go out walking in the evenings.

Life is very strange at the moment, no church services, no pastoral visiting, no socialising and no shopping, but as a lot of people have already said, this too will pass and hopefully we will be the stronger for it.

Carole Reynolds



# COPYRIGHT

## A Brief Introduction about How Not to Break the Law and so Avoid Being Fined

Let's face it: Copyright restrictions are a pain for both Parishes and Dioceses. On the other hand, copyright income is how some people earn a living. Either way, copyright cannot just be ignored. The Laws of 'Good Intention' and 'Higher Purpose' do not trump The Laws of Copyright.

Now, any article about copyright could be anticipated with groans of dismay and disinterest. So I can fully understand if this page of Tidings is simply skimmed or even passed over entirely. So I intend to keep it as light and as easy as possible. But I will preface my remarks by saying this in bold letters:

**WE AS CHURCH EXHORT OTHERS TO HIGH STANDARDS OF MORALITY AND CORRECTNESS SO WE MUST EQUALLY HOLD OURSELVES TO THE SAME HIGH STANDARDS.**

In the past I ( and I dare say a lot of us ) have printed services and service sheets, including hymn words, for such things as Carol Services, Harvest Services, Confirmations, Baptisms and the like with a laissez faire attitude of 'sure it's only a few sheets and I'm doing it to promote the Gospel so what harm'. I was breaking the law. I was doing something illegal. In the normal course of events I do not break the law. I even take great pride in being able to boast that in 46 years of driving I have only ever had a single speeding ticket! So it is near to incomprehensible that I would blithely and repeatedly break the law when it comes to copyright. I salve my conscience by saying to myself that it's a victimless crime. But in truth it is no such thing. And the bottom line is, it IS a crime.

I was brought, rather abruptly, face to face with copyright and its implications when I started posting videos on the TKA website when the current lock down began. I use You Tube to publish these videos and I got a slap on the wrist by the moderators of You Tube over the head of one piece that I published. So I thought to have a closer look at the regulations so as to avoid future infractions. Here's a potted version of what I discovered.

Copyright Law is a minefield. There are so many bits and pieces and variations and convolutions that it's almost a study all by itself. So take nothing for granted. Go to the experts when it comes to 'definitive answers'. And don't treat this article as the final word. I am NOT a Copyright Lawyer!

### THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER 2004

The copyright for the texts of services in the BCP is held by the RCB. Here's their regulations: 'Permission to reproduce the text of any service or prayer is

required and requests should be made to the Copyright Secretary, Church of Ireland House, Rathmines, Dublin 6.'

HOWEVER, this is the bit that's probably more applicable to parishes:

'The need for written permission is waived for the use of material from The Book of Common Prayer on a particular occasion provided:

1. No charge is made for the publication.
2. The date and location or name of church are clearly stated.
3. The following copyright acknowledgement is made: "Material in this service from The Book of Common Prayer copyright © RCB 2004".
4. Not more than 500 copies are made.

This makes things easy for the occasions when we are producing service sheets for, say, Harvest Services or Confirmations etc. Effectively, just print the acknowledgement at the end of the service sheet. OR if you're reproducing words from the BCP on line in a video, acknowledge the copyright at the end of the video.

### THE HYMNAL 2000

This is a little more complicated. Can I direct you to page 643 of the Hymnal 2000. Put simply, the publishers of the Hymnal 2000, Oxford University Press, hold the copyright of the Hymnal. But they have done the leg work in regard to the copyright of individual hymns, by which they have negotiated with each owner of copyright so that one single licence will cover the reproduction of just about all the hymns in the hymnal. So if a parish wishes to reproduce the words of any hymn in the hymnal, that parish is covered under copyright law IF THAT PARISH BUYS A CHRISTIAN COPYRIGHT LICENCE.

The cost of buying that licence depends on the number of people that might reasonably be expected to be using the service sheet in which the hymn words are printed. So a large parish like Galway will pay more for the licence than a small parish like Foxford.

To give you an idea of cost, Galway pays CCL Ireland €414 to print hymns on their service sheets based on a congregation maximum of 249 people. The likes of Foxford might only be expected to pay perhaps €90 for a licence.

**BUT YOU ARE BREAKING THE LAW IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A CCL AND YET REPRODUCE HYMN WORDS IN A SERVICE SHEET.**



## THE BIBLE

It might come as a shock to realise that some translations of Holy Scripture fall under copyright. I know it did for me! For example, the New Revised Standard Version (which is the version that we almost universally use on a Sunday) is pretty liberal.

'Up to 500 verses of the NRSV may be quoted in any form (written, visual, electronic or audio) without charge and without obtaining written permission provided that all of the following conditions are met:

The total number of verses quoted is:  
less than an entire book of the Bible, and  
less than 500 verses (total), and  
less than 50 percent of the total number of words in the work in which they are quoted  
But acknowledgement of the source, NRSV, should always be printed.'

However, the Good News Bible is more difficult. 'Bible text from the Good News Translation (GNT) is not to be reproduced in copies or otherwise by any means except as permitted in writing by American Bible Society.' So just be careful about which translation you reproduce.

## VIDEOS AND LIVE STREAMING

When we get into the realm of posting videos or a live stream, things get even more complicated. To do

this legally one needs a Streaming Licence (cost E90 from CCL). On top of that, if one is using music from a CD (say) in a video or a live stream, one needs a licence from the Irish Music Rights Organisation (IMRO) which can cost (as in the case of Galway) a further €350! THIS APPLIES TO THE CDs AND MINI DISCS AND EVEN THE OLD TAPES WHICH MANY OF US MAY USE REGULARLY IN SUNDAY WORSHIP. Even these are not without copyright restrictions.

## PUBLIC DOMAIN MUSIC

The good news, if there is any at all, is that it is possible to find licence free/public domain music to add to a video or live stream. This is how I can put music on our TKA Diocesan Worship videos and keep the costs down. The best website for this type of 'free' music is [youtube.com/audiolibrary](https://www.youtube.com/audiolibrary).

My recommendation to anyone wishing to go beyond public domain music on line or in a live stream is to talk to CCL and IMRO directly because copyright restrictions in this field really can be a nightmare.

So to put it all in a chewable sentence, I think that the very least each parish in the diocese should do is to buy a Christian Copyright Licence and simply build that cost into the annual parish budget. It is, after all, the Law!

