

SPARKS FLYING

There are few more exciting or frightening sights than sparks flying. And in an argument, if 'sparks are flying', steer clear! Sparks are energy and without them, life 'goes out'. They can cause massive fires, too. Today's feast of Pentecost celebrates the 'divine spark', the 'Spark of Sparks', so to speak. Like most Christians, we believe in a triune God - Creator, Redeemer and Spirit. As we know, it is the spirit of a thing which gives it life; think of 'Team Spirit', the 'Spirit of a Place', a 'Spirit of Generosity' etc. And isn't it interesting that alcohol is referred to as 'spirit'? Have we ever thought about that? The Apostles at Pentecost were infused with the Spirit. Their lives were transformed and they behaved with an energy they had never known before, fluent and fearless. Energy, and its twin, Love, expand the more they are exercised; they are not diminished. Pentecost is all about energy which is life-giving - a real, rich, meaningful life. This energy we know as The Holy Spirit. What fell on the Apostles at Pentecost was like a shower of sparks and the fire set alight by these sparks still burns brightly. Like all fires, though, it needs tending to keep it alive. Jesus' first words to the Apostles in that room were "Peace be with you". They were then commissioned to be bringers of peace to everyone. "Those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven". This is the real meaning of Peace – an untroubled mind. And what of our role in all of this? Just like the Apostles, we too are charged with keeping the fire alive. We may not, like them, be spectacular Fireworks but, as little Sparklers, we can do our bit and in our own little lives "preach the Gospel of peace". "The Planets", currently on BBC2 on Tuesdays, illustrates the fire of creative energy in a humbling and awe-inspiring way. We humans are a part of this same Creation! Energy is love and love is life. It starts with a spark.



"You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came; You send forth your spirit, they are created and you renew the face of the earth".

Church Choir Group

ANNIVERSARIES REMEMBERED

- ✦ Sat 8th 6pm: James J Gilsean, Mary Ryan, Nicholas & Mary Shields, Leo Cauldwell, Month's Mind for Sarah Cullen, Special Intention for Baby Emily Grimes
- ✦ Sun 9th 9.30am: Nancy & Joe Harford, Una Donaghue, Michael Purcell, Thomas & Mary Hughes, Noel Tolan
- ✦ Sun 9th 11am: David Kelly, Joe & Kathleen Tyndall, Oonagh Whittle, Frances, Kevin & Anne McDonough, Month's Mind for Jacinta (Cinta) Delaney & Una McCormack
- ✦ Tues 11th 10am: Seamus Fitzpatrick, Pam Dardis
- ✦ Fri 14th 10am: Shirley Archer
- ✦ Sat 15th 6pm: Ray McAnally, Peter Kennedy, David & Rita O'Sullivan, Basil & Kathleen Costello, Dennis & Mary Breen, Special Intention
- ✦ Sun 16th 11am: William & Jane Potter & Billy Potter, Carmel O'Reilly, Cahir Boyle

FEASTDAYS

15th June – Feast of Blessed Virgin Mary

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

Holmpatrick, Sunday 9th June at 2.30pm
 Baldongan, Sunday 9th June at 4.00pm
 Ardlia, Sunday 16th June at 2.30pm
 Milverton, Sunday 16th June at 4.00pm

PIONEER TOTAL ABSTINENCE ASSOCIATION OF THE SACRED HEART

We would like to thank most sincerely everyone who supported us in our recent church gate collection. The sum of €674 was collected and this supports the association's work for temperance at home and abroad.

Pioneers make a threefold commitment:

1. Twice-daily prayer for victims of addictions;
2. Abstinence from alcohol;
3. Public witness by wearing the Sacred Heart emblem.

In recent weeks three people have enrolled as full time pioneer members here in Skerries. Our next monthly committee meeting will take place this Monday 10th June, 2019 after 10am Mass in 42 Strand Street opposite church.

RÉALT NA MARA 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MASS

Réalt na Mara NS will celebrate 40 years of providing education in our parish community with a Celebration Mass in the parish church this **Thursday June 13th at 1pm**. The main celebrant will be Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. All are welcome to attend especially those who have been associated with the school down through the years.

PARISH BOOK CLUB

During the summer months we will be reading **How to defend the Faith without raising your voice by Michael Kelly & Austen Ivereigh**. The book has been described as a “must-have handbook for anyone wishing to know how to defend and explain some of the toughest and most challenging teachings of the Catholic Church.” We will meet again in September to have a chat about the book. In the meantime, many thanks to all who have supported and attended the book club over the last few months. It has proven to be a very enjoyable experience for all concerned.

SKERRIES ACTIVE RETIREMENT

Mon 10th 2pm: Chemist from Allcare Skerries will come along, check B.P. and answer any medical problems you might have. Also, samples of cosmetics will be distributed. Sure to be a good day.
Tues 11th : Bowls. New members welcome.

ST JOSEPH’S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

The next meeting of St Joseph’s Young Priests Society will take place on Wednesday 12th June at 42 Strand Street commencing at 7.30pm. All are welcome to come along and new members are welcome at any time. The Society holds monthly meetings and our role is to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life and to raise contributions for the education of students for the priesthood.

WEDNESDAY SINGERS

Meet Wed 12th at 8.30pm in Ollies. This is our last meeting until September so bring as many with you as you can. It is getting good!!

SKERRIES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

presents “With Love from Skerries: A visual history through postcards” by SHS Committee in The Bowling Club, Tennis Court Lane, on Tuesday, 11th June 2019. All are welcome.

30 YEARS AGO IN THE PARISH

- Newly baptised were Ian Fitzgerald, Christopher Delaney, Christopher Beggs, and Alice Browne
- Skerries Community Centre was staging a visit of the Arts Road Show
- The local Committee thanked everybody for their recent donations of waste paper, etc. which amounted to 2 and a half tonnes
- Skerries Harps congratulated Brian Beggs, Paul Wilde, Vincent Hughes and Rory Courell on their selection to the Dublin Minor team to play Kildare

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 15 MINUTE ONLINE SURVEY

Researchers at the Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education (MDCCE) at Dublin City University are embarking on an exciting three-year project which aims to explore the nature, scope and potential of religious education and faith development for adults in Ireland. The researchers are inviting all adults in Ireland to complete an **online survey** that will help them understand what Irish adults think and feel about religious education and how we might best develop this in the future. **The survey can be accessed at MDCCE AREFD Project and will be open until Friday 14th June 2019.** Details from Dr. Bernadette Sweetman @ bernadette.sweetman@dcu.ie.

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

Sun 9th: Junior Football v Trinity Gaels, H 12.00
Tues 11th: Hurling Championship v Oliver Plunketts, home at 7.30.
Wed 12th: Sen Ladies Cup v St Maurs, H at 7.30
Zingo 2, 1, 3, 6, 5, 4, 7. Jackpot is now €5,300 – Draw in club on Sunday at 6.30.
Our two Kelloggs Cul Camps are fully booked - waiting list in operation.
Club Summer Camps are on 22-26 July and 6-9 Aug. Registration Days are Sat 15 and Sat 22 June in Clubhouse from 10 am till 12.00.
Next Social Golf Outing is on Fri 14 June at Swords Open GC with meal and prize giving in our Clubhouse on Fri night. Paul Murray has details. Thanks to all who supported our Primary Schools League finals on the Bank Holiday.
Congrats to our Dubs Star Sinead O'Mahony on her marriage to Jamie last week.
Contact club PRO, Joanne 086 4058523 for information on all club events or see www.skerriesharps.ie.