

News from the Pews

30th October 2020

Welcome to this week's News from the Pews. It's a slightly shorter newsletter this week due to half term. Now, more than ever, we are in need of your input in order to outreach to one another at this difficult and lonely time for many people. If you have an article or photo you would like to share with us, please don't hesitate to send it to office@powerscourtns.ie We would love to hear from you!

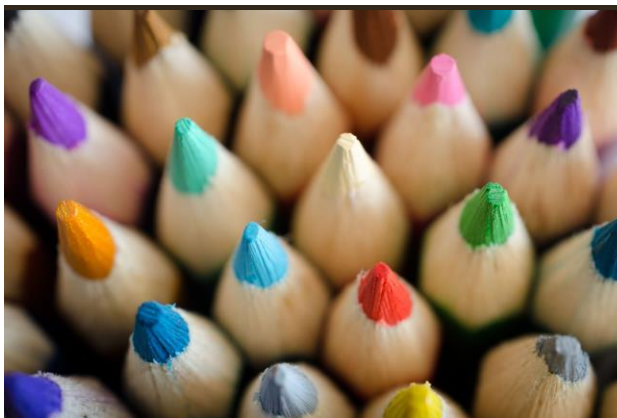
A Small Glimpse of Heaven

During a conversation with the teachers of Powerscourt National School a few months ago it was asked that I visit the Junior and Senior Infants and First and Second Class on a weekly basis (as well as Assembly on Fridays). The idea was that the children should see me as part of the school and grow up with me around. Now this is nothing to do with me myself per se but the idea that 'church' should be seen as being an integral part of the life of the school which is both a delightful and encouraging thought. We are blessed to have teachers who are willing to embrace this concept and from 'church's' point of view, this type of support is priceless.

So began my Tuesday sessions (about 15 minutes first thing in the morning) with the classes mentioned above. It's the type of interaction that can well take a grey day and turn it completely on its head and readjust, with incredible ease, the way we adults see the world. Whether the visit be accompanied by a primate or not, to sit at the front of the class and talk about the pupils week and what they were learning or feeling over the most recent days is quite the conversation and there have been many times I have wished for a recorder for those small voices which impart a new wisdom to us adults who may think we have it sorted!

We have moved from learning to be quiet with a shy person to accepting that shy is ok; embraced the idea of smaller pods in getting to know one another and encouraged the individual gifts and perspectives of individuals as part of God's colourful design. The underlying aim is to encourage self-expression and acceptance and we have met God through several scripture stories that involve people who have not always been perfect but have become heroes through the working of God within them.

Be it within the classroom walls or within the Rectory Garden meeting the hens, time spent with these smaller folk is nothing short of a glimpse of heaven in their world where there is vivid and colourful imagination and a deep kindness of heart. It is my great pleasure to interact with these remarkable human beings! Thank you Powerscourt National School!



WE WISH ALL
OUR SCHOOL
CHILDREN AND
THEIR
TEACHERS A
HAPPY AND
RESTFUL HALF
TERM!

Cathy

Present restrictions have made it more difficult to deliver the Church Review this month. With this in mind we are making the Church Review available *for collection* from

St. Patrick's Church Porch
Saturday 31st October
9am – 12noon

We would greatly appreciate your help in collecting your copy of the Review and perhaps a copy for a person who lives close to you.

Many thanks!
Joyce and Cathy



Making Memories.

A few days ago in the company of my two granddaughters I crossed the road into the magic of Fernhill Gardens in Stepsaside. The three year old was dressed in a beautiful pink princess dress, wearing a silver crown and carrying her wand for extra magic. Her five year old sister was wearing her 'Bear Grills' jacket and hat ready for adventures in the 'wild'. Walking with my joy filled granddaughters allowed me to see the world through their eyes with a new awareness. I wondered if we would meet the fairies they had 'seen' with their Mum and Dad earlier in the year. As I looked



for these magical creatures, the older child stopped, looked at me very seriously and said "Gran the fairies have gone on their holidays and won't be back until springtime", so of course I had to bow to her superior knowledge. But as we walked on they both pointed to silver numbers on some of the trees which marked them as fairy trees! The youngest then stopped to show me all the different coloured leaves on the ground that had fallen because it is now autumn. We even spotted a grey squirrel as it scarpered into the undergrowth. We then passed two ladies sitting on a bench with their dog between them. We said hello and as they admired our princess she waved her magic wand which would allow them to fly. It was a magical moment for all in the 'meeting'.

We continued on our way and came to a gate with a sign telling us there were no dogs allowed, but we were okay because we didn't have a dog! This brought us into another part of the garden where the older sister pointed with great authority into the distance and said "the witches' house is over there". The youngest held my hand and whispered "*I'm staying with you gran*" as she moved closer. We weaved in and out of the trees following the older sister's directions but we somehow managed to avoid the witches' house...phew!

We started to make our way back home and then the fun and laughter began in earnest...every rock was a mountain to climb and a test of balancing skills as we traversed the 'wild'. Hiding in shrubbery, princess dress getting caught in the brambles and sister rescuing sister. Hilarious laughter as they posed for photos to capture the memories.

As we left these magical gardens and came to the pedestrian lights I was shown by my two small companions how to use my elbow to activate the lights. Covid-19 now very much a part of our new normal, but in no way interfering with the magic.....