## A MAN OF MANY TALENTS



Archdeacon Stephen McWhirter is not just a Sower of the Seed of the Good News of the Gospel, he is also an Sewer Extraordinaire! A man of many talents! When Stephen realised that Ballina Costume Company, who rent the old school in Ballina from St Michael's Church, were making PPE for frontline workers in hospitals he offered to help. Stephen knows his way round a sewing machine, having made

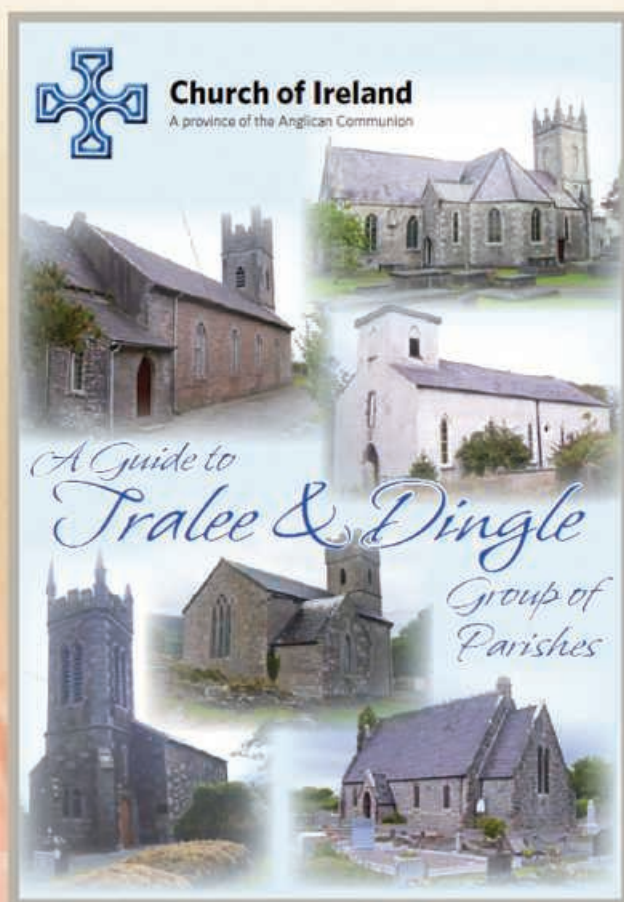
clothes and vestments in the past. The package of material arrived on Saturday night and since then he has measured, cut, and sewed about 25 reusable face masks. These masks, along with the rest he will make this week will be collected by the courier at the end of the week, and taken to be sterilised and used by the HSE in hospitals in Mayo. And when these masks are collected, new material will be dropped off to enable him to make more PPE.

Stephen has said that he is keen to support healthcare workers and frontline staff across the county. And while he's making the masks he adds a little bit extra. Each mask has the elastic held in place by a 'stay stitch' and while sewing these stitches in each mask, in the shape of a cross, Stephen prays for whoever will be wearing the mask he has made. Alongside his usual role as Rector of the Kilmoremy Union, Stephen feels this is another way of showing the love and compassion of God to the world at this time of stress and struggle.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

As the new Archbishop said in his article on April 28th, the day he became Archbishop, all the legislative work to amalgamate the Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry with the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe is complete. As part of the preparation for this Tidings will be devoting some space to getting to know something about one parish group in our neighbouring diocese. In the latest edition of their magazine, Newslink, they are learning about the Aughaval Group whereas we have the delights of learning something of the Tralee and Dingle group of parishes (editor)



The Parish area stretches from the border with Co Limerick in the East to Sleah Head on the Dingle Peninsula in the West. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty combining mountain and seascape including the Wild Atlantic Way. The Parish covers a wide range of communities and pastoral settings, ranging from the urban setting of Tralee town, the

County town of Co. Kerry, to the rural and agriculture based communities in other parts of the Parish. On the Dingle Peninsula, in addition to the ministry to visitors and tourists, there are a large number of people who have come to the area either in retirement, mainly from other parts of Ireland and from England, but also from other European countries.

There are approximately 170 or so households in the parish. The majority of parishioners live within a 10 mile radius of Tralee. However, the national census would indicate that there are in the region of 1,000 people who identified themselves as members of churches under the "Anglican" or "Protestant" banner.

The Parish Ministry Team consists of the Rector, Rev Canon Jim Stephens and The Rev Phyllis Jones. The parish is blessed in having a number of Diocesan Readers and one Parish Reader.

### Churches in the parish

We have six church buildings in the area, five of which are in regular use for public worship.

Killiney dedicated to St Brenden at Castlegregory was used until recently during the summer months and we are currently exploring the future of this church with the local community. The remainder are open for public worship.

**The Church of St Johns the Evangelist** is in Tralee town.

**Ballyseedy Church** is located about 2 miles from the centre of Tralee town. It was built by the Blennerhassetts who owned the Castle and it has some lovely stained glass windows.

**Ballymacelligott Church** is located in a rural area about 5 miles from Tralee on the road towards Castleisland.

**Kilgobbin Church** at Camp is located approximately 8 miles further west on the Dingle peninsula, in a tranquil place by the beach on the southern shore of Tralee bay.

**St James in Dingle** is well known as a concert venue



and is made world famous by its association with Other Voices.

Two other churches at Kilflynn and Castleisland are deconsecrated and are used by community groups.

### Teach an tSolais

The parish office is located in the parish centre (Teach an tSolais). This complex was developed in 2003 in the grounds of the Rectory on the sale of the old KPH (Kerry Protestant Hall). It includes an apartment which is used by the Rector and by visiting clergy and speakers. It consists of two meeting rooms, a kitchen and one large hall.



There are two Sunday clubs in the parish, one of which is based in St Johns and the other in Ballymacelligott, as we are a relatively small parish, numbers ebb and flow and the parish is most grateful to those who give of their time to this ministry.

### St Johns Church, Ashe Street.

The Church of St John the Evangelist recently celebrated a number of anniversaries including the extension in 1819 with the support from the board of first fruits. The parish also celebrated the fact that Anglican worship has been taking place on this site since 1615, which was originally developed by the Hospitaller order of St John of Jerusalem who opened a hospital in the area in 1208.

### St Johns Parochial School.

This is a small parish national school with a current enrolment of 40 pupils.

Photograph of both School groups which was taken on the occasion of the visit of The Staff and Pupils of Kiltallagh National School in Kilcolman Union of Parishes to Tralee





### **The Boys Brigade.**

Tralee is blessed to have a committed group of leaders who run the BB on Friday nights in the hall. This is led by the very talented Captain, Collette Price. The current membership numbers 28 boys and girls.

### **Other Voices at St James in Dingle.**

St James Church in Dingle is famous for the 'Other Voices' festival and it's a venue for concerts and other community events. While the congregation is small it is augmented during the year by visitors who come



Picture taken of the exterior of St James at the Other voices concert



Picture of St James Dingle

to the Dingle Peninsula on their holidays. Plans are underway to lease the church to the 'Friends of St James' who are currently fund raising and applying for government funding to secure this building into the future.

### **LINKS (Ladies in North Kerry Society)**

This group is source of fellowship and social activities for both men and women in the parish and community. Recent activities include a talk on health and wellness, a tour of Ardfert Cathedral and sharing in a Ramadan meal.



Some of the group on an outing to Cobh



On a trip to West Cork

### **Healer Prayer Group and Wednesday Club**

The healer prayer meeting has recently been incorporated into the weekly Holy Communion service on Wednesdays at 11am in St Johns. This makes it more accessible for those who may be cautious about venturing out on winter nights.



This group is also known as the Wednesday group and the Service is followed by fellowship on the nearby Ashe Hotel.

### The Tralee Soup Kitchen

This is run by volunteers from the community and the parish in conjunction with Tralee Lions Club. It is



Dinners to go

a parish organisation and caters for up to 100 people each Saturday. During the recent Covid-19 pandemic it delivered around 300 meals on Saturdays.

