

NEWS — from the — PEWS

In Memory of a Remarkable Man.,

St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

A series of daily meditations for this week from the Centre for Action and Contemplation inspired much thought regarding St. Francis of Assisi and the particular theology that acknowledges our connection and unity with all living things. Francis came to realise that the whole of creation is the place to encounter God. These same thoughts carried us through the pandemic from our own individual homes as we sought to find God in the one place we were allowed to go – our own back gardens!



I suspect there isn't one of us who hasn't bonded with a creature of one type or another in our lifetime. We are graced by their presence with us, regardless of whether they occupy a large or small part of our daily life. Our dog Reilly was a rescue. He came from a pound and ended up in the DSPCA at four months old or thereabouts. Initially we fostered him, but then he won our hearts and we adopted him. He is unpredictable with people other than

family and is often best left to his own devices, rather than being 'up close and personal' with him but, to me, he is my angel. He seems to instantly know if there's even the slightest thing wrong and shadows me, pressing himself up against me if I'm sad and offering a hesitant paw if there is a sense of anger or upset.

We humans often think that we are ‘top dog’ (if you’ll excuse the pun) but in this quirky little animal, I see a soul that’s entirely true to itself, loyal, caring and pure.

For creatures, regardless of species, there is no hidden agenda, no pretence, no labelling, or presumptions. This is why St. Francis held all creatures on a level with himself and saw within them the hallmarks of the Divine.

Animals have a lot to teach us - we who consider ourselves the ‘higher species’ and we could do worse than refresh ourselves in their company as often as we can.

Who Was Saint Francis of Assisi?

Born circa 1181, in Assisi, duchy of Spoleto, Italy, Saint Francis of Assisi, was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant who owned farmland around Assisi, and his mother was a beautiful Frenchwoman. Francis was not in want during his youth; he was spoiled, indulging himself with

fine food, wine, and wild celebrations. By age 14, he had left school and become known as a rebellious teenager who frequently drank, partied, and broke the city curfew. He was also known for his charm and vanity.



In these privileged surroundings, Francis of Assisi learned the skills of archery, wrestling, and horsemanship. He was expected to follow his

father into the family textile business but was bored by the prospect of life in the cloth trade. Instead of planning a future as a merchant, he began daydreaming of a future as a knight; knights were Medieval action heroes, and if Francis had any ambition, it was to be a war hero like them. It wouldn't be long before the opportunity for warfare beckoned. In 1202 war broke between Assisi and Perugia, and Francis eagerly took his place with the cavalry. Little did he know at the time, his experience with war would change him forever. Francis and the men of Assisi came under heavy attack, and in the face of superior numbers, they took flight.

Unskilled and with no combat experience, Francis was quickly captured by enemy soldiers. Dressed like an aristocrat and wearing expensive new armour, he was considered worthy of a decent ransom, and the soldiers decided to spare his life. He and the other wealthy troops were taken as prisoners, led off to a dank underground cell. Francis would spend nearly a year in such miserable conditions — awaiting his father's payment — during which time he may well have contracted a serious disease. Also, during this time, he would later report, he began to receive visions from God.

In his early 20s, Francis began turning his focus toward God. Instead of working, he spent an ever-increasing amount of time at a remote mountain hideaway as well as in old, quiet churches around Assisi, praying, looking for answers, and helping nurse lepers. During this time, while praying before an old Byzantine crucifix at the church of San Damiano, Francis reportedly heard the voice of Christ, who told him to rebuild the Christian Church and to live a life of extreme poverty. Francis obeyed and devoted himself to Christianity. He began preaching around Assisi and was soon joined by 12 loyal followers.

Francis' embrace of Christ-like poverty was a radical notion at the time. The Christian church was tremendously rich, much like the people

heading it, which concerned Francis and many others, who felt that the long-held apostolic ideals had eroded. Francis set out on a mission to restore Jesus Christ's own, original values to the now-decadent church. With his incredible charisma, he drew thousands of followers to him. They listened to Francis' sermons and joined in his way of life; his followers became known as Franciscan friars.

