

# NEWS — *from the* — PEWS

## **In Djouce Woods**

The best advice I can give, when you find yourself present in a beautiful place is to stand still, breathe deeply and perceive. Allow your surroundings soak into yourself through the power of the senses of sight, sound and scent.

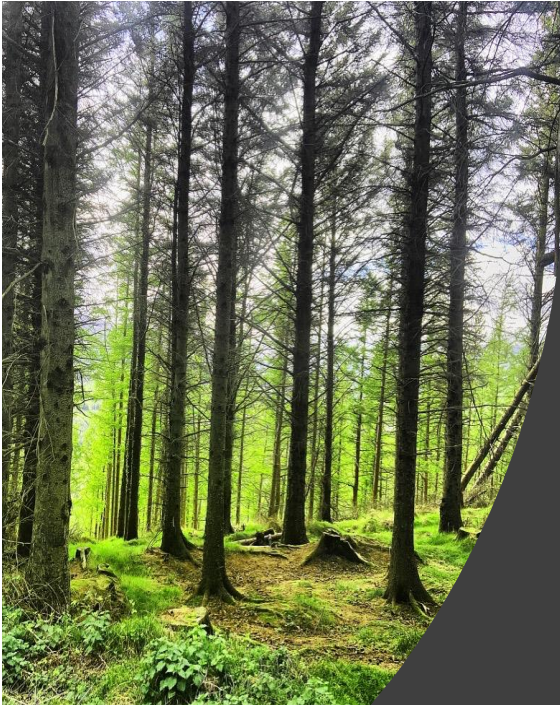
I am always taking photos. I realise that I spend more time ‘snapping’ the particular scene than absorbing it and have to keep reminding myself of my own advice. Yet, when faced with something that seems almost ‘other-worldly’ in its beauty there is a mild frenzy in me to trap it for all posterity in an image or word. And yet words can fail me on occasion. We are, after all, experiential beings.

Just recently we discovered Djouce Woods, a mere five minutes’ drive away from where we live. This vast forest on the edge of an expansive valley contains thousands of tall fir trees, so closely planted it is difficult to imagine how green and fine the grass grows beneath such a canopy, and yet the light itself is green and encouraging. Our first visit, I stood still and caught my breath. In their hundreds and without a whisper of wind to stir their higher branches, the trees seemed to watch, aloof from their lofty height as we three mortals and one dog stood looking back, matching their gaze. Beneath their trunks a carpet of thick green moss softened the jagged windfalls and



softly framed nooks and crannies of burrows and miniscule caves within their woody trunks. I marvelled how they stood relentless in all weathers. Far more committed to this place than we, just passing through. They had endured the harsh winter winds and snow, the panting heat of summer and the passage of humans, like ourselves who fleeting remarked on their beauty and then were gone.

Within this place, green light held the promise of growth and renewal matched by the altar cloths and stoles in our churches for the approaching 'Ordinary Time' in the church's calendar and we are excited, yes, at returning to our beloved churches and congregations; but let's not forget what the slowing down of time has taught us when it comes to standing in a wood and breathing deeply. It is there, I am fully convinced, the palpable presence of the Divine is felt in an embrace of wood and firs and soft green light.



## Green, Green is my Sister's House

by Mary Oliver

Don't you dare climb that tree  
or even try, they said, or you will be  
sent way to the hospital of the  
very foolish, if not the other one.  
And I suppose, considering my age,  
it was fair advice.

But the tree is a sister to me, she  
lives alone in a green cottage  
high in the air and I know what  
would happen, she'd clap her green hands,  
she'd shake her green hair, she'd  
welcome me. Truly.

I try to be good but sometimes  
a person just has to break out and  
act like the wild and springy thing  
one used to be. It's impossible not  
to remember *wild* and not want to go back. So  
if someday you can't find me you might  
look into that tree or—of course  
it's possible—under it.



We invite you to join us for a Grouped Parishes Forum this coming Sunday at 11am - 12:30pm. Please find a short agenda and the zoom link below. A brief synopsis of our last meeting will be given along with

suggestions made so far in this process. We would welcome your input and ideas in this forum and very much look forward to seeing you there as we re-envision Church at this exciting time. Every blessing, Cathy.