### The Festival of Kerry

The International Rose of Tralee selection is held in Tralee each August and some of the participants, their escorts and families attend church services in the various churches in the town on the Sunday morning of the selection. Parishioners love to welcome the roses and their entourage to the church and tea and fellowship is enjoyed afterwards in Teach an tSolais.

Some of the Roses and their escorts at St Johns in August 2019







## MOTHERS' UNION DIOCESAN NEWS

Thanks are expressed to all the members who are as active in their communities as they can be at this time while adhering to the necessary guidelines with regard to travel distance etc, paying visits with social distancing, doing errands and shopping for the cocooned, supporting frontline workers for example, especially those working in our hospitals, with homemade masks and comfortable knitted straps for mask wearing (wearing elastic across your face and head all day can be very irritating), being a good neighbour, stopping for a chat, making connections, being connected, offering help, remembering the baptism anniversaries of the pre-schoolers and remembering the special birthdays of our older members .Well done!

For information and confirmation, the planned "Gathering" (formerly referred to as the "Annual General Meeting") for September in Belfast will not be taking place. All Mothers' Union meetings, events and gatherings are on hold subject to the current restrictions and social distancing required at the time. It goes without saying that we think of the safety and wellbeing of everybody involved.

Due to the current situation the newly printed All Ireland Cook Book is in storage until it can be released for purchase. This diocese has a box of the Worldwide booklet (June-December) for distribution whenever. Mary Sumner House envisaged at one stage that each member would receive a copy by post from there but eventually that was not possible due to staff being furloughed. The current plans for 2021 are that

each member will receive a new publication, a compilation of "Family First" and "Worldwide" posted to their homes. The current "Focus" is in storage in Dublin also for distribution when possible. In the meantime, If anybody wishes to have an online copy please contact our Diocesan Fundraising & Communications coordinator Ann Nethaway [annnethaway@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annnethaway@yahoo.co.uk).

At the time of writing an All-Ireland photograph competition is underway for members, closing date 31st May. Perhaps you will be a winner! Again, the contact for our diocese is Ann Nethaway.

Behind the scenes, some virtual meetings are taking place with officers in Ireland and officers in Mary Sumner House. A virtual All Ireland Trustee meeting is planned for June.

In hope we look forward to the "Women's Getaway Weekend" 26-27th February 2021 at the Springfield Hotel, Leixlip, Kildare. 2021 is also a "Mums in May" fundraising year and All Ireland President June Butler plans to visit each diocese with a view to doing three 7k fundraising walks with members at different locations in each diocese. This might be a time for preparation, 3k, 5k, 7k.....

The website is available for more information: [mothersunion.ie](http://mothersunion.ie)



## A FUNERAL UNDER LOCKDOWN

I thought that I was beginning to get used to funerals in Ireland especially with three in the space of one month earlier in the year. Not just how quickly they happen after the death has occurred but also the rituals involved in prayers at home before a body is moved, prayers at the funeral home and the service itself. But all this changed with Covid-19 and I'll explain more in a moment.

I'm not new to taking funerals, I've been ordained over thirty years, but my experience in England was very different and usually more impersonal. When I was first ordained and working in a parish of around twelve thousand people, three funerals in a month was not unusual and almost all of them would be at the local crematorium. Rarely did I know the families or the deceased. I visited them, arranged the funeral but the funeral was simply a service at the Crematorium and no large gathering afterwards. There may have been something small at home but not something to which I would be invited or expected.

In the twenty odd years I spent in a group of four country parishes it was different. Burial was the usual practice after a service in Church (which could be a week or two after the death) and then a gathering in the village hall. I was more likely to know or know of the deceased or the family. But there was no viewing of the body or prayers at a funeral home – the funeral service was all there was (with rare exceptions).

The funeral I took here at the beginning of April had more in common with those experiences in England than a typical Irish funeral. This funeral took place just after the lockdown was announced on March 27th though by that time services in church had already ceased.

The first big difference was that I was unable to visit the family as I normally would. All the arrangements and pastoral care had to be done on the 'phone. It was the best I could offer but it didn't feel right. And it wasn't made any easier by having to explain that there would have to be a limit on the number of people present, that everything would happen at the graveside, that social distancing had to be observed, that there was set Order of Service that had been

made available but there would be no hymns. All this needed to be talked through face to face but that couldn't happen.

As with my experience in England the next part of my involvement was the funeral itself. No prayers at the funeral home, just waiting by the gate of the churchyard for the hearse to arrive. On this occasion I robed on the church steps to avoid opening the church. I stood well away from the hearse and the family treating them as potential sources of infection – a far cry from what would normally happen. It was a small family gathering, people standing in small groups not too close to each other, not too close to the grave, not too close to the funeral director and the team of bearers. At a time when closeness was needed closeness was not allowed.

At the end of the service it was not possible to shake hands or be close enough to offer a comforting word. A family member thanked me for what I had done – coming no closer than the statutory two metres. I waited respectfully for a while then quietly left. I had done what was necessary but not what I would expect to do or in the way I would expect to do it. I made it as personal as I could; explained that none of what we did was any less of a funeral though that's how it felt. I had suggested a memorial service at a later date but it won't be for a while and it won't be quite the same.

What funerals will look like in the future is anyone's guess but I hope we won't lose the traditions that we have. Traditions which in my opinion give the 'Irish way' a much healthier approach to death and bereavement compared to what I've experienced in the past.

Peter Norman



## MUSINGS OVER PAST TIME

Over the years we have got used to certain words coming into use in the English language, words that were new to us and were coined to describe certain situations and events.

In recent times the words Brexit comes to mine. How we grew to understand what it meant and how some grew to hate not only the word but also what it signified. In recent weeks a number of other words have been used to describe behaviour.

Firstly the introduction of the Coronavirus was something we knew nothing about but unfortunately have not only had to get used to the term but also the consequences for the world. For those at the age of 70 plus, cocooning is the tag to describe how we are to behave. In some ways it reminds us how fortunate we are not to have the responsibility of raising children, particularly in limited spaces. We have our pensions and for most people it is a case of looking after ourselves. That may be a generalisation, one has to consider those who rely on support in so many ways to remain independent not to mention those in full time care. Much has been said and written about the dedication of those working in nursing homes who seem the least protected of all the frontline staff.

The most recent phrase to emerge is the 'new normal'. To approach this will very much depends on our comprehension, where we are in life and our experience. The old phrase 'A lesson bought is worth two taught' comes to mind. You have to live through situations to comprehend and understand what is going on and move on. No amount of reading and talking can compensate for experience.

For most of us cocooning, much of what we are experiencing is not new. Life in the 1940/50s was much as we are experiencing now. A trip from the family farm to Sligo town which is sixteen miles took place twice or three times a year. Woolworths was the equivalent of the Spire in Dublin, a place to meet if we got lost. The wonderful creaking floors were an intrigue and all of the products on display created a sense of wonder. It was magical and had its own distinct aroma. Good's drapery store in O'Connell Street Sligo, now Moffitts was an absolute must as children were fitted out for the coming school year and the staff are remembered with nostalgia. Cecil in the shoe department was a distinctive and helpful character. When the great day was over and parcels gathered all was bundled into the hackney car and of course the groceries included oranges, bananas and grapes. I always thought these were groceries.