Continuously pushing himself in the quest for spiritual perfection, Francis was soon preaching in up to five villages per day, teaching a new kind of emotional and personal Christian religion that everyday people could understand. He even went so far as to preach to animals, which garnered criticism from some and earned him the nickname "God's fool." But Francis' message was spread far and wide, and thousands of people were captivated by what they heard.

Francis of Assisi died on October 3, 1226, at the age of 44, in Assisi, Italy. Today, Francis has a lasting resonance with millions of followers across the globe. He was canonized as a saint just two years after his death, on July 16, 1228, by his former protector, Pope Gregory IX. Today, Saint Francis of Assisi is the patron saint for ecologists — a title honouring his boundless love for animals and nature. In 2013, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio chose to honour Saint Francis by taking his name, becoming Pope Francis.

A person who knew nothing, but creatures would never need to attend to any sermons, for every creature is full of God and is a book. —Meister Eckhart, Sermon on Sirach 50:6–7 [1]

We are sad to announce the passing of Bill Leckie over the past few days. Bill had celebrated his 100th birthday in the summer of this year and lived a varied and incredible life, having joined the Royal Air Force at the age of 18. Bill is greatly missed by his family to whom we send our deepest sympathy and prayers for God's peace and strength in the days to come.



Qigong in the Rectory Garden



Susan Forsythe will be teaching a Qigong class in the Powerscourt Rectory Garden **every Thursday at 8.45 a.m.** This short (10 minute) class is suitable for all ages and is **Free of Charge.**



Update as of 7th October 2021

Thank you so much to everyone in the School, Parish and in the wider communities of Enniskerry and Bray who have overwhelmed us with their donations of bedding, toiletries, clothing and other essential items. We are delighted to say that the generosity of the Irish people has once again shone through.

The latest update on the young women is that the majority are now in safety in the International Refugee Centre in Doha, United Arab Emirates, after leaving their homes at the end of August. They will stay there under quarantine for 21 days. However, a small number of the 20 women are still in hiding in Kabul and we would ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they face a challenging journey out of Afghanistan.

If you would like to contribute, we would be delighted to receive any of the items on the list below:



- ❖ Gloves, long warm scarves
- ❖ Large woven scarves to cover their heads and keep them warm
- ❖ Warm socks
- ❖ Hoodies, long sleeve t-shirts (ladies' size 10 – 14 or small/medium)
- ❖ Reusable water bottles
- ❖ Hairbrushes
- ❖ Back packs
- ❖ Small umbrellas

- ❖ Bedding – single sheets/ duvet covers/ pillowcases
- ❖ Toiletry Bags
- ❖ Purses/wallets
- ❖ Nivea cream or similar face/body cream

We are asking for all items to be new or unused if possible but if not that they be in very good condition. No donation is too small and all will be valued by these young women who come here with nothing.

Once again, many thanks to Grainne Austin owner of JB's coffee shop, next to the Recycling Centre, Ballywaltrim, Bray who has kindly offered to be a drop off point (Mon-Fri 7:30 am to 3pm) and also to Mandy Berkeley in the school/parish office who is accepting items from the school community.

If you would like to make a financial donation:

