



Skerries Parish Bulletin

No 2409

16 to 23 February 2025

Focus

We miss so much of life by focussing on worldly things. By considering non-worldly things, our lives are immeasurably enriched. Remember Jesus said "I am come that you may have life and have it to the full". This is the overriding message in today's Scripture passage.

Jeremiah presents stark contrasts; the Psalmist presents a poetic summary; St Paul explains the rationale for optimism i.e. Faith, giving rise to Hope. If we don't believe in the Resurrection, we are wasting our time trying to live by Christian principles. There is nothing to hope for.

The fullness of the message is in the Gospel passage, Luke's account of the well-known and revered Beatitudes. Unlike St Matthew's depiction, which is almost theatrical – Jesus on a high hill, delivering a sort of blueprint for living to a huge audience e.g. "Blessed are the poor in spirit for THEY.." – the emphasis in today's version is much more direct; "Fixing his eyes on his disciples, he said 'How happy are YOU ...'". In addressing his disciples directly like this, he is giving them a programme, so to speak, by which they may live from day to day. As his 21st century disciples, this is directly addressed to us too. We are called upon to accept all the trials and challenges of life, to avoid asking "Why me?". It is a controversial attitude in today's world or indeed in any day's world. But being a Christian means going against the flow, not with it. It means showing this way as the only valid alternative.



In 2001, the well-known Sr. Stan (she of Focus Ireland) produced a book called "Gardening the Soul". It's a reality check to read the quote she chose for February 14th: "Pain is life, the sharper the pain, the more evidence of life". This is what the Beatitudes are all about, isn't it?

"Be Thou my Wisdom, be Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord, Thou my best thought in the day and the night; waking or sleeping, Thy presence my Light".

Skerries Church Choir

Anniversary / Special Intention Masses

- ✦ **Sat. 15th 10.00am:** Catherine Maypothor (BR), Kathleen Branagan (BR and A), Teresa and Bernadette Clancy, Kathleen Branagan (BR, A)
- ✦ **6.00pm:** Ann Boylan (MM), Wilfried Ziemons (RD Germany), Paul Wilde, Finley Gannon, Kevin, Frances and Anne McDonough, Michael Coleman, Mary Gilbride.
- ✦ **Sun. 16th 9.30am:** Susan Woods and the Wood's family, Paddy Sexton (BR), Terry McDonald, James Everard, Peter and Christina Creaner.
- ✦ **11.00am:** Rita Price (1st A), Tommy Quinn, Elizabeth Mullen, Mary Lambe and dec'd family members, Andy and Elizabeth Kettle and dec'd family members, John and Valerie Fitzsimons, Carol Russell.
- ✦ **Mon. 17th 10.00am:** Mass Card Intentions.
- ✦ **Tues. 18th 10.00am:** Kathleen Larkin, John O'Dwyer.
- ✦ **Wed. 19th 10.00am:** Eva McGinty, Caitriona McGinty (BR), Gerry Mansfield, Colin Mooney.
- ✦ **Fri. 21st** John JJ Reid.

- ✦ **Sat. 22nd 10.00am:** Cora and Mick Cannon, Helen Branagan.
- ✦ **6.00pm** Lily Mangan (MM), Elizabeth Francis (1st A) and Aidan Francis, Robert McMahon and dec'd family members, Anne O'Sullivan and dec'd family members, Michael McBride.
- ✦ **Sun. 9.30am:** Gavan O'Kelly (MM), Jean Crowley (1st A), Eilish Healy and dec'd members of the Healy and McGilly families, Anne O'Sullivan and dec'd family members, Brendan Hughes (BR).
- ✦ **11.00am:** Catherine Cruise (MM), Fr. Michael Flanagan, Janice Downing, Declan O'Halloran, Vincent Woodlock, Christopher Radley, Ben Gaughran.

Our Sympathy

is extended to the families of Adrienne Kinsella, Collinstown, Lusk, and Catherine Rooney, The Big Tree, Balrothery who died recently. May they Rest in Peace.

