

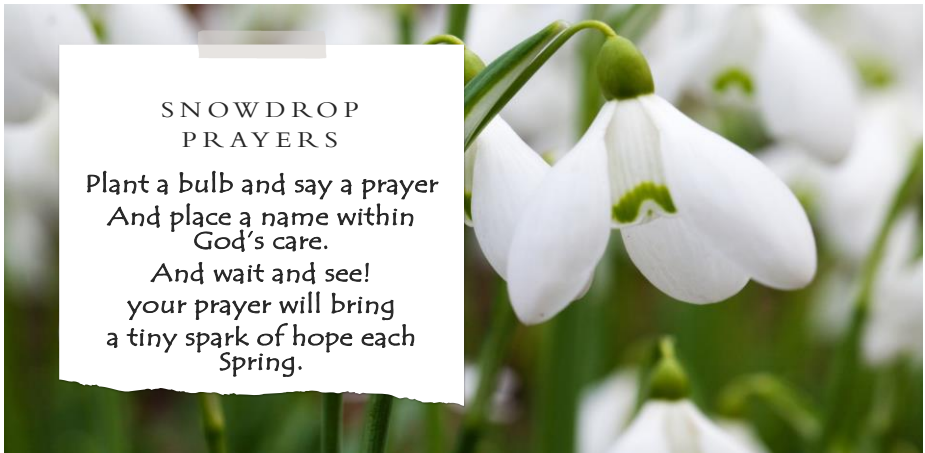
# NEWS — from the — PEWS

Last Sunday we had a Remembering Service for All Souls Day in which Parishioners from both Powerscourt and Kilbride came together to remember those who have died in the past two years, whether as a result of Covid19 or other reasons. During the Service, those attending were

given the opportunity to light a candle for someone they knew or for the world in general. I had forgotten how moving small lights can be when placed in the centre of a chancel, each one representing a life. Following the Service the final two trees of several donated to the Parish by Andrew Bailey, were planted to mark the occasion. Andrew has donated deciduous trees, which now flank the right-hand side of the driveway leading to the lower carpark. At a time where there could well be the promise of more concrete in our immediate surroundings, this new wall of green will grow and mature beautifully as the years pass. We are most grateful to Andrew for this kind donation to our church grounds.



Trees weren't the only things planted following the Service. Before the final blessing, the children brought up snowdrop bulbs to be blessed as a sign of hope and planted them in the grounds after the service under the careful instruction and gentle



guidance of Tim Weldon. Thank you to Tim and all who took part. We look forward to seeing these small white signs of hope in the Springtime. There isn't much to a snowdrop bulb and yet, beneath its rounded woody exterior, there lies everything it needs to become what it is meant to be. The blueprint for its future form is already within itself, yet it is required to sit for a while in the darkness until the mechanism within itself springs to life and draws it upwards in search of light. What it becomes bears no likeness to its original form. It is completely changed.



Photo Credit with thanks: Barbara Molloy

There is a sense of waiting for many people at present, as if we too sit in the darkness of an unresolved pandemic that initially seemed resolvable – after all, we can usually resolve what is placed in front of us these days! But this has been worryingly different. In many ways *this* time of Covid is one of the hardest. Initially we were under no illusion – we were locked in with no choice. Even within that lockdown there was the belief that it was a temporary and necessary event in order to rid us of Covid. Now we find that our lives are almost back but not quite, and things have changed within the world around us and within ourselves.

Moving forward now needs to be done together and with utter honesty. It is good to hold fast, but not without the truth required to release us from at least some of the binds placed upon us. In short, we need to talk like there's no tomorrow! We need to speak of the unfairness of this past two years; of families bereft and separated from their dying and funerals taking five minutes beside a grave with no closure for those left behind. We need to express our feelings of futility when they arise; try to find the words with one another to describe how this has changed us and only then, realise that we are not isolated in our own homes but part of a common experience, albeit one shared differently by individual people. Now is the time to open spaces of communication to talk.

As required of me, years ago I wrote a dissertation called 'Speaking the Language of Hurt'. One chapter recognised the history of God's people as communicators who had the courage and honesty to communicate directly with God and one another, often in dire circumstances. Their ability to speak through dialogue and story facilitated a different form of strength that changed them and drew them onwards together. Surely God's hand is also within the communication we share – even if that communication is sad or hurt or despairing. It is in the sitting within the

darkness of this honesty that we will find some way of manoeuvring upwards and onwards; that mechanism within us, the blueprint of what we will become, God-given and drawing us onwards into a new way of being.

Within these next four weeks leading up to Advent, the underlying theme explored within our churches and online will encourage us to communicate. This is not done with any ‘quick fix’ remedy or unsubstantiated claim of resolve, but purely to encourage us to draw closer within our own lives to those we know and love, by careful expression of our own truth if we are struggling with this pandemic.

### **A Prayer from the Service of Remembering:**



*Father, you have called those we remember today from this earth  
into the light of your presence; you have changed them into  
something even more beautiful than before.*

*Help us to draw together, to communicate, to accompany that we  
too may grow in your light into something new, together and more  
unified than ever before.*

*Amen.*



### **Update as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021**

I am delighted to announce that all 20 of the women have now reached safety in The International Refugee Centre in Doha, United Arab Emirates. As of today, 7 of them have arrived in Ireland and are settling into temporary accommodation. The remaining women are due to arrive here by the end of November once they have completed their medical quarantine.

The women who have arrived are exhausted from their long journey and very worried about their families in Afghanistan but have been overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome they have received. The youngest, who is only 17, told one of the committee, through an interpreter: 'I feel safe, now I can sleep'.

Once again, my thanks to everyone who responded to the request for items, the women arrived in long cotton tops and trousers with very little luggage and nothing to equip them for our recent wet weather.

I have now stopped accepting items but if you would like to make a financial donation:

[https://fundrazr.com/51sz6a?ref=sh\\_5AcvHe\\_ab\\_1ActB0](https://fundrazr.com/51sz6a?ref=sh_5AcvHe_ab_1ActB0)

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

<http://www.ascendathletics.org/>

Ascend is an international not-for-profit organization working in Afghanistan to empower young women through mountaineering based leadership training. Their two-year development programmes equip young women in Afghanistan to meet the challenges they face in everyday life.

**Once again, thank you all so much.**

**Adrianne Pullen**

## *Rectors Wish List*

As things slowly return to normal, we would like to spruce up our children's area in St. Patricks Church. If you would like to help with this, we would be delighted to receive the following items:



Large cushions (bright colours no patterns)

*Many thanks, Cathy*

## FLOWER GUILD VOLUNTEERS WANTED

WE are looking for some new names on the Sunday Flower Arrangers List.

It normally needs about 3 bunches of flowers plus greenery but of course it's great if you have garden flowers



Volunteering is required about 3 times per year.

If you are interested to get involved, please contact Marjorie Mold 087 647 2668 or 01 2863499



## **Tea and Coffee Rota for Autumn 2021**

November 7 <sup>th</sup>	Emma Martin
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Cameron
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	Edwina Allman
November 28 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth Mahon & Dorrie O'Rourke

We need more Volunteers – If you think you can help, please contact Marjorie Mold on 087 647 2668 or 01 2863499



The joint parishes of Powerscourt with Kilbride operate within the Policies and

