

NEWS — from the — PEWS

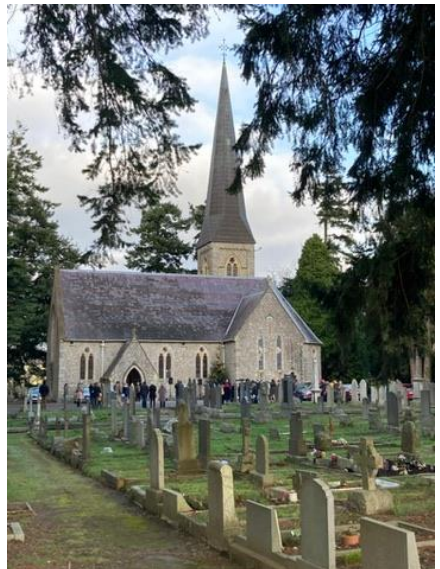


Dear Parishioners,

This Week's News from the Pews is distinctly quieter as it reflects a quieter time of the year. That said, we will be back up and running next week and would welcome any articles, photographs or reflections from our regular contributors and new contributors. Local business are also welcome to advertise without charge. Please do help us to outreach in this way. All contributions gratefully received.

Permission to Get it Wrong!

Normally when Ipm comes on Christmas Day I enter the family homestead a little dazed and pretty exhausted. The two weeks before Christmas tend to be very busy with planning Services and School Activities. It's joyous but full-on. This year there was a distinctly new spring in my step when I returned home to the Rectory after the Christmas Day Services. It puzzled me how this year had been busier with more smaller services throughout Christmas Week and yet the energy felt at the end of it all was new and unusual and life-giving! I



remembered the small 8:30am Holy Communion Service and the lovely celebration of Christmas Day in St. Brigid's; I remembered too the struggle with a speaker and struggling with a script and a puppet while standing in groups outside St. Patrick's Church at 11:30 for an outdoor Service and concluded that Covid had driven back the higher expectations or aspirations of perfection and in their place had drawn people together with the clear intent of rejoicing and holding fast in the faith that they love so much. This, my friends, is what it's all about! There was a distinctly different feeling to these services. We were doing our best under the circumstances and nobody really minded if they had to distance a little or wrap up in a hat and scarf to attend church. Underlying all this was a feeling of unity that far surpassed any tiredness. So on behalf of myself (and Copperpot) – Thank you! It is always a pleasure and privilege to walk with you on your journey of faith and I look forward to continuing this journey in the coming year.

The Visitation!

On Friday 18th December, class by class, the pupils of Powerscourt National School visited our beautiful crib in St. Patrick's Church and brought offerings of stars and angels' buildings and outhouses to adorn the crib and its surroundings. It was a bright and joy-filled occasion in an otherwise empty and lonely church. Our thanks to the teachers and pupils of Powerscourt National School for their help in setting the scene of the Nativity so very well.



PARISH GIFT DAY



Sincere thanks to
all those who
donated to both
churches on
Parish Gift Day.
Your donations
are most



gratefully received at this difficult time for our churches.

Carols by Candlelight



Sometimes we
are compelled to
look at the good
knock-on effects
of Covid19! This
year's Carols by
Candlelight took
place outside St.
Patrick's church
and was one of
two events which
took place in the
grounds in order
to draw together

safely. Although it was difficult to tell who was who between hats and masks, we drew a goodly number of folk around the church and many commented that we might consider doing this again regardless of the removal of restrictions. There was something simple and rather beautiful about singing carols into the frosty air. Something to be repeated next year, I think!



There are seven members of the LeFanu family laid to rest in this churchyard.

William Richard was a famous railway engineer, responsible, among other projects, for the Bagenalstown to Kilkenny line, which included the Borris viaduct. He had 10 children, 8 sons and 2 daughters, many of whom became famous in their own fields.

(One, Rev Henry Frewen, emigrated and became Primate of Australia, in 1935)

William was an active member of the Enniskerry community, a popular figure in the village, and Vestryman for twenty years while resident in Summerhill, now the hotel.

He was the author of a memoir, "Seventy Years of Irish Life", still quoted in anthologies.



His wife, Henrietta Victorine, was the daughter of Sir Matthew Barrington, (of Barrington's Hospital, Limerick.)

Of the sons here buried, Captain Hugh Barrington LeFanu RN, was harbour master of Dunkirk 1915-1918, and subsequently officer in charge of CoastGuards in SE Ireland .(His son, Admiral Sir Michael LeFanu, CB,KCB,GCB 1913-1970, served in WW2 and became First Sea Lord 1968-70)

William Richard LeFanu, 1816 – 1894

Victor Charles LeFanu, JP, 1862-1939, was a classical scholar, and became Lord Meath's Agent. He played rugby for Ireland 11 times and was captain in 1892.

Yet another son, also William Richard, 1861- 1925 a Barrister, was the

administrator of Queen Anne's Bounty, as recorded on his headstone, which was a fund for the relief of impoverished clergy, founded in 1703. And another, Thomas P. d. 1945, was Commissioner of Public Works and the President of the Antiquarian Society of Ireland. Summerhill was a haven for nephews and nieces, children of his brother, Sheridan LeFanu, author of gothic stories. One nephew was a Vestryman at Powerscourt for some years. A niece, Eleanor Robertson, and her daughter are also buried in the churchyard.





Our Living Room concept began by embracing the Wednesday Fellowship Group and encouraging it to expand. The Group now takes time to review Portraits of the Scriptures and it's amazing what emerges in conversation through the workings of the Holy Spirit! 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 am on Zoom. If you would like to take part in this group please contact the Rector at cathyhallissey@hotmail.com.



He's Back!

Although our Online Services are mostly created for adults, the outreach that has taken place for children in the past year (particularly

during the home-schooling phase of the pandemic) has taken the shape of regular Copperpot Videos where our loveable ape has explored mental health issues for children in pandemic. As we are now back in similar circumstances, more videos are to be created going forward spanning a wide range of different topics and scriptures. All videos can be found on our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Grouped-Parishes-of-Powerscourt-with-Kilbride-1514315732033467>

or on our Parishes YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0XYER9cLb4mj3tuNcYdExQ>

Sunrise on the Bray Coastline (Photo by Fionnuala Downes)



Sometimes it's hard to find things to do with children to fill the days at home. Why not visit our Dioceses Facebook Page for ideas!

<https://www.facebook.com/Dublin-Glendalough-Kids-107738287592834>