The Christmas trip always included a few bottles of 'stout' for making of the pudding. Dark and mysterious stuff and if there was any left in the bottle we young ones had an opportunity to taste the mysterious 'dark stuff'.

I always think of Alice Taylor's book 'The night before Christmas' where she describes the housing of the cattle and everyone told to stand in gaps. The father warns all to "watch that heifer and says there is generations of revolution in her".

What are today described as extended families were the norm! Grandparents were an integral part of the family and very much involved in the decision making. Each had their place and all had their work to do. The home was where wholesome food was served, produced for the most part in the garden and on the farm. Relatives and friends paid their annual visit. This was a great treat for all in the household. A special effort was made to have the place looking well as that's where we entertained and in some cases there would be an invitation extended to return the compliment. Adults discussed matters of great importance! Children were mostly seen and not heard, wow, what a change! Letters and telegrams announced major events and God was in the heart of things.

Our churches are closed and yet I can't help noticing and hearing how people are seeing and experiencing God in a whole new way. The Psalmist said 'Be still and know that I am God'. People have an opportunity to slow down and marvel at the wonder of nature. It teaches us many things. Who cannot but be overawed by the incredible beauty that is all around us, the different colours in the trees, the sunsets all aglow, the rivers and the seas. A month ago my wife, Joan commented on the buds on the trees and flowers and how it reminded her of the harvest lesson, 'While the earth remaineth seed time and harvest shall not fail'. God whatever or whoever people perceive God to be preaches to us in many different ways.

All of this provides us with hope. The realisation that this world has been through many different events and calamities and yet God is still at the helm and nature which is his handiwork once again reassures us that all is well with the world and this too will pass.

May he who has been my refuge from one generation to another lift up the light of his countenance upon us and give us his peace now and always.

Blessings to you all and remember the Psalmist: 'Be still and know that I am God'

Noel Regan



## REFLECTIONS ON THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR

This year Good Friday like Easter will be remembered for what didn't happen. With time to reflect it occurred to me that the Church seems to pick days of the week, such as Good Friday or Easter Sunday, to celebrate certain events and then at other times, such as on Christmas Day, they pick a date, December 25th. Logically they should be celebrating 'Christmas Tuesday' or some such appointed 'day' rather than a date.

Some have questioned why the Easter holiday has to move each year, causing havoc for many to arrange their work or education timetables each year. It moves because it is tied to a day, rather than a date, but why? The crucifixion took place on a date, according to the Bible, on the day of Passover, which is the 14th Nisan in the Biblical calendar. This is the true date, which fell this year on 7th April. The churches may be very sincere in their commemoration, but they miss the actual date every year by tying it to a day of the week.

Also there were two Sabbaths, or rest days, on the week

Jesus died, an annual Sabbath, or 'High Sabbath,' which was the Passover Sabbath, which can fall on any day of the week, and the normal weekly Sabbath, that always was on a Saturday. Friday is nowhere mentioned, only the 'preparation day,' which could be for either Sabbath. A closer look reveals that Yeshua (Jesus) died on a Wednesday, not a Friday, just before the annual Passover Sabbath, not the weekly Saturday Sabbath, so Good Friday may not be such a good idea after all.

I would suggest sticking to 14th Nisan, after all God doesn't do 'moveable' feasts. All Biblical festivals had set dates, which Jesus himself kept at his Passover Supper. No need to tie it to a day. That only causes confusion, if not bordering on bringing truth into error. Happy Passover, as 'Easter' is named after a pagan goddess. Better to keep her out of it.

Colin Nevin, Bangor Co. Down

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**Please Note that Due to the lockdown not all parishes have reports but articles from the parishes are in this edition of Tidings.**



#### ACHONRY GROUP

St Crumnath's Cathedral, Achonry  
St George's, Tubbercurry  
Rathbarron  
Priest in charge: Revd. Peter Norman  
Tel: 071 9181685  
E-mail: [peternorman1959@gmail.com](mailto:peternorman1959@gmail.com)

When I wrote my notes for the last edition most of what was there was a looking forward to the services during Holy Week and Easter. None of which took place. Or at least they didn't take place in church. As best we could, Helen and I kept Holy Week here at home and spoke to many parishioners on the 'phone on Easter Sunday/Monday. Through our group texts most of you will have known when those services were taking place so that, if possible, you were able to

pause a moment, pray and reflect. A short sermon and prayers were added to our parish page on the Diocesan website ([www.tuam.anglican.org/achonry/](http://www.tuam.anglican.org/achonry/)) as they are each Sunday which I hope you found helpful.

For Palm Sunday we even had a go at making our own Palm crosses out of rushes! Those of you skilled at making St. Bridget's crosses will no doubt have made a better job of it, but we just made it up as we went along as you'll see in the photo.

You may also have watched the video service posted each week led by one of the other clergy in the Diocese. You won't have seen me on there as I don't have the technology or the skills to do this. But writing a reflection each week on the Sunday Gospel in the light of what is going on at the moment has





been a good discipline, hopefully of some use to others and a way of communicating (in addition to speaking on the 'phone).

Writing these notes I can't give you a list of what is to come because I simply don't know – we wait and see, hope and pray until we can meet up again in what is now being referred to as the 'new normal'. Meanwhile, keep safe, stay well, look out for one another and hopefully we will meet soon.



### AUGHAVAL GROUP

Holy Trinity, Westport  
Christ Church, Castlebar  
Turlough  
St Thomas', Dugort  
Priest-in-charge:  
Revd Canon Jennifer McWhirter  
Tel: 098 25127  
E-mail: revjkmcwhirter@yahoo.co.uk

Who would have ever thought when I was appointed to the Aughaval Group in January that things would change in the world so much and so quickly that we'd be in a situation where a Service of Institution would be impossible.



It has been very strange for me as a new rector, and for us as a family, settling in to a new house and starting in a new parish just as the full lockdown restrictions were announced. We had moved house from Ballina to Westport the day before and so although most of our things are with us in Westport some 'stuff' is still in Ballina! Having said that, an enforced 'stay at home' policy has done wonders for the unpacking.

Not being able to have a Service of Institution was very difficult and felt a bit flat. We gradually amended the arrangements for my Institution as government guidance changed until the point it was obvious that an Institution wouldn't be possible at all on the date planned. While I am working in the parish as best I can, I am doing so having not had the usual welcome, and without having had an opportunity to meet my new flock. So while I have met a handful of people, Nominators and Glebewardens and a couple of others, before starting in the parish, most parishioners are unknown. I find it a little odd to think that I can go and do my weekly shopping here in Westport and might be walking past members of the congregation without even realising it.

