

NEWS — from the — PEWS

Conundrum

This week's visit to Junior and Senior Infants and 1st and 2nd Class opened up a discussion about just how Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on the day of the Church's year we now know as Palm Sunday. It was felt that it was unlikely that he arrived by public transport and doubtful as to whether he even possessed a bike. When I asked how a hero in a Disney movie might arrive, I was reliably informed that a white steed would be involved, not to mention a rather smart-looking set of clothing. Despite spending a little time discussing the all-weather benefits of a covered carriage (including a slight deviation due to an announcement of someone's birthday in a few days) the children were slightly perplexed about Jesus' choice of a small donkey as means of transport. A resolution was finally found when we thought again about God's idea of power as being the power of kindness and love and quite unlike the idea that to have riches and armies and the like meant that one was powerful.



That was His way after all, we concluded – always something completely different - a new understanding of the power of love.

It was then that Ms. Cox drew my attention to the fact that a pupil who had recently sprained her arm and was unable to write had been assisted by another kindly friend who had slipped in beside her and written her notes for her, at the expense of having to write double the amount! The power of kindness on a Super-hero level. Perhaps the secret is to trade in the dashing steed for a gentle donkey whose humble looks hide its ability to carry great riches in the name of love.

Easter General Vestry 2021



A short Service of Worship
followed by the Easter General
Vestry meeting has been
scheduled for the following
dates:

This has been scheduled to take place via
Zoom - unless notified otherwise:

St Brigids Church, Kilbride:
Sunday 1st April

St Patrick's Church
Powerscourt:
Sunday 18th April

Meeting Zoom details and times will follow
closer to the date

The Donkey's Tale by Cathy Hallisey

"I'd just been fed" the donkey said
"and didn't know the plan,
when two men came and held my mane
and took me to a man.

I was quite nervous at the start
but then I saw his face,
and instantly my fearful heart
was filled with gentle grace."

'You know' he whispered then to me
'that God has chosen you
and, by and by, you and I
have got a job to do.
It isn't anything that's loud
or filled with pomp and glory
So don't be nervous of the crowd
they help to write this story."

"I need you now to guide me
As the road ahead is long;
Your gentle peace beside me
And a heart that's very strong.
You know the road so well my friend
to old Jerusalem
I need you now to carry me
As I have carried them."

"Together we can show the world
a different majesty;
the type of strength that comes from
love
and true humility."

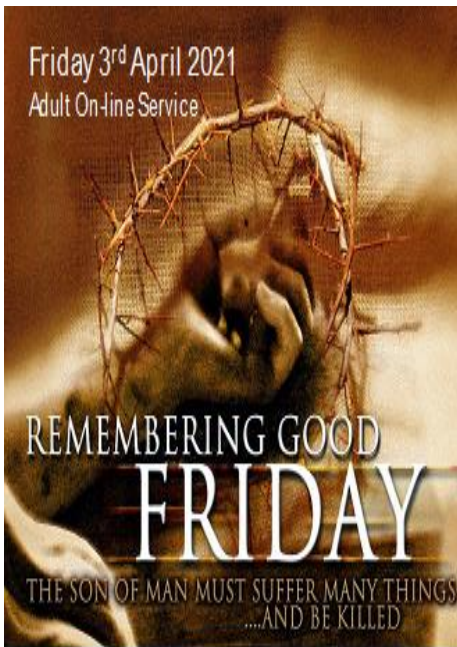


He placed himself upon my back
'My friend' he said "I knew
That no one was more fitting
For this special task than you!"

This week's online Service:



Upcoming Services:



Good Friday 2021

Living with Jesus in the City of Jerusalem

Reflections on the Passion Narrative

By

Archbishop Michael Jackson - Sylvia Armstrong - The Revd Neal Phair

Susie Keegan - Jane Burns - The Revd Dr William Olhausen

Readings by the Revd Cathy Hallissey and the Revd Sean Hanily

Online Friday April 2 from 12noon to 3pm every half hour

youtube.com/c/TheUnitedDiocesesofDublinandGlendalough

www.dublin.anglican.org

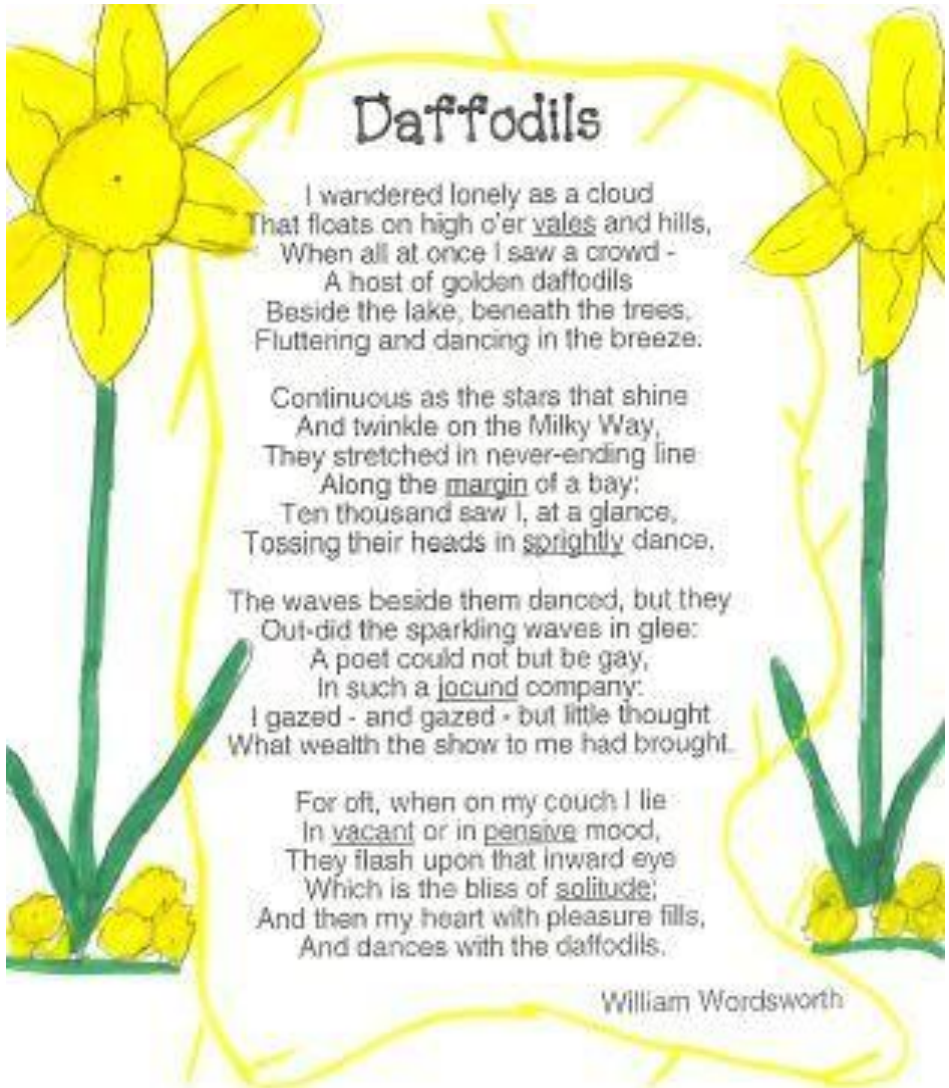


FRI, 2 APR AT 12:00 UTC+01

Living with Jesus in the City of Jerusalem

Online event

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheUnitedDiocesesofDublinandGlendalough>

A decorative illustration of two large yellow daffodils with green stems and leaves, one on the left and one on the right. The poem is centered between them, enclosed in a faint yellow outline. The background is white.

Daffodils

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd -
A host of golden daffodils
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I, at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a loquacious company:
I gazed - and gazed - but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought.

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

William Wordsworth

Poem of the week suggested by Marion MacGovern



Alice Harriette Des Voeux, daughter of the late Major Des Voeux of Portarlinton, died in 1874, aged 16 years.

I did some research several years ago on this young lady, wondering about her name, and could find very little about her or about her father. However, she had a brother, a career soldier in the

Indian Army, who became a hero in an engagement on the North West Frontier. Major Charles Hamilton Des Voeux had lived in Australia and left for India in 1891 with his family and a nursemaid to take command of a Sikh Regiment.

In 1897, they were all staying in Gulistan fort in the Semana mountain range, on the border between India and Afganistan. Mrs Des Voeux was pregnant with her 4th child, the other three in the care of the nursemaid. The fort, one of several on the mountain ridge, was suddenly attacked by an enormous army of rebels. The fighting was fierce, and unrelenting, for several days. Water and ammunition began to run out, and anyone trying to reach help outside was killed at once. There were many casualties. The women coped with the wounded as best they could and Mrs. des Voeux went into



labour in the midst of this, giving birth under fire to a baby girl. The child lived and was named Violet Samana.

The nursemaid, who was reported never to have rested or slept for 52 hours, was recommended for a civilian award, along with the military medals for the many soldiers who had excelled themselves until the fort was relieved.

She was awarded the RRC, the Royal Red Cross medal, which she received at Windsor from Queen Victoria herself in 1899. The Queen wrote about her in her diary that day.

The nursemaid's name was Teresa McGrath, and though she came from Australia, was almost certainly Irish. Unfortunately, the records of the RRC recipients before the Great War are incomplete, and I could find nothing about her, except her name.

In preparation for this newsletter item, I started another search of the Internet, and to my amazement, there has been an upsurge of interest. The whole story is retold in all its glory and action, with pictures! I can only recommend that you look it up. Google: Absolute legends: Major Charles Des Voeux; A forgotten Hero.

Or: The Battle of Saragarhi, Australian Connection. Or: My family's Deep connections with Sikhs and India. This is an article by a descendent.

