

# NEWS — from the — PEWS

## THE ARMOUR OF LIGHT – A DECISION

During the past three weeks in our church services both online and live, we have been afforded the opportunity to hear again the words of the Letter to the Romans. These are encouraging words which provide guidance to all who follow Christ in a world that can often produce adversities. This week's words from this letter are as interesting as they are hopeful..

*'Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became*

*believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light.'* (Rom. 13: 11-12)

It is a beautiful image to consider – the armour of light! In a world of uncertainty, every single moment provides us the opportunity to decide how to react. We can react or act from a place of fear or a place of love. It's that simple and that profound! All of our actions and reactions come from either one of these foundations. Putting on the Armour of Light is making the choice from a place of love. This isn't always easy nor is it always achievable at a first attempt, but we are provided opportunities to review and renew past decisions so that we might grow and move forward. Perhaps we are now awakening from sleep as the passage says; perhaps we have entered a new time of understanding and perhaps this pandemic, in all its heartbreak and difficulty, has also provided us with the opportunity to see that we are united as human beings in our human experience before anything else and that we are created to live in that unity. There will always be darkness because, without it, we would not see or appreciate the light but putting on the armour of light requires more of us than to accept the words; it requires us to decide to wear it; to put it on!



I once sat with a Spiritual Advisor who guided me through a difficulty in my past; it had been a time in my life when my own voice was stifled, and I had retreated into myself. "Cathy" she said "we will work to raise up your head into the light of Christ, into that beautiful presence. We will make you a Warrior of Peace!" That image has stayed in my mind and I was reminded again of it by the phrase 'The Armour of Light'.

May we all be Warriors of Peace and wearers of this Armour in the decisions that we actively make in each moment.



Having spent the Lockdown thinking of prayer poems to tackle the challenges children may have been experiencing in being at home full-time, it became obvious recently that a whole new set of challenges are now

arising for children going back to school. On the first morning of reopening, one of the first children I encountered at our school stood in the carpark in tears. She wasn't sad to be back but anxious at what she might find. For parents too, the return was difficult. Some were eager to retrieve some form of normality while others struggled with the time apart from their children after such a closeness for the past 6 months. As Lockdown was a time of extreme change for families so too is this new regime. School Assembly now takes place with individual classes (one each Friday) which is a more personal way to communicate with the children and Copperpot has been struggling with change in order that the children might guide him as to how to 'be' in these new circumstances and in doing so, hopefully, all are reassured. These are ever-changing times and I'd like to commend Mr. Stephen Middleton and the teaching team of Powerscourt National School for the vigilance and work done in preparing the school protocol and carrying out the safety measures now securely in place. May God bless all the little peas in their various Pods in this and every school.



Within the past week we have had two film companies visit the Graveyard to film. The visits were relatively short, Covid19 safety protocols adhered to and both companies saw to it that everything was done with the respect required and little indication that they had been there after they left. This is a welcome source of funding for our church which has been lacking the usual weekly donations on a Sunday since Lockdown and now as numbers are greatly reduced.

We thank everyone for their patience and cooperation during the filming on both occasions. You might keep an eye out for the new Dairygold commercial due to be aired within the next two weeks and then on a continuous basis. You might recognise the background!



Over the COVID lockdown we received wonderful photographs and written pieces from our Parishioners that were included in the News from the Pews. We would love to receive more.

If you would like to share please email Mandy in the Parish office on [office@powerscourtns.ie](mailto:office@powerscourtns.ie).

Thanking you all in advance.

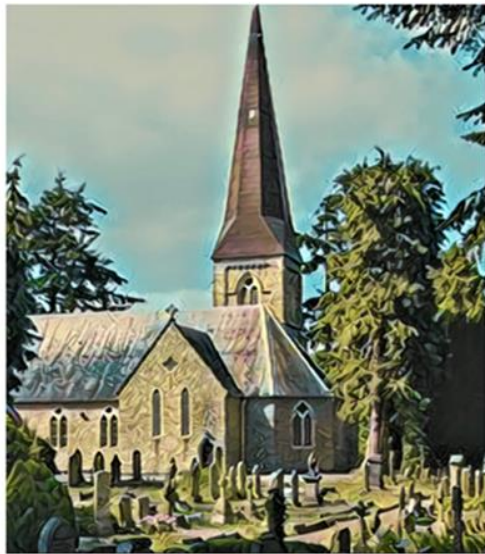
## NOTICE OF ON-COMING EASTER GENERAL VESTRY MEETINGS

Due to Covid19 Restrictions, this year's Easter General Vestry will be incorporated within a Short Service of Worship on

*Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020*

*St. Brigid's Church  
at 10am*

**St. Brigid's Kilbride**  
**Short Service of Worship  
&  
Easter General Vestry Meeting**



*ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH,  
POWERSCOURT*

**SHORT SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
&  
EASTER GENERAL VESTRY  
MEETING**

**SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, POWERSCOURT  
AT 11:30AM**

### A Helping Hand

We are both proud and delighted to announce that some of our young people have stepped forward and offered their help with shopping or gardening for anyone at home at this time. Please contact Cathy Hallissey (086 3583104) if you require an extra helping hand.



# Keep an Eye on WHAT'S HAPPENING..

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>



On-Line Donations  
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*A Community of Faith in the Garden of Ireland*

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

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*Your donation is greatly  
appreciated at this time*



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Powerscourt Parochial No.1 Account  
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