

When sons and daughters leave home, the nearer the day of departure comes, the more we want to cling to them, to keep them close. It's true that social media makes it much easier to stay in touch nowadays, but when someone goes - at least initially - the loss is often difficult and painful. There is no replacement for the lively conversation or ready laughter that filled the house. Instead there is only silence and an aching sense of absence. Yet, if we can wait a little while and resist the urge to chase away these feelings of loss, peace comes and there is new sense of presence as loved ones are held warmly within our hearts.



Today's feast of the Ascension captures this mood of 'departure' and 'letting go'. Risen from the dead and continuing 'to appear to them', how the disciples must have clung to Jesus! Jesus knows they will be bereft and unsure of what to do. So, they are told to wait....wait for the Spirit who will strengthen and empower. Then, they will witness to Jesus because they will carry him within as their joy and inspiration.

Whatever life's different circumstances and predicaments, when we, too, are unsure of the way, let us wait for the wisdom that the Spirit brings. Then we, too, will witness to Jesus because we carry him within as our hope and our light.

Parish Pastoral Council

ANNIVERSARIES REMEMBERED

- ✠ Tues 30th 10am: Ellen Ryan, Maggie Morris, Ian Broadhurst
- ✠ Thurs 1st 10am: Michael Flynn
- ✠ Fri 2nd 10am: Timothy Byrne
- ✠ Sat 3rd 10am: The Holy Souls of Skerries
- ✠ Sat 3rd 6pm: Mary Ryan, Austin & Maureen Palmer, Jimmy Reid, Margaret & Eamon Gormley
- ✠ Sun 4th 9.30am: Cecily Murray, Nancy & Joe Harford, Mary McDonough
- ✠ Sun 4th 11am: Deceased members of the Treleven Family

OUR SYMPATHY

To the family of Paddy (Col Rtd) McNally who died recently. May he Rest in Peace.

DATES & FEASTDAYS

First Friday Mass 2nd June at 10.00 am
 St Kevin, Abbot, 3rd June
 Pentecost Sunday, 4th June
 Bank Holiday Monday, 5th June, Mass at 11am
 Padre Pio Mass, Wednesday 7th June at 4pm

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Christopher Biesenthal & Jennifer Curran and to Rebecca McGilloway & Jan Belasz who were married recently.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES 2017

11 June: Holmpatrick 2.30pm; Baldungan 4pm.
 18 June: Ardlia 2.30pm; Milverton 4pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to the children from St Patrick's School who celebrated First Holy Communion last week. Best wishes to the children from Milverton who will celebrate today, Sunday 28th May.

BEST WISHES

To all our parish students who will very shortly sit their Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate exams. We wish them every success.

ECUMENICAL BIBLE WEEK, 4TH - 11TH JUNE

See flyers on the table at the back of the church. All details are on www.bibleweek.ie

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY MASS

Entrance: No 80 vv 1,2,3
 Offertory: No 7 vv 1
 Recession: No 175 vv 1,2

COACH TRIP TO KNOCK

Sunday 2nd July - departs from outside St.Patrick's Church 7.00am. Cost €35.00 (depending on numbers) to include return coach travel, morning coffee/tea stop and 2 course evening meal in Athlone. Full payment is due by Sunday 25th June - call James Farrell at 0858490911 to book a seat.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

The Annual Gathering of Ministers of the Eucharist in the diocese will take place in Clonliffe Church at 8.00pm on Monday 29th May. This will be an opportunity to pray, reflect and sing together as we give thanks for the grace of this important ministry. Music will be led by the Dublin Diocesan Music Group. Let us know if you intend to be there by contacting Grainne at 8087554 or litsec@dublindiocese.ie. Bring a cushion if you wish.

ACTIVE RETIREMENT CLUB

Mon 29th - Bingo 2 p.m.
 Tues 30th - Bowls 2 p.m.

FOUND

Pair of lady's glasses on South Strand behind Sailing Club on Sunday 21 May. Phone 087 6994206.

PRAISE, PASSION, POWER

Come and celebrate 50 years of Charismatic Renewal in the Concert Hall, RDS, Dublin on Saturday, 24th June 2017 10am, concluding with Mass at 6.30pm. This is a one-day national event. Tickets: €20. Speakers: Fr Pat Collins C.M. and Testimonies. Music: Ronán Johnson. Further information: Phone: 021-425 1100 / Email: nsc@iol.ie / website: www.ccreireland.org

SMA SUMMER SCHOOL 2017 Join us at Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre, Newry, Co. Down from the 7th -9th July for a programme of Lectures and Workshops. More information and booking details, email: laity@sma.ie / Phone 048 3082 1024.