https://fundrazr.com/5lsz6a?ref=sh_5AcvHe_ab_1ActBO

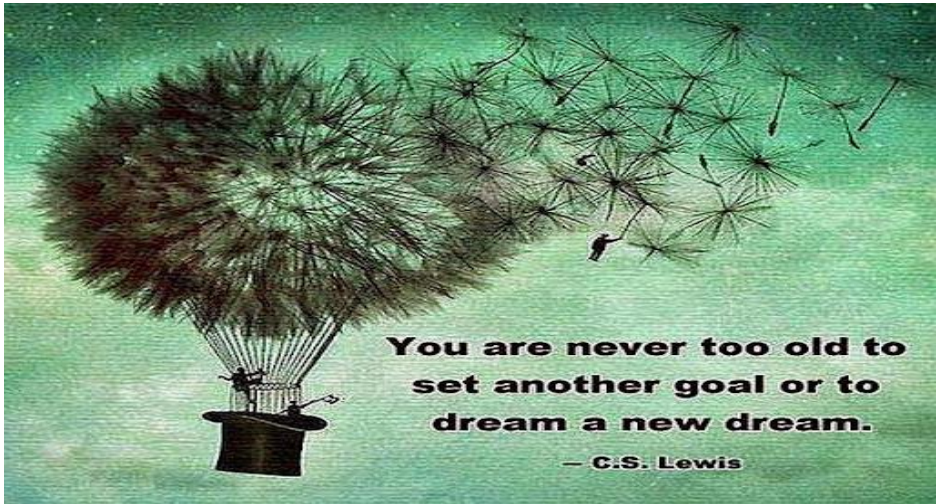
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofAscendIreland>

<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.

Adrienne Pullen 086-8382594.



There is something about this time of year that feels like the potential for new experiences and adventures. Over the years as my children were returning to the academic year, I could feel the nudge and excitement of new things out there waiting to be explored... and thankfully I still do! As we ease into the autumnal season have you ever pondered what season of life you are in right now, and what is needed to set a new goal or dream a new dream? We can limit our adventurous spirit out of fear or self-limiting beliefs, e.g. "I'm too young, I'm too old, I have no time, I'm not good enough, I will look ridiculous"...are but a few of the excuses we tell ourselves in order to 'stay safe'.

But what if we pushed the boundaries and expanded our potential? What if instead of dreaming our lives, we choose to live our dreams? What if indeed.....

'If you live the life you love, you will love the life you live'. Van Morrison.

Sheila Lindsay.

ENROLLING NOW!



Powerscourt & Kilbride Youth Ministry

Exciting News this November! The Shed Gang re-opens on Wednesday 3rd November from 7:30pm-9m for Secondary School children 1st-5rd year. Please spread the word. There is an exciting programme of events organised for our once-a-month meetings from November 2021 – March 2022.

Most activities will be held in the rectory and there will be a sub of €30 per person for materials and instructors for the period of Nov – March.

There are also planned extra weekend activities which will incur a small additional cost but promise to be great fun.

A programme of events will be posted here in News Pews and on our other sites, but for now, why not register by ringing the Parish Secretary Mandy for a registration form on (01) 2863862.

The Shed Gang

programme

November '21 - March '22



Making Music *with Johnny Honner*

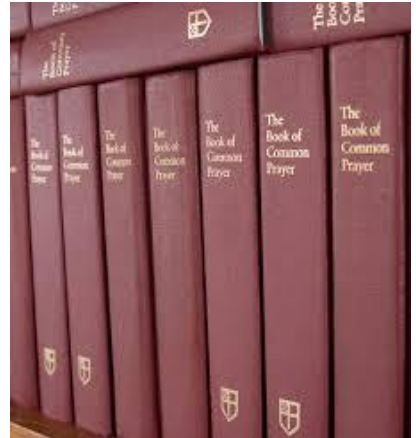


Wednesday 3rd November
From 7:30pm – 9pm in Powerscourt Rectory

Within this ever-changing world,
some things remain eternally beautiful
and ageless.

We are delighted to remind you that, St. Brigid's, Kilbride, reads both Services of Holy Communion 1 and Morning Prayer 1 on the first and fourth Sundays of each month respectively. Join us as we step back in time with the older, more poetic form of the English language and service structures in their original form.

Service types and dates are shown below.