So as with all people in this situation, I adapted! Instead of a service, I introduced myself to the parishes by way of a card and Easter letter and I hope they adequately conveyed to folk how pleased and excited I am to be here. I have been humbled by the number of people who have taken time to send a note or a card to welcome me here, this kindness has meant so much in the weird circumstances we find ourselves in.

As other people have said on social media, the buildings might be closed but the church is still 'open for business' so I am recording a podcast service twice a week and sending them out to all parishioners for whom I have an email address. They are also being put up on the new Aughaval Group Facebook page, as well as the Westport Facebook page. The response to this has been heartening as I feel it is so important to stay in touch. I am still here and still available to people and hope that, unknown as I am to most, parishioners will feel able to reach out if they have need of support.

And now, while I sit in my office and make phone calls to parishioners to say hello and check how they are doing, I am so looking forward to a time when I can start meeting people, getting out and about and



visiting folk and welcoming them back to church once again.

Those of you who have driven past the churches in Westport and Castlebar may have noticed the new banners that have been put up. I must admit that this was an idea of the Archdeacon's, which I have shamelessly copied. It shows our support for all frontline workers, those who are risking their own health to support us and our needs. While all of us have our part to play in stopping the spread of the coronavirus, especially in staying at home, which I realise requires sacrifice on the part of everyone, there are those who are not able to stay at home because of the jobs they do, or the roles they play in our communities, so this is our way of showing support and saying thank you to them. And thank you to all parishioners of the Aughaval Group who have given up so much in order to follow guidelines and staying home, it really does help.

So all that remains is for me to wish my new flock all God's blessings. Please stay safe and hopefully before too long we'll be able to get together and celebrate new beginnings.

## ST. THOMAS, DUGORT



Achill Island  
Ordained Local Minister:  
Revd Maebh O'Herlihy  
Tel: 087 2789912  
E-mail: maebhoh@gmail.com

In this strange time we have had the good news of Canon Jen McWhirter's appointment as our new Rector but the sad experience of her installation having to be postponed. We look forward to celebrating her installation with her as soon as it is possible.

While St. Thomas' has been closed our little community keeps in touch through weekly emails, phone calls and texts. We have continued to pray together in this way and also through the virtual Services posted by the Diocese and the Pod Cast Services that Canon Jen posts on Wednesdays and Sundays.

On Easter Sunday, Tim Stevenson, our Churchwarden, and myself met at the church to ring the church bell

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at 12 noon in union with churches all over Ireland. Many of the activities that normally use St. Thomas', such as the Heinrich Bohl literary Festival weekend and Scoil Acla will not be happening this year and will be missed by many.

## Please Note: Achill is Closed for Easter

Please respect public health advice and the elderly & vulnerable in our Community.  
#StayAtHome



We look forward to welcoming you after the crisis ends.

As a parish Community we continue to pray for all those suffering from the coronavirus and for those who have lost loved ones. May God's grace and healing bless each and every one. Amen.

### The Sacred Path

The Programme planned for this year has had to be postponed. A group from Canada who had booked to come in May are now hoping to come in September, but that will depend on the lifting of travel restrictions. Three other Irish bookings are also postponed. The good news is that the house is now completely finished, the hall 98% so, so with a programme ready and waiting we will be up and running again at the earliest opportunity.



### BALLISODARE GROUP

Holy Trinity, Ballisodare  
St Paul's, Collooney  
Emlaghfad, Ballymote  
Rector: Canon Dr Andrew Ison  
Tel: 071 9133217  
Mob: 089 2221483  
rev.andrew.ison@gmail.com  
www.ballisodare.achonry.anglican.org

Being shut down with little warning meant that our first Sunday of the lock down was Mothering Sunday. In this issue I would have been expecting to report on that, Holy Week, Easter activities, confirmation, our 300 year celebration at St Paul's, Collooney and so on.

I hope that in future issues will still be able to report on our confirmation and our 300 year celebrations all of which will get rearranged in due course.

Around the beginning of Lent in our informal service we considered Matthew 16:24 which reminds us that Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." And it was about our mission in life and summarised in saying no to sin and yes to love by sharing Jesus' love with those we meet each day. At the heart of love is giving; giving of our time and our resources to other people.

I gave a cross card to everyone and challenged them to see how many acts of love they could do in Lent and to write them on their cross. I invited them to bring them back on Easter Sunday and receive a Easter Egg, albeit a little one, for their crosses. Clearly, we were not able to fulfil that latter act but I hope the lockdown has enabled people to find opportunities to show that love.

If you would like to show the love of Jesus then take a look at [www.40acts.org.uk](http://www.40acts.org.uk) for ideas.

### MU Ballisodare Branch

Since the last Tidings Canon Andrew gladly addressed a meeting on Christianity and Veganism. The idea that raising cattle for food had a serious impact on the climate due to the amount of methane gas being issued in the process was highlighted. Questions were raised about our own choices in relation to food and the impact of those choices on the environment and on animal welfare. How accountable each one of us is for the care of the earth and to God was referenced. The positives for a plant-based diet were forwarded. The evening was thought provoking and informative. Thanks to our aforementioned rector. Afterwards, emergency wash bags were filled and prepared for folk who unexpectedly find themselves having to stay in Sligo University Hospital.

The International World Day of Prayer was marked with a service prepared by the women of Zimbabwe and led by Canon Andrew in St Paul's Church, Collooney. It was good to have so many members and members of neighbouring communities represented at it. Thanks are due to Sheila Bourke for keeping this event on the calendar.





## GALWAY & KILCUMMIN

Collegiate Church of St Nicholas  
Kilcummin Church,  
Oughterard  
Rector: The Very Rev Lynda Peilow  
Tel: 091 521914  
Email: [rector@stnicholas.ie](mailto:rector@stnicholas.ie)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stnicholasgalway/](https://www.facebook.com/stnicholasgalway/)  
YouTube <https://youtu.be/0cpklQfv1fA>

Greetings to all readers across the diocese and beyond. I hope and pray that this letter finds you well and coping to the best of your ability in the current situation. Amongst other things, many of us are missing our regular worship and our 'togetherness'. Worship centres and focusses us, it helps us to practice, nurture and nourish our faith; now more than ever we are aware of this. The world needs community like never before, and the gospel continues to inspire and guide us. Church is not only what we do on a Sunday, but this pandemic teaches us how we must practically carry the gospel with us in our everyday lives. While these lives may have lost some of their natural order and rhythm for the moment, we can be church in new ways, different ways. We have continued our weekly worship via zoom, which has enabled many across the parish and community to connect and worship together. We have also been blessed with choral pieces from The Schola Cantorum through the Easter season. We now have a YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/0cpklQfv1fA> -which hosts the pieces

amongst other things for everyone to access and enjoy.

### Holy Baptism

Samuel Atticus Keane was baptised on Sunday 26th February. May he shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

### Wedding

Congratulations to Jean Dedieu and Odile Uwamahoro who were married on 12th March in St Nicholas'. We wish them every joy and happiness in this new chapter of their lives.