We Welcome Millie Geraghty, Aoibhín Barnes & Grace Neville-Towle who were recently baptised into our parish family.

Parish Pastoral Council: We are pleased to announce that the Parish Information Booklet, incorporating our Faith Development Plan has been distributed to homes within our parish. If you did not receive a copy in the post, you may pick one up from the parish office during regular opening hours (Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 9am - 1pm). Alternatively, you can download a digital copy from our parish website at stpatticksskerries.ie

Feast Days

17th Feb – St. Fintan,

22nd Feb – The Chair of St. Peter, Apostle

ACCORD Dublin Annual Collection



The Annual Collection for ACCORD Dublin, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will replace the second (Share) collection at all Masses **this weekend 15th and 16th February**. ACCORD Dublin appreciates your support. Please give generously.

St Vincent de Paul

The monthly Church collection for the local St. Vincent De Paul Conference will take place this weekend, Saturday 15th February and Sunday 16th February. As always, all contributions are very much appreciated.

Divine Mercy Conference 2025

The Divine Mercy Conference takes place in the RDS, Ballsbridge from 21st to 23rd February. This year's theme is 'Repent ...so that a time of refreshing may come.' Please see poster in the church for list of contributors. Check the website divinemercyconference.com for further details.

Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrimage: The dates are **4th to 9th September 2025**, led by Archbishop Farrell. The Pilgrimage is a fully escorted tour including: direct return flight from Dublin to Lourdes, airport transfers and assistance between Lourdes Airport and the hotels, five nights' accommodation, meals, 20kg check-in luggage plus one small personal item in the cabin and full services of Joe Walsh Tours guides and representatives throughout. Further Information: info@joewalshstours.ie or phone Dublin: 01 2410800.

Lost & Found: Lost - Black Ugg Glove.

Please phone:086175503

Anam Cara is hosting an Online Zoom Bereavement Information Evening on Tuesday 18th February from 7 to 8.30pm for bereaved parents.



This is a collaborative event and will have members of other support organisations on our panel for the Q&A session.

Along with Brid Carrol we will have HUGG, A little lifetime and Feileacain on the panel.

If you know any bereaved parents who may benefit in joining us please pass on the registration details.

Anam Cara Parental Bereavement Support

Tel: 01 4045378 / 085 2888888

www.anamcara.ie / info@anamcara.ie

30 Years Ago in the Parish

- Congratulations to all those who received their Gold and Silver pins at the recent special Mass
- Auditions for dancers for the forthcoming production of Finian's Rainbow were being held in the library.
- Skerries Community were preparing to take part in the Vivaldi workshop at the end of February
- Foster Homes were urgently needed in the North Eastern area - training and financial help is offered for this often difficult but most rewarding service
- Active Retirement Group is planning an outing to see Maureen Potter in Clontarf Castle
- Skerries Rugby Club were facing another vital challenge when they visited Queens in Belfast at the weekend

Skerries Harps GAA Club

Adult football starts back on Sunday February 16th with a home game for our seniors v Fingallians. Our hurlers are back the following week – Sunday 23rd February. New members welcome for our adult games at all level/codes, both playing and non playing. Contact 087 2424429.

For all fixtures see www.skerriesharps.ie. Juvenile Academy every Saturday at 9.45am on the main pitch. Club shop open until 11.00am. New players are welcome – boys and girls. Parent support also welcome. Contact 087 8551236.

Well done to our 11 teams representing the Harps over the past month at the annual Gormanston Indoor Tournament for juvenile hurling and camogie. Thanks to all the mentors and parents. Zingo Sunday 9th Feb. 4,7,1,6,2,5,3. No winners. Jackpot now €1,300. Thanks to all who support. Next Bingo on Monday 24th at 8.00pm Doors open at 7.30pm. Jackpot prize €550.

We extend our sympathy to Kay Doyle and the Holcroft family on the passing of her brother Seán. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam