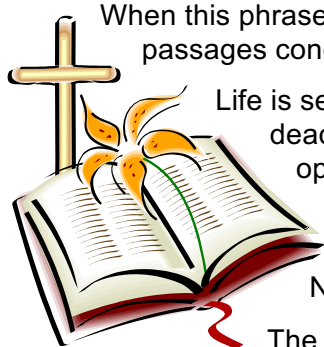


## A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH



When this phrase occurs anywhere, we know that things are serious. All today's Scripture passages concern matters of life and of death.

Life is serious. How we live is serious. We might even stretch a point by saying "Life is deadly serious"! Doom and Gloom, however, have no part in it – quite the opposite, in fact. Yeats wrote, "The good are always the merry..." (The Fiddler of Dooney).

Quite a range of angles on living a good life are covered from the Old and New Testaments. All deserve our serious consideration.

The unfamiliar and charming story of the "Woman of Rank" in the first reading stresses a generous, open mind and extreme hospitality. This is how we, too, are to live - regardless of "Rank"!

St. Paul knew his educated audience in Rome and his letter to them is deep, philosophical and demanding. The apparent contradiction of "Death" being "Life" is not something to be worked out over a glass of wine or a cup of coffee! It is relevant, though.

The lovely thing about St Matthew's Gospel is that the same deep message is simply put. Dying to self and living for others is the key to everything we aim for in the Christian way. Look at the simple 'pointers' in this passage. It couldn't be clearer. The most telling phrase, however, is surely "Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it".

When our guests are uninvited, overstay their welcome, disturb our peace and wreck our comfort-zone, when 'me-time' is non-existent and peace of mind is only a dream, this is the thought that can keep us going, - especially when a situation becomes a matter of life and death.

The Psalmist underpins everything: "Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever".

*Skerries Church Choir*

### FIRST ANNIVERSARY MASS

Saturday 8 July at 6pm - Nellie Attley

### ANNIVERSARIES & INTENTIONS

- ✦ **Tues 4 July** 10am: Cathy Smith
- ✦ **Thurs 6 July** 10am: Brenda O'Reilly
- ✦ **Fri 7 July** 10am: First Friday Mass for Holy Souls
- ✦ **Sat 8 July** 6pm: Aine O'Leary, Girlie Duff, Susan Kennedy, Pat Kennedy & Pauline Kavanagh
- ✦ **Sun 9 July** 9.30am: Jack Grimes
- ✦ **Sun 9 July** 11am: Mary Anne Cooper & Liam Davey

### ST PADRE PIO

Monthly St Pio Mass Wednesday 5 July at 7pm

### FIRST FRIDAY

Friday 7 July

### PETER'S PENCE

Annual Collection for the Pope & Pontifical Charities will take place this weekend at all Masses & it will replace the Share Collection. Thank you for your support.

### PIONEER TOTAL ABSTINENCE ASSOCIATION OF THE SACRED HEART

Congratulations to Rita Daly who was presented with the Gold Emblem & Certificate & Betty Dillon who was presented with the Diamond Emblem & Certificate of the Pioneer Association by Fr. Richard at 11am Mass on Sunday, 25 June.

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note that for the next two weeks the Parish Office will be closed on **Thursdays & Fridays**. Please see notice on office door.

### SUMMER HOLIDAYS



We wish all pupils in our Parish schools a very happy & safe holiday with lots of fun & adventure. We especially wish good luck to those who are moving on to secondary school in the Autumn.

### AUDITIONS FOR COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

🎵🎵🎵 We are looking for Young People to join a Community Orchestra (Post Primary Level). All instruments (except piano) - Minimum of Grade 2 instrument level.

Auditions on **July 6** from 11am at Keys & Strings School of Music Skerries.

**TO BOOK AN AUDITION** call Jing on: 087 226 4357.

Once auditions are finished rehearsals will begin for the new Orchestra's performances mid September. This is an amazing new project and great fun for young people. Everyone welcome along.

### 30 YEARS AGO IN THE PARISH

- Children from our primary schools were wished a happy and safe holiday time
- Congratulations were sent to the 15 pupils from Réalt na Mara school who were chosen to take part in the National Children's Choir concert in the National Concert Hall
- Congratulations also sent to Laurence Barden, Tara Bissett, Avril Bewley, Emma Coleman, Sharon Kane & Bernadette Price, all silver medal winners in the Primary Schools Sports
- The Meals on Wheels service was closing for the months of July & August
- Skerries Athletic Club won 23 medals in the recent BLOE championships - help sought to train these young athletes
- The end of an era - the Parish bade farewell to the Holy Faith Convent School, with the graduation of the last scholars in the Junior School in June
- The Tidy Towns Committee asked everybody to be vigilant as several of the flower boxes & tubs had been vandalised
- Skerries Tourism Office was being launched in the Community Centre

### BALBRIGGAN & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



are holding their annual Rose & Sweet Pea Show in Ardgillan Castle on **Sunday 2 July**. It will be open to the public from 2pm - 5pm. Exhibits/entries can be staged/entered before 12.30pm.

Admission is Free. Flowers will be sold at close of the show. For more information: Tel 087 7520506 Free garden tour of the rose garden at 3pm by the head gardener of Ardgillan Dominica McKevitt.

### SKERRIES LADIES BOWLS



Reminder of the next Ladies meeting, **Monday 3 July** at 12.15 in the Club. Congratulations to Div. 1 team on a very good win against Westmanstown on Wednesday last and thanks to our super subs who played so well.

### SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB



**Sun 2nd:** Junior1 v Rush, away at 11 am and Junior2 v Raheny, home at 3 pm. Clubhouse open for all televised games. Croke Park tickets available in SuperValu.

Well done to Under 14 boys footballers on winning the Shield at National Féile in Sligo, beating Corofin in the final.

Lyndsey & Sinéad played with the Dubs Ladies in the win over Laois & Liam Woodcock, Fionnan O'Sullivan & Sam Jones were with the Dubs U 17s.

**Summer Camps:** Cúl Camp2 is FULL. Apologies but NO walk-ins will be accepted on the day due to Health & Safety. Contact Louise 085 1465673 for registration for Camps on **17/21 July, 24/27 July** and Cúl Camp1 on **8/11 August**.

Zingo: 5, 4, 6, 1, 3, 2, 7. No winners. Jackpot now €4,800 – It could be you!!

All club news/fixtures/results are on website [www.skerriesharps.ie](http://www.skerriesharps.ie)

### STANDBYME NEWS

Standbyme is organising embroidery classes with our gentle, creative teacher Dolores Doorty in Rockabill restaurant on **Mondays** at 11am - 1pm. Cost €10 per session plus €15 for embroidery kit. Dolores (massage therapist, South Strand) is also offering a special rate to our Goldies for a soft & gentle recovery massage - €20 for 30 mins.

Standbyme is also looking for a native Italian speaker to hold language & conversational classes in Rockabill restaurant. For those interested in learning Italian please let Anne know on: 083 1563595.

### ECUMENICAL READING

Would anyone be interested in reading together a book by Ursula King? The book is entitled: *Christ in All Things - Exploring Spirituality with Teilhard de Chardin*.

It is envisaged that interested people would meet once a month in Skerries.

Please contact: 087 7538173.

### LOST

Gold (link chain) bracelet lost in Skerries three weeks ago - South Strand, Thomas Hand Street, or Strand Street areas. Phone Paula 086 2235921.