

NEWS — *from the* — PEWS

The more I am around my own young adults and others I become more heartened; it seems, at first glance, that the world is changing rather rapidly and that there are certain habits, actions or words that are no longer acceptable because of the hurt they might cause to another individual. After centuries of trying and standing on the shoulders of remarkable people in the past, the world is beginning to move forward in areas of equality and justice (although many of us would say – ‘not quick enough’ in certain quarters!). It is good, however, to focus on the positive and cleave to the little

adjustments that bring about immense change. It seems that our younger people seem to have found their voice in this world today and are using it!



This week’s Gospel is about Voice. As we move through the Season of Advent we are encouraged to always ‘watch and wait’ for God in our lives. John is the person who emerges for us during Advent as he is spoken of by the Prophets of old as a ‘voice crying in the wilderness’ another integral piece of the puzzle that had to be in place for the birth, life and ministry of Jesus the Christ. Yet, like most things associated with the Messiah’s

entrance and presence in this world, John is the most unlikely candidate to announce him.

If the Divine within us takes the shape and form of all that is non-material then John excelled in his simplicity, drawing upon deeper truths and exhibiting faith, courage and something undefinable within his person that had people flock to him from Jerusalem. It took tremendous courage for John to stand and declare the Messiah and no doubt there was a strong cohort who declared him insane! Finding a Voice as a follower of Christ can take on many different forms yet, at the end of the day, it is the powerful witness to something that is more than we can comprehend; to a Divine power with the ability to transform an open heart. Advent affords us the opportunity to review our own thoughts about our faith and possibly time too.



**God's Word for
this Week
Sunday 6th
December 2020**

**Second Sunday of Advent
Online Service Available
on the following link:**

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0XYER9cLb4mj3tuNcYdExQ?view_as=subscriber

Christmas in Powerscourt with Kilbride

Christmas 2020 in the Church will be a different Christmas but a very special one all the same. The Church will be open and reaching out to the parish for the full week of Christmas rather than just on the 25th.

Below is a schedule of services that you will be most welcome to join while keeping within the guidelines.



Friday 18th December

School Visit to the Nativity
Display in St. Patrick's Church
with Carols and Prayers
around the Christmas Tree.



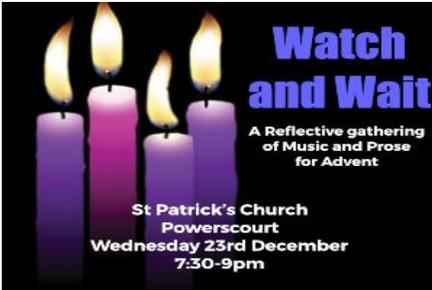
Sunday 20th December

Carols by Candlelight
(Torches/Lanterns)
St. Patrick's Church Grounds
at 7pm



Tuesday 22nd December

"Remembering the Shepherds"
A short Service of the Holy
Eucharist
St. Brigid's Church, Kilbride
at 8pm



Wednesday 23rd December

'Watch and Wait' a chance to stop and quietly reflect to music and prose.
St. Patrick's Church, Powerscourt
7:30pm – 9pm



Thursday 24th December

A short celebration of the Holy Eucharist for Christmas Eve.
St. Patrick's Church, Powerscourt
9pm.



Friday 25th December

Outdoor Family Service for Christmas Day
St. Patrick's Carpark, Powerscourt
At 11:30am



Remember Me is a fundraising initiative that presents an opportunity for you to sponsor a tree in remembrance of a loved one or family group. Your tree will be one of a group of Scots Pine that will be planted along the Cookstown Road (within the church grounds).

While Scots Pine was one of the first species to colonise our island after the ice age it all but disappeared from most of the country about 4000 years ago. Our initiative will introduce a modest plantation of these native evergreens that will watch over us, and future generations, for years to come.

To make your dedication, simply contact (John Davis 087 238 8984). Trees will be allocated on a first come first served basis. While sponsorship is at your discretion, a suggested donation is (€250).



Mental Health Advent Calendar, competitions, puzzles, Elf Help tips and fun for all the family.

Check out the below link!



<https://www.mentalhealthireland.ie/seasonsgreetings/>



The Holy Eucharist at Home

Every Wednesday in December, starting the 9th the Rector will be available to bring Holy Communion to those who may wish to remain at home. If you would like to receive Holy Communion in your own home, please contact Mandy at the School on (01) 2865862

An Eircode is most useful!

Hills and Valleys

Most of this past year has been difficult and lonely for many people. In keeping with tradition, we are in the process of bringing together families who would be willing to participate in Carol Singing in the Hills and Valleys of our nearby countryside, visiting the houses of many people who may be living remotely. This is particularly poignant this year as we endeavour to raise spirits and come together as community. We would welcome any families (and family members of all ages) to participate in this; including secondary pupils who may wish to use this as another form of community service.

Leaving Powerscourt Church in individual cars at **5pm on Saturday 12th December.**





Copperpot's Trail was unfortunately delayed on Sunday but will be available from this Sunday 6th December.

This simple trail is marked by signed beneath the trees in Powerscourt Graveyard on the Cremation Plot side (beside the Rectory Hedge). Beneath some of our finest Pine Trees families will find five stops which explain the Christmas Story and ask questions to make you think! Why not spend a little time in this quiet place with your family and safely outdoors!

Spiritual Advent Calendar

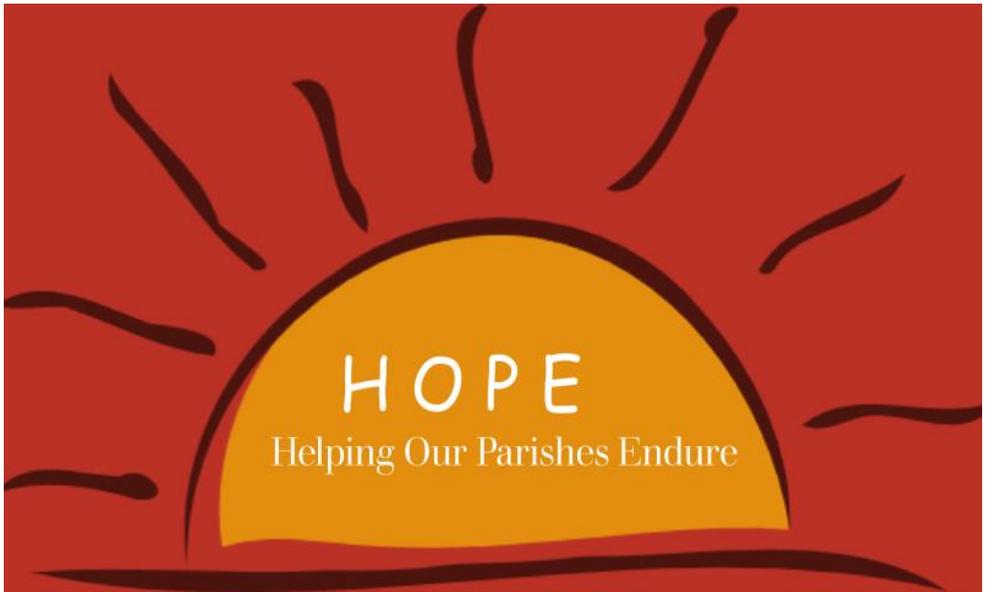
In chapter 9 of Esther, the Jews (who are under law) “*took it on themselves*” (v27) to commemorate annually one of God’s great deliverances of his people. The holiday was to be “*a day of joy and feasting, a day for giving presents to each other*” (v19) and “*gifts to the poor*” (v22), just as “*Queen Esther had decreed for them*” (v31). What’s more, the actual dates were chosen by mere *humans* (see verses 17–22). How much more are Christians, under grace, at liberty to do likewise with key events in the unfolding of God’s great redemptive plan—events such as Jesus’ birth.

Since the Fourth Century the period leading up to December 25th has traditionally been referred to as “Advent” (ie. ‘coming’). In a passage

commonly known as ‘The Magnificat’ (Luke 1:46–55), Mary ascribes no fewer than 27 characteristics to God—each of which, curiously, begins with the letter ‘P’. As we prepare to commemorate Christ’s birth (and indeed prepare for his return in glory!), we would do well to ascribe those same 27 attributes to our heavenly Father. The chart below may help anyone who wishes to focus on a different attribute each day...

Submitted by Ronan Scanlan

28 th November	“My soul glorifies”	a PRAISEWORTHY God
29 th November	“The Lord”	a PRE-EMINENT God
30 th November	“And my spirit rejoices in God”	a PLEASING God
1 st December	“My Saviour”	a PROPITIATORY God
2 nd December	“For He has been mindful”	a PERSONAL God
3 rd December	“of the humble state of his servant;”	a PROTECTING God
4 th December	“From now on”	a PERPETUAL God
5 th December	“all generations will call me blessed”	a PERSUASIVE God
6 th December	“for the Mighty One”	a POWERFUL God
7 th December	“Has done great things for me”	a PHILANTHROPIC God
8 th December	“holy is His name;”	a PURE God
9 th December	“His mercy extends”	a PARDONING God
10 th December	“To those who fear Him”	a POTENT God
11 th December	“From generation to generation;”	a PROGRESSIVE God
12 th December	“He has performed mighty deeds”	a PERFORMING God
13 th December	“With his arm; he has scattered”	a PROACTIVE God
14 th December	“those who are proud in their inmost thoughts;”	a PERCEPTIVE God
15 th December	“He has brought down rulers from their thrones”	a PERFECT God
16 th December	“But has lifted up the humble;”	a PROMOTING God
17 th December	“He has filled the hungry with good things”	a PROVIDING God
18 th December	“but has sent the rich away empty;”	a PRUDENT God
19 th December	“He has helped his servant Israel”	a PRAYER-ANSWERING God
20 th December	“Remembering to be merciful to Abraham”	a PURPOSEFUL God
21 st December	“And his descendants”	a PATERNAL God
22 nd December	“For ever”	a PERMANENT God
23 rd December	“just as he promised”	a PROMISE-KEEPING God
24 th December	“our ancestors”	a PROPHECY-FULFILLING God