Sheila Lindsay.

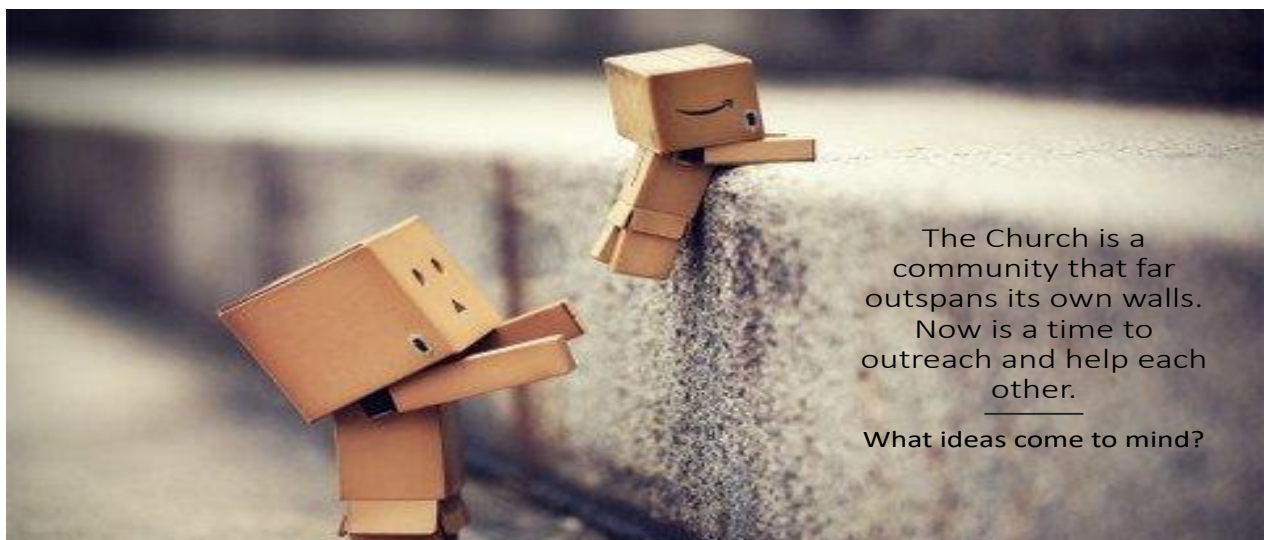


MyMind is a government-funded on-line counselling service for people experiencing poor mental health during this Pandemic. This service is free of charge and can be accessed using www.mymind.ie (Covid 19 Project)

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 tryin to deal with loneliness and isolation, many people are finding it hard to cope at the moment. Getting help and staying connected are very mportant 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>
email: hq@mymind.org or phone call +353 76 6801060



The Church is a
community that far
outspans its own walls.
Now is a time to
outreach and help each
other.

What ideas come to mind?



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 cathyhallssey@hotmail.com.

This week's Zoom Fellowship Group took a long look at Caravaggio's masterpiece 'The Taking of the Christ'. It's amazing how God can speak to us through so many different media and ways - even through the brush strokes of a fine artist!



Heavenly Father,
For you there are no boundaries and you can cross into places and people's lives where we can't go. We ask for your continued presence and comfort for all those who are isolated or suffering in any way at this time in body, mind or spirit. Help them to know that you are always with them and will guide and lead them through these difficult times.
In Jesus name we ask. Amen.



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



One of the good things about headstones is that they sometimes tell a family story.

This one tells of John Hewitt and his wife Marianne. John died in 1901. He was the Sexton of Powerscourt church and his wife the Sextoness. His contract dated 1884, describes him as Ex Sergeant RIC. He may have come to Enniskerry about the time of the contract, with his growing family

As you can see, four of the children died very young..aged 22, 16, 21, and 2 months. Enniskerry was meant to have a healthy climate, but many died people of Tuberculosis then. At least one son survived to middle age with his wife. The grey stone tells a different story. One of Johns grandsons survived to 90 in Ireland, and the other, Richard , emigrated to South Africa, and prospered sufficiently to reach 90 and his wife, 92 years.

Judy Cameron



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.



On Set!

On Thursday 5th November next the carpark in Powerscourt will be filled with a film crew who will be filming from 7am to 8pm both inside and outside the church. I am reliably informed that this crew is exempt from Level 5 Restrictions due to the nature of their work and that they will oblige our parish (particularly the parents of the School) by directing parking and enabling parents to park or double-park against their vehicles for the collection times of early morning and lunchtime at the school. The church will be vapour cleansed following the day's filming and, as it is closed at the present time, will hold no risk to our normal services. We are most grateful to the school and parents for accommodating this one day's filming which will bring in substantial and most needed funding for Powerscourt Church.



Caught in Flight!

Seagulls over the pier in Bray by Clare Gill



It's been difficult for our children over this past year with the changes that have occurred. Plans are now afoot for an online weekly series for children in keeping with the Sunday Advent Scriptures heralding the coming of the baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

All information on children's activities can be found on the Dublin and Glendalough Kids Facebook page.

Keep track of what's on-going and with our on-line services and prayer pockets:



Powerscourt with Kilbride

Embracing all forms of Church



<http://www.powerscourt.glendalough.anglican.org/test/>

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=the%20grouped%20parishes%20of%20powerscourt%20with%20kilbride>