The Australian great great grandson of the Major fills in many of the missing details. We find that Teresa was an orphan from Brisbane, and that she remained with the Des Voeux family for many years.

At the siege, she was indeed a heroine, the children were devoted to her, and when in the turmoil of battle, she could not find them, she went out among the rebel army in search of them, dodging bullets. The people somehow made her understand that they must still be in the fort (they were, hidden by one of the orderlies in a safe room) and she was allowed to return unscathed. The children seem to have enjoyed their adventure. The eldest girl, at six years old, wrote about it, explaining that her father

had hesitated about killing one of the enemies who had crept too near, saying "Daddy should have shotted him at once."

It is sad to find also that one of the little boys, Harold, was later attached to the Royal Munster Fusiliers, and killed in 1915 at Gallipoli, aged 19.

Violet Samana Des Voeux was easy to find also. She appears to have been a recorder during the 1919 peace commission in Paris, when she would be 22, and married an RAMC officer, who became Major General Sir Francis Robert Henry Mollan, CB, OBE, MC, QHS (Honorary Surgeon to the Queen), and who died in 1982.

Alas, a son, Myles, also a soldier in a Sikh regiment, was killed in Italy in 1944, aged 22. He appears on the Roll of Honour published by Trinity College, Dublin.

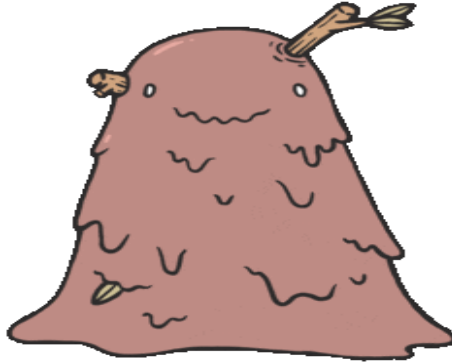
So, what about Alice, whose headstone is illustrated. Unfortunately, nothing. She died in Bray according to the burial index, but it gives no clue about why she was there. Her father, Major Thomas B Des Voeux, was already dead, but he and a cluster of Des Voeux relations are buried in the churchyard of St Pauls French Church in Portarlinton. The ancestor seems to be a Huguenot clergyman from France who became the incumbent there and died in 1792.

There is an echo of her short life, however. The Gallant Major Charles, in the siege story, named his eldest daughter Alice, perhaps after his sister.

‘Headstone of the Week’, submitted by Judy Cameron



Children's Corner



Muddy Church is a fun and engaging place, enjoying creation, nature and being together.

Muddy Church has grown into a collection of people and groups looking to build worshipping communities and opportunities outside. Muddy Church is intergenerational and unique to each space and event as people connect with the places they are in and others around them. Everyone is welcome to journey together, talk, explore, grow, have fun and be.

This week we have sent to the Mustard Seed Families a booklet with a collection of outside activities to do over Holy Week.

For more resources, please have a look at the website:
<https://www.muddychurch.co.uk/>

If you have any photos of any activities and would like to share, please send them to Mandy in the Parish office



‘The Living Room’ by Zoom



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.

Church of Ireland Parish Choir's Online – The Crucifixion

Church of Ireland Parish Choirs Online
directed by
Kevin O'Sullivan
John Stainer's

The Crucifixion

produced by
Big Red Box Media Ltd.

Tenor **Bass**
Rev. Jack Kinhead **Brian Hennessey**

Organist
Dr. David O'Shea
from 12 Noon on
[youtube.com/c/KiltarnanParishChurchofIreland](https://www.youtube.com/c/KiltarnanParishChurchofIreland)
Sunday 28th March

with help from
Grouped Parishes of Sandford & St Philip's



The Crucifixion is the production of a Lockdown Collaboration Choir involving several members of the Powerscourt Choir including Powerscourt organist Helen Beardsley.

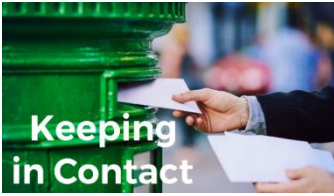
The choir recorded John Stainer's Crucifixion over the last month. Directed by Kevin O'Sullivan from Kiltarnan Parish they rehearsed on Zoom for 2 hours on Monday evenings and a half day

workshop. During each week they recorded their pieces also working with Big Red Box Media Ltd on the production.

The collaboration choir are delighted to announce that the production will be released on Palm Sunday, 28th March. Please log on to view this amazing production from 12 Noon on the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI4iGDgC_3mEIY8aMHtFPQ

Submitted by Helen Beardsley



Dear Parishioners,

Many thanks to those who sent us on your address.

During these days of isolation is it important for us to keep in touch with you and a good opportunity for us to update our parish lists.

Would you be kind enough to take 30 seconds to respond to this email by typing out your full address and Eircode (if you know it) and return this to Mandy at office@powerscourtns.ie. This would be most helpful.

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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/UCOXYER9cLb4mj3tuNcYdExQ>