### 700th Anniversary Banquet

On 21st February we came together as a parish community to celebrate 700 years of St Nicholas'



Very Rev. Lynda Peilow, Rector of St Nicholas', with Mary Anne Mullen and Rachel Latey at St Nicholas' Collegiate Church 700th Anniversary Banquet, Friday 21st February.





complete with birthday cake. The church was beautifully set up for the evening with white linen, candles, flowers and extraordinary lighting. The food, providing for all tastes, was provided by local caterers and was enjoyed by all. Members of our own Schola Cantorum and Galway Tenors entertained us. Thank you to all involved in organising this wonderful event that brought us together in this historic year.



Les and Christine Hunt at St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church's 700th Anniversary Candlelit Banquet held at the church on Friday 21st February.



Holly Armstrong and Oliver Kelly do the honours in cutting the cake and blowing out candles on St. Nicholas' 700th Birthday cake at a Candlelit Banquet at St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Friday 21st February.

### Bell Ringing

St Nicholas' Collegiate Church is joining the Church bell initiative, and so every Friday until the end of the current crisis the bells will be rung at 12noon and are livestreamed on our facebook page and can be seen on the Youtube page. The bells ring out in the heart of Galway City to give hope to everyone affected by the pandemic and in praise of all the frontline workers. It has become a weekly highlight for many, with people hailing the initiative on Facebook from as far away as the UK and US. Last week's live-streamed performance had thousands of views. Out of sight is not out of mind.

### KILLALA

St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala  
St John's, Ballycastle (Dunfeeney)  
St Mary's, Crossmolina  
Priest-in-charge: Vacant  
Tel: 096 60829

We send our love and good wishes to the Canon Jen McWhirter on her appointment with our neighbours in the Aughaval Group. Canon Jen will be sorely missed by all and we look forward to joining her in Westport for her installation at a later date.

I hope everyone has been able to access the 'Order of Service for use in the home' document that was distributed to all houses at the beginning of this pandemic and the rich online services available weekly from the Diocesan website.

A special note of thanks to David Strong as he rang the bells from St. Mary's during the Easter period in Crossmolina to show our unity as a nation and express our thanks to all front-line staff.

My sister Grace distributed colouring activities for the Sunday School children for both Killala and





Easter Colouring Competition

Kilmoremoy Sunday school children over the Easter and distributed Easter eggs to most of the children, however a few did not get their eggs due to the driving restrictions that were in place.

St. Patrick's Cathedral was due to celebrate 350 years since it was rebuilt in June, however that service has been postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date.

We have no entries for the register.

May God bless you, hold you, and guard you throughout these difficult and testing times. Amen.  
Arthur Sweeney



#### KILMOREMOY UNION

St Michael's, Ballina (Kilmoremoy)  
Killanley Church, Castleconnor  
Kilglass, St Anne's, Easkey  
Rector: Ven. Stephen McWhirter  
Tel: 096 60829 & 085 875 9921.  
[www.stmichaelsballina.killala.anglican.org](http://www.stmichaelsballina.killala.anglican.org)  
[www.kilmoremoy.killala.anglican.org](http://www.kilmoremoy.killala.anglican.org)

We find ourselves living in strange times! One of the things I heard many people say is that they wonder if we'll ever get back to the way things were before this

pandemic? I don't think that we will; neither do I think that we should! We live in an increasingly secular world; people live selfish and hedonistic lives always self-pleasing and often failing to take responsibility for their own actions or the consequences of them. Could we have gone on living the way we were? The waste and destruction of the earth resources, of intensive farming and deforestation and shopping globally rather than locally! We, as God's children, are called to be good stewards of the Earth. Now I'm not saying that Covid-19 as a virus is the cause of this or indeed a consequence of it; however because of the restriction we have had the opportunity to see the earth begin to heal. Who would have ever thought we'd see dolphins swimming in the canals of Venice or off the North coast of Ireland.

In the midst of this pandemic we rely on God for his healing and protection; Peter tells us, 'You call out to God for help and he helps—he's a good Father that way. But don't forget, he's also a responsible Father, and won't let you get by with sloppy living'. 1 Peter 1:17 [The Message (MSG)]

Following the advice and instruction from An Taoiseach and the Government on Friday 27th March 2020 the country went into social isolation and lockdown. For a number of weeks now we have been unable to meet in Church or indeed to even visit each other. We live in hopeful expectation that these restrictions will soon be relaxed. Time alone will tell!

I should like to thank and congratulate all our parishioners who are abiding by these regulations. Without them we would certainly find ourselves in the midst of this pandemic for much longer.

I, along with the other clergy of the Diocese, am finding new ways for communicating the Good News of the Gospel and the Worship of the Church. Many people have made contact regarding the Worship Booklet for use at home and indeed the services online on behalf of the Diocese and here in our own Union. Thank you all for your continued support, encouragement and prayer at this time.

In every Service of Holy Communion we are reminded that Christ calls us to 'love our neighbours as ourselves'. I would urge you, at this difficult time, to act out this command practically by making contact with neighbours, especially those who live alone or in isolation. Just a few words by phone can be so uplifting at this difficult time. These actions go against the grain of our life of faith, however the Church is much more than the buildings



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Rathfarnham, Dublin 14



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## PARISH CONTACT DETAILS



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Revd Karen Duigan  
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### OMEY UNION

Christ Church, Clifden  
St Thomas', Ballinakill  
St Mary's, Roundstone  
Priest in Charge: Vacant  
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[www.omeygroup.ie](http://www.omeygroup.ie)



### ST ANNE'S, EASKEY & KILGLASS PARISH

St Mary's Church  
Moyrus, Roundstone  
Revd Carole Reynolds, OLM  
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### SKREEN

Christ Church,  
Dromard

St Mary's, Kilmacshagan,  
Dromore West  
Priest in Charge: Canon Noel Regan  
Phone: 071 9166253 / 086 8875714  
E: [revnoelregan@hotmail.com](mailto:revnoelregan@hotmail.com)



we worship in; as the people of God I invite you to pray with me on Sunday morning as you gather round your kitchen tables or at your firesides.

### **Kilmoremoy Banner Prayer**

I'm sure some of you will have seen the banner on the railings of St Michael's, relaying thanks and assuring our prayers for all front line workers. This banner is placed on behalf of the whole Union. On the banner we quite literally offer a prayer for this time:

Almighty God, we pray you continue Christ's healing work in our hospitals and homes. Give skill, understanding and sympathy to all who minister to the sick and those in need. May your hand of protection be on all HSE staff and frontline workers and strengthen them for their work of mercy. Amen

I would like to thank the Kilmoremoy and Killala Ministry team of clergy and readers over these last weeks for their unfailing support in all parish matters. Even in those early weeks when we were unable to attend church our readers read services on their own on our behalf. Even this eventually stopped through government restrictions and our last act in church was the ringing of all our bells on Easter Day, so thank you to David, Norman, Cyril and John for arranging that.

We look forward to meeting together for worship again sometime over the summer when we will be able to dress our Churches and Holy Tables in their accustomed colours as we gather, once again to worship and give thanks. I'm grateful as always to our ministry team for all their hard work and support. Please do continue to remember them all in your own devotions, Revd. Karen, Clive, Caroline, Norman, Nichola, John and Amanda.

