

# NEWS — from the — PEWS



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Who wouldn't rise to catch a glimpse of this First Light before the day springs into life; to catch breath at the broad vista of sky hung with soft clouds; a warm early breeze that carries the distant sharp clink of a sail mast and the cry of a gull.

Who wouldn't rise to sit still by the wall and listen to the soft waves lapping as rising light turns water golden and draws the swans from their sanctuary out into the open waters.

Whatever this day may bring, I have begun well in this place as God smiled broadly on the new day.

## FIRST LIGHT

BRAY HARBOUR

Today I avoided the early-morning traffic by rising early and driving 4.8 kilometres to Bray Harbour. I only recently discovered the Harbour, having spent the past year and a half walking along the promenade and beach whenever we chose to visit. Like a moth to a flame, the Harbour seems to be drawing me back again and again; to watch the birds and walk the piers; to stand and be constantly surprised at the breath-taking and ever-changing vista of ocean and sky. This morning's visit has inspired me to do this every day if I can. To leave the house shortly after 7am would have me at the pier in ten minutes from the Rectory at the most glorious part of the day as the new light rises over the sea. The little beach the Harbour never ceases to amaze me with its wide variety of birds. I have laughed at their antics and the look of them at different stages of the changing tides; sometimes standing in their hundreds, wistfully watching the slowly receding waterline, waiting patiently for their chance to comb the sands. Other times I have observed their resilience against lashing rain and waves on a beach reduced to almost nothing by the water; swans, ducks, pigeons, gulls and small sea birds, standing with shoulders comically hunched against the wind. Just recently, as the light faded, my daughter Liz and I took Reilly our dog to the pier in a high wind. Taking care not to get swept away (nor end up with the dog as a kite on the end of the lead) we watched in silent fascination as huge waves belted against the shoreline and the sides of the pier. Beautiful in every weather and every season.

As one who seems to be constantly preaching about taking time out from our busy lives and minds, I must confess to finding this a very hard thing to do. To remain absolutely still in one place is tricky enough but harder still the art of stilling one's mind from the stream of thoughts within it. However, that said, we are to truly know ourselves and our God by this (often short) act of focus and of just 'being'. As I remind myself constantly, the past is gone and the future yet to come. All we truly have is the present

and ourselves within it. Sitting in a place such as beside the ocean or perhaps on the side of a beautiful mountain or beneath a forest canopy encourages a different type of rest and focus. It allows us to retreat into the part of ourselves that remains untouched by the conditioning of this world; to re-visit our true selves, if only briefly.

As I drove home this morning for breakfast a thought came quite suddenly. I'd like to invite you to join me to make a specific time every day to just 'be' with yourself. Even better if you took a photograph or wrote a short note about what you observe when you do. It need only be a few minutes or the luxury of an hour. Perhaps deciding to do this over the next six weeks of level 5 will bring a new realisation and focus. Perhaps it will bring some comfort in the truly precious and smaller things in life and perhaps our doing so will become a form of thanksgiving for all that we do have in a time when a lot is removed.



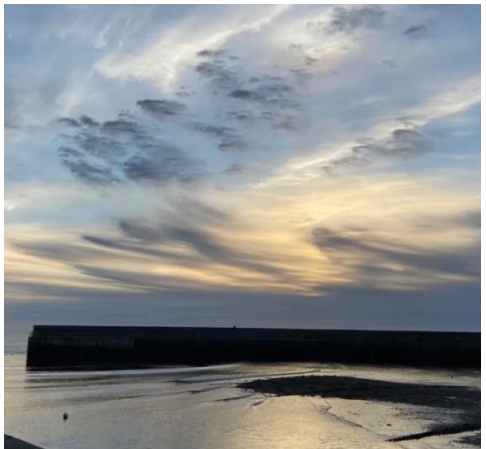
Feeding the Swans on the way to School.

*Bray Harbour, Oct. '20*



These changing times require us to be creative around outreach with everyone more limited boundaries. This little series of Prayer Pockets are created for comfort in difficult times and to assist us in stepping out of our lives onto our own Holy Ground wherever that may be, for no more than 3 minutes, to be with God. Here is the first prayer pocket.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=RxMfvZYmO-4>



Take a few moments for yourself to listen to the new Prayer Pockets that are on the YouTube site. My Heart's People and A Prayer for creation.

## Headstone of the Week



This fine headstone, in perfect condition, has been for years overshadowed and probably protected, by the huge tree which was recently felled behind it.

It commemorates Sir John Crampton, of Bushy Park, 1805-1886 He was the son of Sir Philip Crampton, well known Irish surgeon.

Sir John had an eccentric career in the British diplomatic service, working in Brussels, Vienna, St Petersburg, the US, Spain, and finally Hanover. In Russia he met and married Victoire Balfe, an accomplished singer and daughter of Irish composer Michael Balfe. She divorced him, eloping with a Spanish nobleman.

In the United States he provoked a serious diplomatic incident between Britain and the States, by recruiting for the Crimea, an unlawful and undiplomatic proceeding. He was recalled from his post in Washington for this demeanour, but was made KCB and Governor of Hanover, where he remained until his retirement.

He was a talented painter, observing the peoples and the landscapes of his diplomatic travels with style. His drawings still turn up from time to time at art auctions.

After 40 years of service, he retired to Bushy Park, where he took no further interest in foreign affairs, saying that those of Enniskerry were quite enough for him.

His sisters both lived in Enniskerry and are buried nearby. Selina (1813-1893) was a clever, talented woman, artist, gardener, wit and generous friend. We have a good pen portrait of her in the Diary of the curate, Rev Ernest Whelan, whom she befriended when he first came to the village. She lived in Bushy Park, and also with her widowed sister, Adelaide Jephson, whose residence was Glenbrook at the other side of the village.



**Virginia Creeper  
Tumbling  
over the  
Walled  
Garden in  
Marley Park,  
October  
2020  
Submitted by  
Helen  
Beardsley**



**A Golden  
Pathway  
under the  
Beech Trees  
in  
Powerscourt,  
October  
2020,  
submitted by  
Helen  
Beardsley**



Enniskerry needs a playground for the children of our community! This will be there for them to enjoy now and for many years into the future! We as the members of the Enniskerry Playground Committee need to fundraise €20,000 of the total amount (€200,000) which will then be match funded by Wicklow County Council. The rest of the funds will come from funding

streams and grants applied for by the committee in the coming months. The playground will be wholly owned, managed and insured by Wicklow CoCo once installed.

Due to the current Covid restrictions its near impossible to organise fundraising events and that's why we've decided on a gofundme and an online platform to try and generate the much-needed funds. We have a site; we have the enthusiasm now all we need is your kindness and generosity! Any amount donated to this great cause will be hugely appreciated!

To donate or find out more information please follow the below link:

<https://gf.me/u/y4qa7b>

Thanking you in advance the committee members Aisling Vickers (Chairperson), Roisin Briggs (Secretary), Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Eugene O'Mara, Alan Martin and Ger Driver, Dervla Cotter.

## 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.



In light of the new restrictions introduced by the Government we would like to remind you of a Government funded online counselling service for people experiencing poor mental health during

this pandemic. This service may well be of benefit to parishioners.

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: [www.mymind.ie](http://www.mymind.ie)  
**email:** [hq@mymind.org](mailto:hq@mymind.org) or phone call [+353 76 680 1060](tel:+353766801060)



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.

# 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  
St. Brigid's Kilbride  
*A Community of Faith in the Garden of Ireland*

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

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



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