ICON WRITING WEEK 19th -24th June in Church of Our Lady of Fatima Parish Centre, South Circular Road, Dublin 12. Luis Alvarez, a renowned Iconographer will lead the week. He will open windows to the Sacred through talks on scripture, icons and symbolism. Previous experience in painting is not necessary and you will leave with an inspiring Icon "the work of your hands". Deposit required to secure place. Contact: Sr. Peter 0833471036; Catherine 0872077147; or Lucho 0892444820.

ST CHARLES OF MT ARGUS CANONISATION ANNIVERSARY

To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the canonisation of St Charles of Mount Argus, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin will celebrate Mass in the Church of St Paul of the Cross, Mount Argus, Dublin 6W on Pentecost Sunday, 4th June, at 11.00am. All are welcome.

NEW SUPPORT COORDINATION SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

We would like to let you know about our newly launched Support Coordination service for older people in the Dublin North City & County area. **ALONE**, the charity that supports older people to age at home, has partnered with the HSE to expand its support services to all older people living in the community. **ALONE** has 40 years' experience in providing this free and confidential service. We provide support to older people across a range of issues. If you are aware of any older people who may benefit from our support, please feel free to pass on our details or contact us about them. You can contact us on (01) 679 1032 or email enquiries@alone.ie.

SKERRIES RÁS, STREET PARTY AND RÁS NA NOG

Please come down to cheer on the Rás riders today **Sunday 28th May** after 8 gruelling days in the saddle. Kids cycle race (age 1-6) at the Monument at 12.30pm. Street party from 12.30pm. Rás Final from 1.30pm. There will be traffic restrictions on Strand Street from 1 – 5pm. Emergency vehicles will be on stand-by – Fire Brigade, Ambulance, Order of Malta. Please keep dogs on leads – Dog Warden on duty.

STANDBYME NEWS

Standbyme is looking for a native Spanish speaker to hold language and conversational classes in Rockabill restaurant. Standbyme is running our monthly bio healing circle workshop starting on Thurs 1st June at 12.00. Writers' group next meeting is on Thursday evening 1st June at 7.00pm in Rockabill restaurant. Details on above from Anne at 0831563595.

SKERRIES TIDY TOWNS

We are looking for individuals or friends who might work together to maintain one of the perennial beds in the town by adopting one for a year. The individual would need to be able to identify weeds from flowers and know when to cut back flowers. They would not plant the beds but just keep them looking the best they can by weeding, dead heading and cutting back as necessary. Beds would probably require weekly maintenance. They are outside the Dublin Road bridge, New St, The Square, Hoar Rock Hill and South Strand. If anyone is interested in finding out more they can contact Maeve McGann on 0879946638 or email maevemcgann@gmail.com.

30 YEARS AGO IN THE PARISH

- Congratulations to pupils from Réalt na Mara school who received First Holy Communion
- Fr. Shanahan was welcomed back to the Parish after his recent accident
- The Graduation Mass for Leaving Certificate students of Holy Faith/de la Salle College was being held on Mon 25th May. Annual Sports Day also to be held on that date
- Tidy Towns committee was encouraging everybody to participate in Window Box Day next weekend
- The town welcomed President Hillery, when he unveiled the Wildlife Information board on the South Strand
- Skerries ICA ladies were heading for Mt. Usher Gardens on their annual outing

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

Fixtures: Sunday Junior1 v Raheny, home at 11 Mon: 25th Year of Primary Schools League continues at 6 pm. Finals on 5th June. Wed. Ladies v St Maurs in Rush at 7.30pm Race the Rás Charity riders will be in Clubhouse Sunday pm for Meet and Greet. Golf Outing on 9 June to Swords Open - Meal/Presentation in Harps club after. Zingo: 4, 5, 6, 1, 2, 3, 7. Jackpot now €4,300. Entry by €2 envelope or play online. Oskars Night – Fri 23rd June in City North Hotel. Tickets are €25. The 7 films are Bridesmaids, The Snapper, The Field, Forrest Gump, Father Ted, The Shawshank Redemption and The Godfather. Vote for Best Film, Actor, etc etc. www.skerriesharps.ie