

TREASURE HUNT

Whether as a party-game or as a way of life, a treasure-hunt has tremendous allure. The attraction of finding an unknown, but valuable, prize is irresistible.

What has that got to do with the last Sunday of July, apart from beach fun and games?

The answer is in today's Scripture passages: the key to good, exciting, fruitful and happy living is 'hidden treasure'. Jesus says as much in the Gospel passage: "The Kingdom of Heaven (i.e. a good, exciting, fruitful and happy life) is like treasure hidden in a field".

It is well for us to recognize that the Ten Commandments are no more or less than a God-focussed set of basic natural principles. The laws of Nature, from ants and plants to elephants, have the sole purpose of ensuring order, so that life can thrive. Any David Attenborough programme makes that abundantly, and beautifully, clear. The difference with the Ten Commandments, given to humans - rational beings, 'made in the image and likeness of God' - is that not just survival but happiness is ensured. That's where love comes in and 'where love is, there is God'. God is love, let us never forget it!

A man was once asked to describe the greatest gift he could give to his children. He thought for a moment, then said "A well-developed critical faculty". You may wonder what sort of gift that was! Look at the first Scripture passage, however, and see that Solomon asked God for just that gift – "Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil..."

In this noisy, chaotic life, complete with deception, confusion and now, to add to the horror, 'Fake News', there is a particularly apt little passage in the Psalm: "That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways". Who doesn't 'hate false ways'?

Solomon had the right idea about treasure when God gave him the chance to choose his own. We can learn a lot from that, remembering that God give us that very same chance.

Skerries Church Choir

**We offer our sympathy to**

to the family of Sadie Ruigrok and also to the family of Tommy O'Brien, both of whom died in our Parish during the past week. May they rest in peace

Many, many thanks

To all who gave so generously to the special Trocaire appeal last weekend for the people of East Africa. There was a wonderful response. The monies collected will, hopefully, help combat the on-going famine in the Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya, where it is a daily struggle to cope with the drought which has affected these countries for so long.

First Anniversary: Wed. 2nd :10 a.m. Edyta Keeling

Month's Mind: Sat. 5th, 6 p.m. Doreen Leonard

Padre Pio Mass: Wed. 7 p.m.

First Friday: Fri. 4th, 10 a.m.

St. Vincent de Paul clothing collection

Bags, containing clean and wearable clothing, can be returned to the Church this weekend. On behalf of the Society, thank you so much for your response.

Masses for special intentions and anniversaries

Sun. 30th, 9.30 a.m.: Bill and Patricia Baker, Esther Kelly.

11.00 a.m.: Matt and Greta Carey, Patricia Jenkinson, Bridie Moore, Michael and Mary Ann McGuinness, Kathleen Everard

Wed. 2nd: 7 p.m. (Padre Pio Mass), Patrick, Joseph, James, David, Garry & Margaret Wilde

Thurs. 3rd: 10 a.m., Bob Loughlin

Sat. 5th: 10 a.m., Holy Souls of Skerries

6 p.m., Patrick McGirl, Maureen & David Fleming, Jim Martin, Lily Scanlan

Sun. 6th: 11 a.m., Maureen Beggs, Kathleen O'Rourke, Bob Loughlin, Bill Foran

Music Ministry Together Summer School

This summer school is for anyone interested in liturgy and music. It takes place from Tue 8th-Sun 13th August, Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. Teaching sessions ,workshops/masterclasses, various styles of Liturgy, celebration of the Eucharist, Sacraments and Catechises. Finally, there will also be time to have fun, with organised activities and entertainment through the week Come for as much or as little as you like. For more details and link to booking form etc check out: <http://musicministry.ie/the-course/> or phone (087) 6790336

Help us to help others !

The National Blood Transfusion Service will be making its visit to Skerries on Thurs. 3rd August, 4.30 – 8.00 p.m.. Every donation you make helps somebody in need – yours could be a life-saving donation ! Come along and donate !

Would you be a suitable candidate ?

The Whelan Lab in Trinity College is carrying out research into ADHD. They are looking for healthy adults, without ADHD, to act as a control group. If you are aged between 35 – 60 years and willing to complete some questionnaires and undertake some simple computerised tasks while wearing a cap to record brain activity, please contact 085 7854489 or contact ADHDproject@tcd.ie

Thank You

To all who supported the Raffle for Temple St. Hospital. The sum raised was €1712.00. Thanks to Ollie Grimes for his generosity and the use of his premises and to all the 'bag ladies' for being such a wonderful team.

30 years ago in our Parish

- *Newly baptised were Cliodhna Caffrey, Rory Noonan, Darren Leneghan and Leanne McGee
- *Skerries CBSI was holding its annual Garden Fête, to include Bonny Baby, Glamorous Granny, Fancy Dress competitions and a competition for the 'longest hair', male or female !
- *Great results for Skerries athletes at the Community Games Dublin finals, Gold medal to Gareth McQuillan in 1500m.; silver medals to Karen O'Shea, Edel Quigley and Anthony Bolton; bronze medals to Mark O'Shea, Gillian Jones and Deidre Moloney
- *National Mermaid Championships were being hosted by Skerries Sailing Club

Are you feeling chilly ? Found

2 fleece tops and a watch, together, at the Springers on Tuesday morning, 25th July. Contact: Brenda, 086 3303838

Standbyme news

Our next bi-monthly bio- healing circle workshop with the beautiful Edel Boyle is on Thurs 3rd Aug, 12.00am to 1.15pm, followed by a lovely two course lunch and a glass of wine in Brascos Restaurant on the Harbour(€30). Our next trip to the theatre by train, Wed. 23rd Aug. for 3.00pm Matinee in the Olympia Theatre to see "Once", the musical by John Carney (set in Dublin). Cost of tickets including fees €36. Lunch beforehand. Contact Anne by Wednesday 2nd August, as tickets selling fast. Text/call on 083 1563595

Skerries Ladies Bowls



Well done to the ladies who played so well on Friday 19th against Aer Lingus to secure the return of the Redden Cup to the clubhouse ! Also, lots of skill shown this week against Bray – Skerries were beaten by the narrowest of margins for the overall score

Skerries Hockey Club

Annual Golf Classic takes place in Skerries Golf Club on Friday 25th August. Four-person Team Rumble event - €240 including meal voucher. Perhaps you would sponsor a Tee or Green? All support would be most gratefully appreciated.



SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

Sun 30th: Jun 2 v Rosmini, home at 3 pm.
Club open for Croke Park TV games

Sun 6th Aug: Bryan Cullen Invitation Under 16 Competition starts at 10 am featuring teams from Roscommon, Galway, Kerry, Meath and Tyrone - plus own Under 16s. Promises to be a great day's sport. See www.skerriesharps.ie
Next Senior game is away to St Vincents on 23 Aug and Juniors play the Championship final v Plunketts in Parnell Park on Fri 25th Aug.
Kelloggs Cul Camp 8-11 Aug. for 8-13 year old boys/girls. Contact Louise Byrne at 085 1465673 or register at www.kelloggsculcamps.gaa.ie .
Fri 4 Aug: Golf Classic in Skerries GC. Contact Jackie 087 2121418. Team of 4 only €200, includes meal. Presentation of prizes in Harps that night.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Waldron, William

Gaye Waldron, the wife of the late William (Willie) Waldron and her daughters AnneMarie and Siobhan would like to thank most sincerely all our family, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support during Willie's illness and at the time of his death. In addition we would also like to thank Fr. Paul Glennon and the funeral team for their kindness and assistance in arranging Willie's funeral. Mass will be offered for your intentions.