

NEWS — from the — PEWS

The Approach of Advent

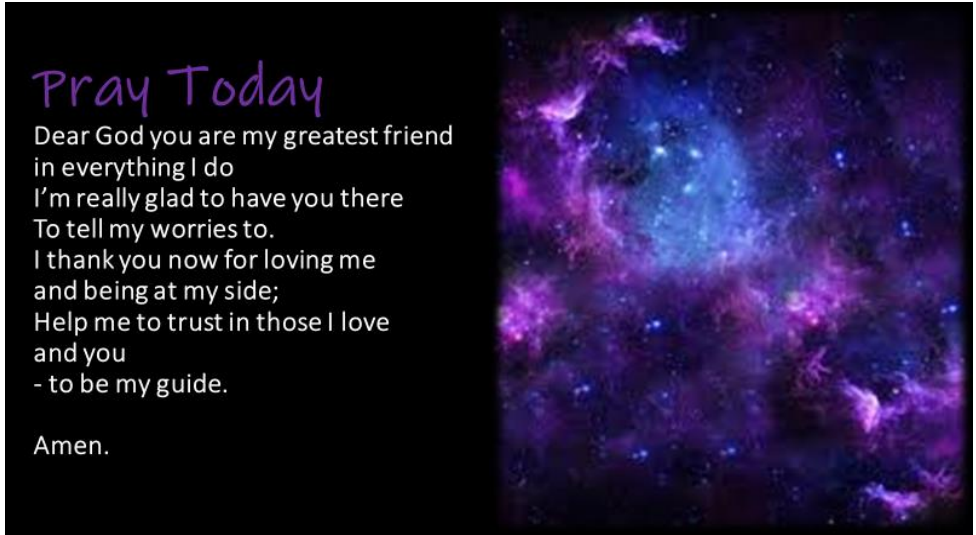
With Advent just around the corner, here at Powerscourt with Kilbride preparations are in place to celebrate the story of the coming of Christ into the world. We are excited to announce an Advent Trail



which will run from the entrance to the Beech Walk in Powerscourt Graveyard along and beneath the large pine trees which skirt the Cremation Plots on the Rectory-side. This short trail will consist of 5 stops, each telling an important part of the story which leads up

to the birth of Jesus. Every stop will ask families who visit to do three things;

- o Hear the relevant Scripture
- o Think of how it speaks into our lives today and
- o Pray a short prayer.



As we need to be careful of distancing and staying safe these days, this trail is designed to encourage families to spend a short and quiet time in the graveyard beneath the trees and in the open air. It is designed to be discrete so as to not encroach upon those who may wish to spend quiet personal time in the beauty of our graveyard.

A short video will accompany this trail hosted (virtually) by Copperpot the Orangutan. Families are encouraged to visit our Youtube Channel and click on the link 'Copperpot's Advent Trail'. If this is opened on a mobile phone, Copperpot can travel with you on the trail! The trail and video accompanying it are available from Sunday 29th November until Christmas Day.

Follow the Star Festival

Our Follow the Star Festival is an important and unifying event which had only just begun last year. It is important for us to maintain this new tradition and communications with St. Mary's Church. On writing this, we are unable to be seen to draw people together in large groups and so the traditional walk from one church to the other in a crowd has been interrupted this year. However, we are in communication with St. Mary's Church and plans are being put in place to come up with an alternative means of maintaining this new tradition.



Meet the Cast!

Last Year's Follow the Star was greatly embellished by a fine cast of characters from the Nativity story such as Wise Men at the Clock tower in the village and several disgruntled Inn Keepers along the way. This year, in collaboration with Powerscourt National School, we hope to present a Nativity Trail around



the graveyard. Hosted by a kindly shepherd (Mr. Middleton, Principal of Powerscourt N.S) and the Innkeeper's Wife (The Rector) children and their families will be able to meet the Wise Men, The Shepherds, attend a meeting with the Innkeepers of Bethlehem and even come across a rather worried Caesar Augustus as they journey around the graveyard. All will be invited to interact with these special guests in asking them questions about the story and what they have experienced. Please remember to save the date:

Saturday 12th December from 2-5pm!





The graveyard has perhaps more than its fair share of memorials to children. In the century from 1860, very many children in the parish died, and commonly there would be no headstone for them. Our curate in the three years he kept a diary of his

parish exploits in the 1870's records burying many babies, and often their mothers as well.

Those who could afford it, however, did set up stones. They were often small, as befits a child. These three are good examples, though not now easy to read.

The first is in memory of " The infant son of Henry and Mary Bulwer, December 10 th , 1887. " No name is given.

Walter Redfoord Bulwer was Lord Powerscourt' s land agent. Living at Seaview, (now Kilgarron House). His son, Henry Alan, was a wild young man , full of energy and enterprise. We know something of his character through the diary of the curate, as the two became fast friends. He married Mary Sophia Wingfield, the great granddaughter of Richard 4th Viscount Powerscourt. They emigrated to Canada, though Henry had already taken part in a failed business venture to



produce decorative tiling in New York. In the wilds of British Columbia, they set up a store and eventually were canning salmon in a big way. Assisted by Henry's father, who left Enniskerry and seems to have joined them, they made a fortune, living in style in Vancouver, and benefactors in many cultural spheres. Henry lived to a great age. He had children, but the nameless baby here seems to be the only son.

The second stone is tiny, and this one is "In Loving Memory". Edward David was the youngest son of Mr and Mrs William Payne of Bray.

He was known as Teddy and he was 3 years old in 1920. I have not been able to find out anything about the family.



The third stone records only the family name. There is no date, nor any gender. However, the burial book shows that " the infant child, a few hours old, of the Rev H. Clarke Irwin " was buried in 1934. The Rev Irwin was the minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Bray from 1881-1892, the second to hold that office. The family emigrated to Australia, but the stone remains, surrounded with the only intact railing in the churchyard, and in the spring thickly covered with primroses.



These little 3-minute prayer pockets can be found on our YouTube channel. The aim is to encourage some quiet time to spend with God.

MyMind is a government-funded on-line counselling service for people experiencing poor mental health during this Pandemic. This service is free of charge and can be accessed using www.mymind.ie (Covid 19 Project)



MyMind is very aware that the Covid19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on many individuals and families, and there has been increased pressure on people's ability to cope with additional challenges posed by the virus. From bereavement and job losses to the fear and anxiety caused by the need to socially distance, and trying to deal with loneliness and isolation, many people are finding it hard to cope at the moment. Getting help and staying connected are very important factors in maintaining good mental health. Talking to a qualified professional is a proven and effective way of dealing with problems of stress or anxiety. MyMind is now delivering FREE online counselling appointments for people all

over Ireland. If you have been directly affected by Covid-19 you may be eligible. All counselling and psychotherapy sessions delivered through this project will be provided by MyMind and will be carried out online via video call or phone calls.

To learn more please visit: <https://mymind.org/online>
l: hq@mymind.org or phone call +353 76 6801060



Our Living Room concept began by embracing the Wednesday Fellowship Group and encouraging it to expand. Now, under present restrictions, this little group has expanded even further as it is now held as a zoom

meeting and possible for people to attend who may not be from the locality. With this in mind we encourage you to join us on Wednesday Mornings at 10am on Zoom. If you would like to take part in this group please contact the Rector at cathyhallissey@hotmail.com.

Helping Hands!



Please don't forget we have had several offers of help from among our Parishioners to those who may be struggling a little at this time. We have some very willing volunteers to help with whatever is needed within these restricted times. Please let the office or the Rector know if you are in need of assistance.