What does Christmas look like this year?

What does Church look like this year?

Covid 19 has had a huge impact on Parishes around the country over the last nine months. During that time, your parish continued to work for you, albeit in a very different way.

So, what will be happening over the next few weeks?

A loosening of restrictions will allow for most of the traditional style of worship to take place. In addition, there is recognition that there are those who either cannot or may not wish to attend church in the normal way. Live streaming will continue, and Holy Communion will be provided at home where possible.

Please refer to your individual parish communications for details of all services and events that will be available to you over the coming weeks.

Parishes are hugely grateful to all those who provide support in so many ways and are eager to begin the process of a return to being a visible, vibrant and living part of the community.

The challenges that we have all faced and will continue to face are not just liturgical or logistical, but financial too. You have all heard the clarion call from businesses to shop local this Christmas. As you prepare to open your purses to support businesses in your area, we urge you to support your parish too. Traditional methods of fundraising could not take place this year, so please put your parish on your 2020 Christmas present list.

The HOPE initiative has been launched by the Dioceses to appeal directly to you as parishioners to ask you to contribute towards maintaining the work of your parish during and after this difficult period.

You can make a financial contribution through a one-off gift this Christmas, through the parish envelope scheme or by completing a standing order. Your parish will have more information on this.

We cannot yet know just how 2021 will look, but your parish will be there for you, providing everything that is possible to provide. We hope for a return to the traditional, but also to have learned from the past nine months and move forward into a newer and renewed faith and hope for the future.

The United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough

HOPE Moving Forward Together

We are very grateful for all donations that the Church has received, please see below for details on giving.

On-Line Donations

St. Patrick's, Powerscourt

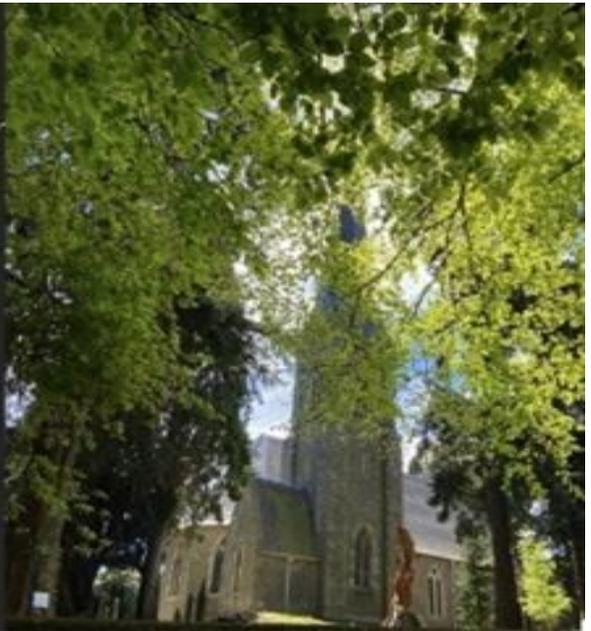
A Community of Faith in the Garden of Ireland

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

Powerscourt Parochial No.1 Account
Account No: 141 48698

IBAN
IE39 BOFI 90103614148698.

Your donation is greatly appreciated at this time



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
BIC BOFIE2D

IBAN
IE98 BOFI 9010 3614 1412 34

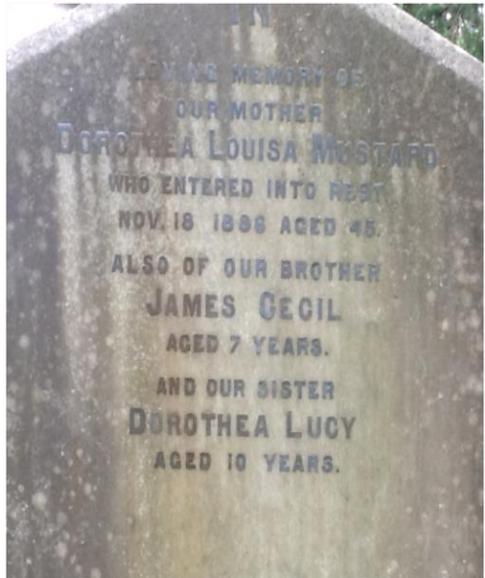
*Your donation is greatly
appreciated at this time*