*Please see opening email for zoom invitation details.*

## GROUPED PARISHES FORUM - SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021

### AGENDA

OPENING PRAYER

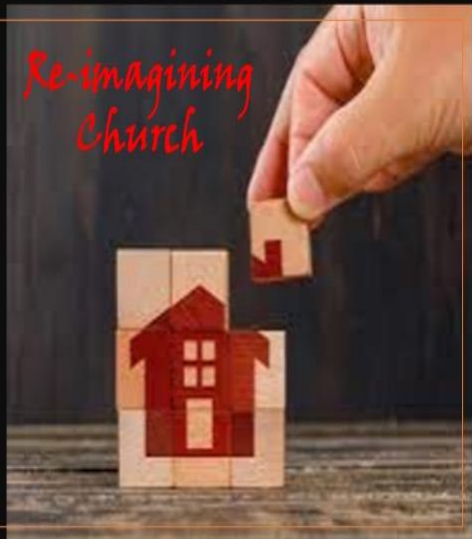
WELCOME & HOUSEKEEPING

SUMMARY OF LAST MEETING  
*Recommendations for  
Moving Forward as Church  
(Slides)*

OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION

SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED

CLOSING PRAYER

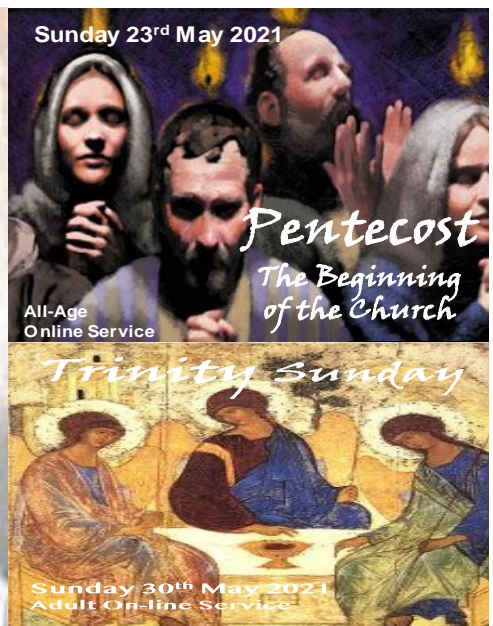




**This week's online Service:**



**Upcoming Services:**





Is it time to cherish the small wins in our everyday lives, to truly enjoy the good days and what they bring? We have come through a long, long year of unimaginable challenges. In many ways it seems surreal, but slowly and steadily life is beginning to open up. What that means in the weeks and months ahead will no doubt bring its own challenges, because we have to ‘reboot’ and learn to live life with hope and confidence again. But the human spirit is very resilient...

It is very sobering to realise how much our world as a whole has changed. Will it ever be possible to go back to the ways things were, or perhaps we may now be asking ourselves do we really want to? Throughout my life thus far, I’ve never really felt the need to ‘go back’. Everything in my life is a lived experience whether it be good, or not so good, but always there have been lessons to be learned and much to be thankful for. There is a

lot of weariness and anxiety around, as moving in and out of lockdown has taken its toll at many levels. We have to learn to feel safe again as we slowly move out of our 'units' back into community. It is important that we take life at the pace that is right for us as individuals. Be kind, be gentle and be aware that the giving and receiving of support is a gift.

*"Always remember you matter, you're important and you are loved, and you bring it to this world things no one else can".*

Charlie Mackesy.

Sheila Lindsay.

## Enniskerry Welcomes Fundraising – Go Fund me



Donations for 'Enniskerry Welcomes' is welcomed through GoFundMe page at <https://gofund.me/da6ca049>

If you would like to stay up to date with the latest news from Enniskerry Welcomes:

Follow the 'Enniskerry Welcomes' Facebook page at <https://fb.me/enniskerrywelcomes>



## Connecting Community

Art in the Paddock is about connecting our community after a year of disconnect we are celebrating brighter days through our creativity, we hope you join us by **donating** a picture to our Art in the Paddock Exhibition.

All proceeds will be split equally between  
Powerscourt NS & The Grouped Parishes of Powerscourt & Kilbride.

### Submission Form

**Parish, Family, Friends, & Past Pupils .....**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please ensure Pictures are ready for hanging)**

Completed Pictures to be left in  
the school on the Thur 20th of May.

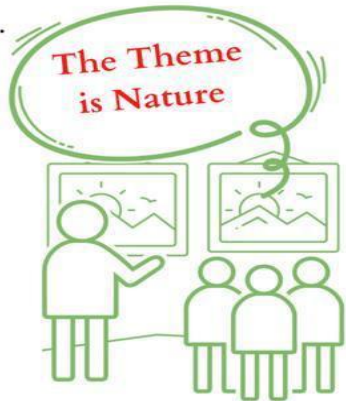
#### **SALE PRICES ON THE DAY**

**€20.00 for Children's Art / €40 for Adult Art**

**There will be a Raffle on the day for an amazing locally sourced luxury Hamper. Tickets available from the 20th of May from School & Parish.**

**Tickets €2 each or 3 for €5.**

**The Exhibition will take place in the Paddock on Friday 28th May 1pm -4pm  
Under Strict Covid Guidelines ( Please ensure you wear a mask)**



We encourage all parishioners to let loose their creativity by producing a picture for this event. All proceeds will go towards the church and school. All Events of this kind are arranged with the intent of safely bringing people together as community.

