

NEWS

— from the —

PEWS

You can say what you like about modern times and inclusivity when it comes to different approaches to marriage and ceremony but truly, there's nothing like a church wedding! These were the thoughts in my head as I shot the bolts on the heavy doors of St. Patrick's Powerscourt on Thursday morning, feeling the warmth of air spin past me into the chill of the church. Outside the porch was adorned with beautiful displays of Hydrangea and other blooms and inside the top of the aisle was flanked by two pillars of flowers and foliage. The scene had been set the previous day

by a number of ladies who kindly hoovered and polished the sacred space and by Marjorie Mold who came heavy-laden with flowers. Together they worked until the church had regained its former glory and a warmth of light against brasses and red carpet lifted the spirits of all who entered. I struggled with the second half of a door and swept small deposits of 'confetti' left behind

by our resident bat. I observed the chancel from the back of the church; it's high vaulted wooden ceiling beams and a burst of floral abundance behind the altar. Truly, this was the perfect country church and the most simply beautiful beginning of a new life's journey for Sam McNally and Emily Manning.

One hour before the wedding began, the guest organist appeared laden with music. Fergal Caulfield, well-known pianist/organist with the RTE National Symphony Orchestra joined the Father of the Bride Matthew Manning on Oboe as several musical pieces were rehearsed. 'Now is the time' I thought to myself 'for some visitor to happen upon the place and have their day made the setting and music. The wedding ceremony was small and intimate; there was little use for microphones and an opportunity to address the bride and groom in a most personal way. They stood, vows made, hand in hand and surrounded by their closest loved ones as I marvelled at the privilege afforded to us clergy on occasions such as this.



We are in possession of two magnificent churches and my deep gratitude to those who stepped forward to clean and polish and arrange the flowers. Before the final flourish of the organ (*Charles-Marie Widor Toccata from Symphony for Organ No. 5 in F-Minor*) I prayed the blessing below which sums up all our hopes and prayers for those who step forward upon new pathways together. Perhaps you might like to pray it too for Sam and Emily.

'Lord, for Sam and Emily this day, may every word spoken and every precious token remind them of the one who holds all things together and who makes all things good. Together, as this couple stands side by side and hand in hand, hold them tightly and never let them go. Fill their hearts with unceasing gratitude; be their vision, their strength and their constant companion. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with them this day and always. Amen.'

Matthew Manning (First Oboe, RTE National Symphony Orchestra) plays *Gabriel's Oboe* at his daughter's wedding.

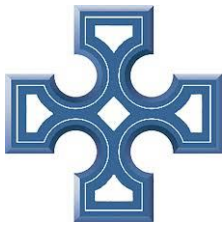


The Living Room is a concept rather than one particular event. Its aim is to draw people (safely) together to participate in fellowship in many different ways. We have begun this by gathering together in the Rectory Garden every Wednesday at 10am where we read and discuss the Gospel for the coming Sunday and this is followed by a short time of prayer. All are welcome to attend this gathering and for those who may well be missing church, it is a good way to re-connect with the Scriptures and with one another under the canopy of nature.

Remember: **Wednesdays at 10am in the Rectory Garden!**

It's no unusual for Ed and I to review the Services that are held with a kindly critical eye (especially during these times) asking what might be done differently the next time; what works, under the new regime, and what doesn't. The response to our outdoor service was so positive that we are hoping to have most of our services outdoors if possible and of course, weather allowing. We hope to have Holy Communion every other Sunday and this requires the quieter setting of the church but all other services we will attempt to facilitate outdoors in order to encourage those who wish to attend to do so in a safe and socially distanced way. See the end of this Newsletter for Services for the month of September.





NOTICE OF EASTER GENERAL VESTRY

The Church of Ireland has requested that each parish carry out a General Vestry meeting within the next month. Notice of both of these Vestry Meetings will be sent via Parish email within the next few days. As our churches have been prepared for the required social distancing of 2m, we suggest that the Meetings will be held in the body of both churches.

Shop Local

The Pandemic continues and local businesses have been hard hit as a result of this. Please do support our local businesses and contact us if you wish to have your business advertised here.



Back to School Family Service and Picnic



Plans are afoot to hold a 'Back to School' outdoor Service followed by a Pic-Nic on Sunday 30th August in the Lower Carpark of St. Patrick's, Powerscourt. We encourage all musicians to step forward on the day and join in as we sing some favourite hymns and praise God in the open air. Spaces for picnics will be clearly marked out and we ask that each family bring their own packed lunches and picnic blanket. (We will continue to pray that umbrellas will not be required!)

Embracing all Forms of Church

Our Sunday Services

Beneath the Eaves (in-Church)

St. Brigid's Kilbride - 10am

St. Patrick's Powerscourt - 11:30am

Beneath the Boughs (Online)



**The Grouped Parishes of
Powerscourt with Kilbride**

Our Parish Website



<http://www.powerscourt.glendalough.anglican.org/parishgroups.html>



SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday 6th September 2020
A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Sunday 13th September 2020
A Short Service of Morning Worship

Sunday 20th September 2020
A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Sunday 27th September 2020
A Short Service of Morning Worship

SERVICE TIMES:

ST. BRIGID'S, KILBRIDE – 10AM

ST. PATRICK'S, POWERSCOURT – 11:30AM

On-Line Donations

St. Patrick's, Powerscourt

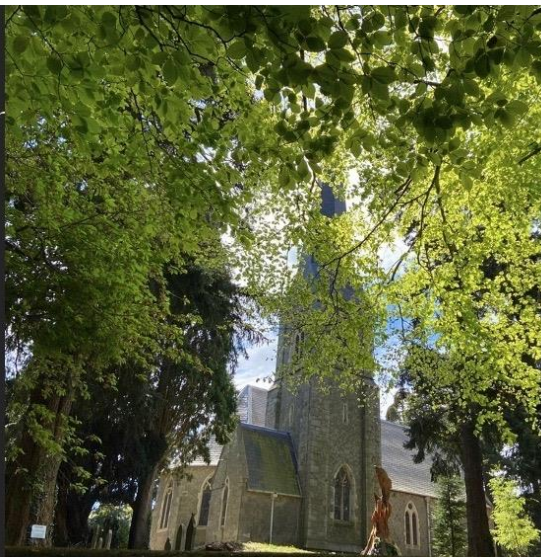
A Community of Faith in the Garden of Ireland

WE TAKE PART IN GOD'S
STORY AS COMMUNITY,
GIVING AND CARING FOR ONE
ANOTHER.

Powerscourt Parochial No.1 Account
Account No: 14148698

IBAN
IE39 BOFI 90103614148698.

Your donation is greatly appreciated at this time



On-Line Donations

St. Brigid's Kilbride

A Community of Faith in the Garden of Ireland

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Kilbride Parochial Fund
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*Your donation is greatly
appreciated at this time*