Thomas James Mustard, 1826-1902, was the RIC constable in Enniskerry. RIC officers were able to retire at a relatively young age. On his retirement he became the gatekeeper at the lower end of what we know as the Lovers Leap Path. His cottage has long been demolished, but he and his

wife used to serve teas there at long benches in front of the door to the tourists who visited the Dargle Glen. He raised his large family of 11 children there. His eldest son, also Thomas, was born in the barracks in Enniskerry. When he grew up, he married the daughter of his father's successor at Enniskerry, Anthony Gallagher. (The Gallagher's are also buried in this graveyard) Thus their daughter, Kathleen, has two RIC officers for grandfathers. Kathleen was born in 1912, lived



all her life in Bray, and died in 2016 at the age of 104. She was a delightful companion, with a fund of tales to tell, and it seems incredible that her grandfather was a Victorian who had fought in the Crimea.

The headstone records the death of Thomas Mustard's wife and two of the children, aged 7 and 10, Cecil and Lucy. There are no other names on the stone, but Thomas himself and four other adult members of the family are buried there. Kathleen is buried elsewhere. Perhaps there was no room left in the family plot.

Judy Cameron



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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.

NO MORE 1 IN 3! – 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 2020

Mothers' Union plays its role through advocacy, prayer and practical matters.

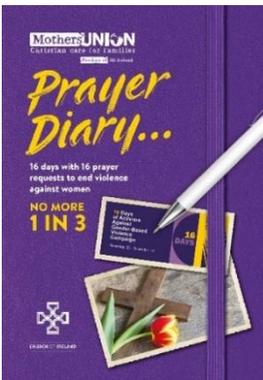


Throughout the year branches support refuges, according to local needs, providing items and vouchers for families that have just arrived to home start packs. The response from members has been phenomenal.

CRiTiCALL is a new initiative to support people emerging from domestic violence circumstances compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic.



In 2020 the annual *All-Ireland Mothers' Union 16 Days Prayer Vigil* is moving from a series of dedicated events to individual homes. Mothers' Union have produced a *16 Days Prayer Diary* which highlights the issues involved, together with the positive work taking place across the Church of Ireland in highlighting and combatting domestic abuse and gender-based violence.



The *16 Days Prayer Diary* is informative, and thought-provoking, drawing its readers into reflection and prayer accompanied by simple points of action

A copy can be downloaded at <http://www.mothersunion.ie/files/16-Days-Prayer-Diary-for-Interactive.pdf>. Copies may also be ordered from Mothers' Union by contacting allireland.mothersunion@gmail.ie. Postage

costs will apply.

The 16 Days of Activism and Global Day of Action will be framed in the context of prayer and action with a series of online events:

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

Saturday 5th December: GLOBAL DAY OF ACTIVISM

Online Protest launch ~ 9am

– throughout MU social channels including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Online “Cup of Tea for No More 1 in 3” ~ 11.30am

Join us with a cup of tea as we take time out our day to reflect and pray for our “No More 1 in 3 campaign” This will be followed by Midday Prayers – Facebook Live and You Tube

No More 1 in 3 Global Day Service ~ 8pm – Facebook Live and You Tube

<https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnion/>

Sunday 6th December:

16 Days online service from Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh – You Tube

Thursday 10th December:

Online Compline ~ 8pm

– Worship to mark the close of the 16 Days of Activism - Facebook Live and You Tube

Loving Lord,

your care and love are ever present in our lives.

We pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world

who live in situations of abuse and violence.

Give them hope in their hopelessness;

help them find strength in their weakness;

grant them freedom from their oppression;

transform their brokenness into wholeness;

and heal their wounds, visible and invisible.

Grant us all the courage and wisdom, grace and humility,

to act at all times with compassion and care.

And grant all who are harmed by abuse or coercion, peace through justice.



This we ask in Jesus name. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WORKING TO END SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

God bless you with insight to recognise violence in all its forms,
and courage to name it, speaking out for justice.

The Lord Jesus bless you with compassion for the vulnerable,
and grace to stand with them, sharing his strength.

The Holy Spirit bless you with a prayerful heart,
and power to breathe peace, transforming the world.

The blessing of the holy and glorious Trinity,
eternal Wisdom, living Word, abiding Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

(With thanks to the Anglican Church of Australia)



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.

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.