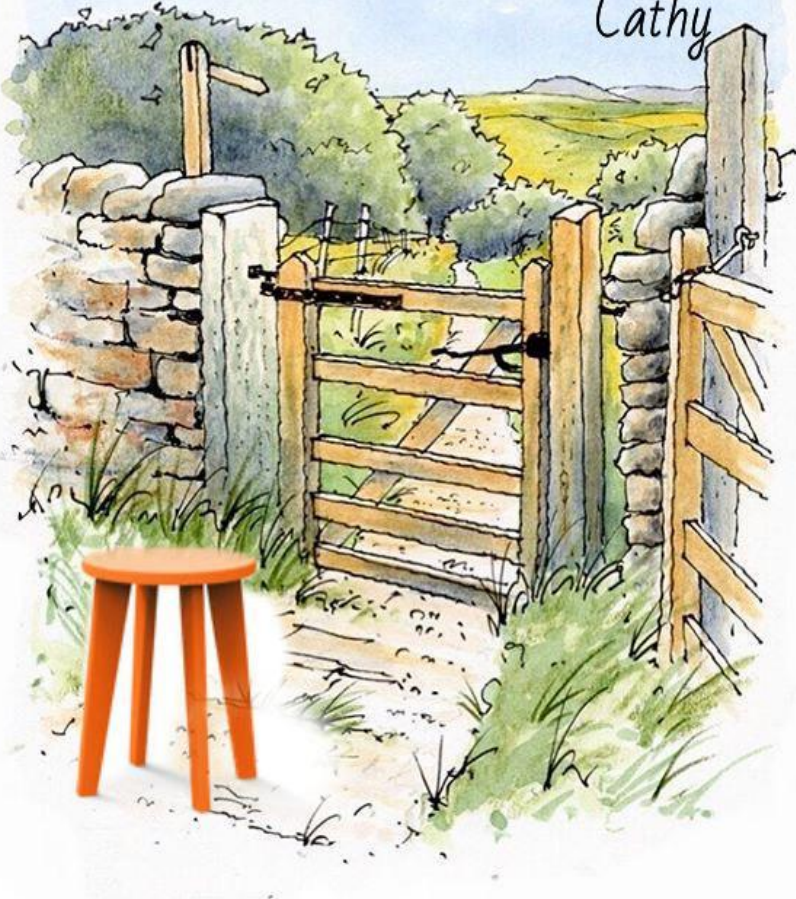
Release your inner artist!!



# Would you like a visit?

Now that restrictions are lifting slightly  
I would be delighted to pop by  
and say 'hello' from your gatepost.  
Do let me know if you would like a visit.

Cathy



If you would like a visit, please give Rev. Cathy a call on 086 358 3104 or Mandy in the office on 01 2863862.



## Children's Corner

**We thank you God for your hand that cares  
for the apples, oranges, grapes and pears;  
that counts the raindrops and spreads the seeds  
on the earth that nourishes all our needs.  
We ask you God that you guide our plans  
to protect each living thing in our hands;  
that you send the seed and the falling rain  
to fulfill each need on this earth again.**

**And so we promise, in all we do  
to protect and care  
for this world for you.**

*Amen*

*CHallissey*

**Rogationtide**

**"Little Peggy" Dobbs**, who died in 1917, is perhaps the most loved memorial in the graveyard, visited by generations of children. Sometimes she has a daisy chain necklace or, as here, a posy of dandelions. She was an only child who died in Bray at the age of 7. Her mother, "Dolly" "Montgomery, lived to be an old lady of 102, who cycled every week to visit the grave. Dolly was the daughter of



a Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Though unable to verify the connection, in 1912, the Rev Henry Montgomery was elected Moderator in Belfast. If this is indeed Peggy's grandfather, he was known as the Shankill Road Shepherd, a man who dedicated his life to set up and maintain the

Shankill Street Mission, to benefit the hundreds of people flooding into Belfast to work in the mills.

He was honoured in 2014 with a Blue Plaque on the wall of the Albert Hall in Belfast. He died in 1943 at the great age of 95, and though he had retired from active ministry in 1924, the streets were crowded for his funeral.





The joint parishes of Powerscourt with Kilbride operate within the Policies and Procedures of Safeguarding Trust 2021.