As we look toward the future of ministry within the Union we are delighted with the announcement by our Bishop of the placement of our OLM Ministers and Candidates. Revd. Karen will remain in the Kilmoremoy Union serving in the Parishes of Easkey and Kilglass. Karen has settled well into ministry there over this last year and we look forward to her ordination to the Priesthood in September and the opportunity for her first Celebrations of Holy Communion.

Killanley Parish can look forward to Caroline serving within her home parish for her Diaconate year. She will be taking responsibility for worship and pastoral care within the parish and is looking forward to her changing role.

Clive will be serving within the Killala Union with

responsibility for the parishes of Ballycastle and Crossmolina. Although this is a move to another Union, Clive is very much on home ground as Crossmolina is the parish in which his father grew up. Clive looks forward to this new challenge and chapter in his ministry.

We wish them all every blessing in these new areas of ministry for them and I would commit them to your prayers in these last few months of preparation.

### **Parish News**

Congratulations to Richard and Julia Morrow on the birth of their new son William James Robert Morrow, a new grandchild for Robert and Pamela. We wish the whole family every blessing at this time and look forward to the time when they can all meet William.







# **STRAID PARISH, FOXFORD & CLAREMORRIS**

Priest-in-charge: Canon Andrea Wills  
Tel: 094 9256403; Mobile 086 261 7572  
Foxford: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday  
Claremorris: 12 noon in McWilliam  
Park Hotel – 1st Sunday of the month  
andrea.wills@gmail.com

It will still be some time before we can all meet again for worship in Foxford Church. We have been sustained by friendship, fellowship and modern communications.

We are particularly aware of those who have lost loved ones during this difficult time and have been unable to grieve or have funerals as they would wish. The Church of Ireland bishops were clear in their instructions. No funerals in church and service to take place at graveside with a special memorial service in church at a later stage. However, it was difficult for families when they heard on local radio that funeral masses in churches were taking place, albeit with a limit of 10 people present.

We are particularly thankful to all those who are working on the frontline – in hospitals and nursing homes – their tasks and workload have been

phenomenal and the situations they have had to deal with very challenging.

We have enjoyed catching up on those jobs that you normally never get round to – clearing out presses and drawers and sorting papers. The greenhouse and garden have kept us occupied. It has been a joy to keep in touch with family on FaceTime and computer calls and see our grandsons running around and enjoying the beautiful weather. I also took out my bicycle and enjoyed short cycles through leafy lanes near the house.

I have appreciated connection with local RC clergy and support from our own colleagues.

Looking at my calendar so many things had to be postponed, not least the concert scheduled for March in aid of the church, several baptisms and a tentative date for a service of blessing of pets. We look forward to all these events happening in the future.

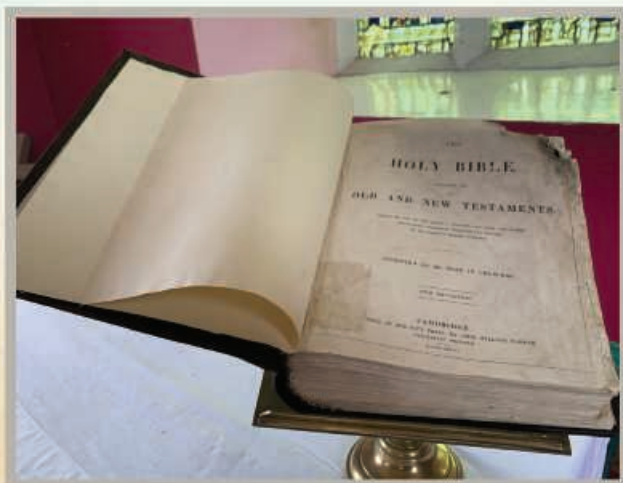
It was a new experience to record a short service at home for the Diocesan website [www.tuam.anglican.org](http://www.tuam.anglican.org) on the Second Sunday of Easter and look forward to my turn again on 4th Sunday after Trinity.





### Restored Bible

It was lovely to welcome Hanne O'Rourke and her husband Andrew to Foxford Church while on holiday in Connemara, just before the lockdown. Hanne has beautifully restored and rebound a desk Bible dated 1837 which had suffered greatly from dampness before the installation of the dehumidifier. We are most grateful to her for this painstaking voluntary work and for making a special box for the Bible.



### Claremorris

We were delighted to have Bishop Patrick preach the service on 1st March – the first Sunday in Lent. We never realised how quickly things would change. Thank you to everyone who helped with that service – the flowers, the readers, the greeters, the helpers with lugging the equipment up to the room – everyone who makes this service so special.

### Bereavements

Seamus Ryder has been in our prayers for many years. He fought so hard against illness and was expertly

cared for by his wife Eleanor and greatly supported by their children Jennifer and Peter. Eleanor never left his side, even when he had to go to hospital, and it was fitting that he slipped away on Friday evening 15th May in his own home in the arms of his loving family. Our love and prayers are with them at this time as they prepare for his funeral. A further tribute will be paid to Seamus in the next edition of Tidings.

The Argentine Ambassador to Ireland Laura Bernal recently died suddenly at her residence in Dublin. She had a wonderful relationship with the town of Foxford and the Admiral Brown Society. William Brown was born in Foxford in 1777 and was the founder of the Argentine Navy. It was fitting therefore, and in the present situation, that her family decided that she should be laid to rest in Foxford. Her funeral Mass took place on Friday 15th May. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Dermot Meehan, Administrator of Achonry Diocese and the homily was given by the Papal Nuncio. She was buried in Craggagh Cemetery. The Church of Ireland was represented, social distancing, outside the church.

She was a lovely lady and I had the pleasure of sitting with her at a number of functions and dinners in Foxford. May she rest in perfect peace.



### TUAM GROUP

St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam  
St Mary's, Cong  
St John the Baptist, Aasleagh  
Rector: The Very Revd Alistair Grimson  
Tel: 094 9546909  
Mob.: +353 85 2821073  
Email: deantuum@gmail.com

I'm not a huge fan of Woodie Allen. He has an altogether different style of humour to the one that I most appreciate. But I am with him when it comes to this little gem: 'If you want to make God laugh, tell him about your plans.'

According to the last issue of Tidings we were full of great plans. Plans about Lent and Holy Week and Easter. Plans about Easter General Vestries and St. Patrick's Day and Cong Confirmation Service. Plans about General



Synod and a Diocesan Barbecue and summer holidays and a Fresh Expressions Roadshow and all sorts of things. Then along came Covid 19 and everything ground to a full stop. Well, almost a full stop. (Do I detect a whisper of a smile from heaven?)

I remember the first Sunday of 'the emergency'. I had planned to read Morning Prayer in Cong at the usual time, and later in Tuam, with just Paul Johnston and myself present in Cong and Jarlath Canney and myself present in Tuam. This was, in my head, in order to maintain unbroken worship in the church and cathedral and yet fulfil the necessities of social distancing. Well, a dozen visitors pitched up at St. Mary's Cong out of the blue and I couldn't really tell them to go away. So they stayed for Morning Prayer, scattered about the church as best we could. And it was at that moment that I realised that my 'plan' wasn't going to work. Either in Cong or Tuam. That was 15th March. We haven't held a Service in either Cong or Tuam since. And as of the time of writing these notes early in May, our first Sunday back will not be until 26th July 2020.