ST. BRIGID'S, KILBRIDE AUTUMN SERVICES 2021

- September 2021
 - 5th September: Holy Communion 1
 - 12th September: Morning Prayer 2
 - 19th September: Holy Communion 2
 - 26th September: Morning Prayer 1
- October 2021
 - 3rd October: Holy Communion 1
 - 10th October: A Celebration of Harvest
 - 17th October: Holy Communion 2
 - 24th October: Morning Prayer 1
 - 31st October: Remembering All Souls

*A Service dedicated to those
who died during Covid 19*



John Dalrymple Carnegie

1824-1903 was a well-respected and diligent resident of Bray from 1868 until his death. A stockbroker and philanthropist with an office in Dame Street, he became a commuter on the newish railway, and purchased a house on Prince of Wales Terrace, convenient for the station and the French School for his daughter.

Though his religious allegiance was firmly with St Andrews Presbyterian Church, he was well known to our parish because his daughter, Deborah, married our curate, Ernest Whelan.

John became renowned throughout the district for his generosity, his integrity and for his personal charm: he was sociable, reliable, and made many long term friends. He travelled widely and kept a journal of his adventures, visiting on a Sunday Christian churches of any denomination, keeping careful notes of the sermons. John was a major benefactor to good causes in the district.



His name headed the list of subscribers to the new St Andrews School. he helped build the final transept of his own church and paid for the latest ventilation system and the stained-glass windows. He would subscribe to many projects anonymously, signing himself "Phil 4: 19".

When he died, a plaque was erected under the Burning Bush window (the symbol of the Presbyterian Church), to his memory, celebrating thirty years of "faithful Christian stewardship" of St Andrews. In his will, he left a tenth of his estate to charitable societies.

Carnegie was born in Edinburgh, and went to school there, moving with his family to Ireland where his father was a Teller with the National Bank in Tipperary. At 14, he became a bank employee also, and was posted round Ireland to various branches. He reported that life with the bank in the West of Ireland left much time for leisure, shooting and coursing. As the language of the customers was Irish, with which most bankers were less than fluent, the Porter had to be at the counter to act as translator. John took his work seriously in Ballina. When the branch was faced with closure, at the tail end of the famine, along with Westport and Sligo, he took a week's leave and travelled by coach all the way to London in 1851, to protest to the Directors in the head office face to face. He persuaded them that their plan was short sighted, that the famine would not last for ever and that banks in the West were still essential. He saved his Ballina branch, but "sentence was executed on Westport and Sligo." Never one to waste an opportunity he managed to fit in a visit to the Great Exhibition before his return to Ireland.

While employed in Cork, John met and fell in love with Elizabeth (Bessie) Manly, fifth daughter of Joseph Hutchinson Manly of Ferney, Blackrock. Bessie's father refused to allow the marriage because of John's lack of means and because she was too young. She was 17 and he 23, but four years later, the marriage took place in Cork amid great excitement and rejoicing.

Bessie's sister, Henrietta, was married to Sir Thomas Newenham Deane, architect of the Trinity College Museum and the National Library, among other handsome buildings. He was a relation of the Manly's and his son,

Sir Thomas Manly Deane, also an architect, designed the National Museum, Bray Town Hall, and Bray Town War Memorial. Manly Deane's own son features on this memorial, killed, alas, at Gallipoli.

This sketch of John Dalrymple Carnegie comes to us from a biography written by his great granddaughter, Sue Farmer. I am very grateful for all her help. Sue's mother, Mary Hunt, is also buried in the graveyard.



In the portrait of the Whelan and Carnegie family, we see John and Bessie in the centre, surrounded by five of the six beloved grandchildren, flanked by Debbie, the reverend Ernest, and what might, or might not, be a dog.

Written and Kindly Submitted by Judy Cameron

Congratulations to the new Mr and Mrs Roe!

Bruce and Gail were married on the 24th of September last in Dorrha Church, Co Tipperary with a reception in the Glasson Lakehouse Hotel. We send our heartiest congratulations and blessings for a happy and healthy life together.



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

October 10 th	Marjorie Mold
October 17 th	Ruth-Anne & Chris Chambers
October 24 th	Wenda White
October 31 st	Rebecca Martin
November 7 th	Emma Martin
November 14 th	Judy Cameron
November 21 st	Edwina Allman
November 28 th	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