If we get back to Church on 26th July we will have a Great Eucharist of Thanksgiving in both Cong and Tuam. And I hope that in Cong we will have the children present....as many of them as feel comfortable to attend. While in Tuam I intend to speak with our organist, Rachel Pike, so we can sing a Te Deum, that great Canticle of Praise which traditionally has been sung down the ages on occasions of particular celebration. And with the help of God and the permission of the Government, 26th July will be our first service of the summer season in St. John

the Baptist, Aasleagh. This will be at 7pm and will continue till the end of August.

I said near the top that things had almost ground to a full stop. Almost but not entirely, because throughout we have maintained our worship on several platforms. Diocesan worship has been in the form of recordings by diocesan clergy posted to the TKA website ([www.tuam.anglican.org](http://www.tuam.anglican.org)) week on week and daily during Holy Week. I have been streaming worship live every Sunday from my study at 10am on the 'St Mary's Col Cong' Facebook Page and intend to continue this until we get back to church. We have also been keeping abreast of parish administration and staying in touch with each other in various 'electronic' ways. And several people, to all of whom I extend my thanks, have been keeping a weather eye on our church buildings. EGVs have had to be postponed and I grateful to members to the Select Vestry and parochial officers who have agreed to remain in post until we can hold the EGV. So it's not quite true to say that parochial matters have ground to a halt. We've just been forced into doing things a little differently for a time.

I thank God that no one in the parish has died up to the time writing. I dread having to preside at a funeral in these days and my heart goes out to all those who have experienced bereavement recently, with all the added distress that the restrictions will have put on them. I also thank God that no parishioner, to my knowledge, has caught the virus. I am acutely aware of some parishioners who have either been sick with 'normal' illnesses or who are in care homes or cocooned in their own homes and





so are bereft of their usual visits; Leslie, Jim, Hilary, Des, Eddie to mention just a few. I also feel for those parents who have had young children at home for an extended period. That's not easy. And for those who have lost income or indeed jobs themselves. This has been, and continues to be, a weary and troubling and anxious time for so many.

But we cannot lose hope. We dare not lose hope. Someday, hopefully not too far in the future, things will

start to get back to normal, albeit a new normal, and we will be able to pick up the pieces again and move forward.

Till then, God bless and keep you all. May each and every one of you be surrounded by God's hope so well expressed in the words of Julian of Norwich: 'All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.'

## CYCLE OF PRAYER

As an additional section to our DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER, Bishop Patrick has asked that we would remember the clergy and people of the respective parishes on the date each month as indicated.



### Parishes

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Galway Parish                | 17. Kilmoremoy Parish, Ballina         |
| 2. Kilcummin Parish, Oughterard | 18. Church Army Project, Ballina       |
| 3. Tuam Cathedral               | 19. Killanley Parish                   |
| 4. Cong Parish                  | 20. Kilglass Parish, Enniscrone        |
| 5. Aasleagh Parish              | 21. Easkey Parish                      |
| 6. Omey Parish, Clifden         | 22. Skreen Parish                      |
| 7. Ballinakill Parish, Moyard   | 23. Kilmacshalgan Parish, Dromore West |
| 8. Errislannan Church Community | 24. Dromard Parish                     |
| 9. Moyrus Parish, Roundstone    | 25. Ballisodare Parish                 |
| 10. Aughaval Parish, Westport   | 26. Collooney Parish                   |
| 11. Castlebar Parish            | 27. Emlaghfad Parish, Ballymote        |
| 12. Turlough Parish             | 28. Killoran Parish, Rathbarron        |
| 13. Dugort Parish, Achill       | 29. Tubbercurry Parish                 |
| 14. Killala Cathedral           | 30. Straid Parish, Foxford             |
| 15. Crossmolina Parish          | 31. Claremorris Church Community       |
| 16. Ballycastle Parish          |  |



## PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH SERVICES...

When Church Services on Sundays and Special Occasions are again permitted, these can be celebrated only after the most careful advance preparation. Advice is that services will only be held if principles of hygiene and physical distancing can be firmly adhered to as follows. The ensuing 'check list' is not exhaustive.

For individuals attending church: carrying of tissues and using them to catch coughs and sneezes. In addition to this, each individual or each family should carry a small bottle of hand sanitizer.

Disinfectants and hand washing/sanitizing facilities should be provided at the church entrance; door handles and hand railings will need to be disinfected on a regular basis.

No handshaking or other physical touch will be permitted. The ministry of welcome will assume additional importance because it will need to be carried out in imaginative new ways.

Seating arrangements in churches should ensure that there is a two-metre distance between persons in all directions during a service, whether this is standing or sitting. This is the requirement that should also determine the seating capacity of a church.

The seating areas will need to be marked in a way to aid 'distancing'.

Families and individuals who live in the same household can sit together if they are living together. However they must accept that they will not always be able to sit in their 'traditional pews'.

Use of prayer and hymn books other than those which worshippers bring for their own use will need to be avoided to the greatest extent possible.

The use of protective face masks in such circumstances may be the subject of further public health guidance.

Congregational singing is problematic because singing appears to increase significantly the transmission of potentially infected droplets. If congregational singing is envisaged, it should be very softly, and even greater physical distancing will be necessary.

Readers, leaders of intercessions etc., should take care not to touch lecterns.

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 a smile, This greeting should continue at a distance.

Continued guidance is that Holy Communion is distributed in the form of bread/wafer only. Both elements will be consecrated, but the wine should not be distributed. It is a clear principle of Anglican theology that the sacrament of Holy Communion is present and complete in either of the consecrated elements. It is recognised that the absence of the common cup hugely reduces the experiential richness of the Eucharist, but not its sacramental efficacy.

For the time being, it is preferable that only the presiding minister handles the vessels and administers Holy Communion. Given that it will be in one kind for now, and in most places for a manageable number of persons, it is much easier to control hygiene if this is one person's responsibility.

Priests presiding at the Eucharist should wash their hands with an alcohol-based sanitizer.

Occasional services; baptisms, weddings, funerals... will require special precautions, not least in terms of social distancing and hygiene.

Offerings of money should be placed on a tray at the exit. Those who count the collection at the end of the service should wear gloves. Better still, use this as an opportunity to give online, by standing order or direct debit!

Wardens are requested to ensure that ordered entry, seating and exit is maintained. In particular, the normal 'clustering' outside church doors after services must be avoided.

If church is filled to permitted capacity, no further entry will be possible.

Pre and post service gatherings for fellowship and refreshments should not happen.

Sunday School and junior church gatherings should be avoided until schools resume and we can learn from the example of what is practised there.

It is emphasized that scrupulous cleaning of churches will need to be arranged after each use. Cleaning personnel should be carefully briefed/trained, supplied with proper gloves and disinfectants and (if working more than singly) perhaps equipped with masks.

(adapted from guidelines shared by the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory)





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