



Skerries Parish Bulletin

No 2158

19 to 26 April 2020

My Lord and my God.



Today's gospel tells one of the most widely remembered stories from the New Testament, the story of doubting Thomas. The title has stuck, even though the point of the story is that Thomas actually arrives at faith. Thomas is not present when Jesus appears to the disciples and he is not willing to accept their testimony. Without seeing Jesus and touching his wounds, Thomas will not believe. One week later the disciples are gathered, Thomas among them, when Jesus, the Risen Lord, appears to them. Jesus takes the initiative by meeting the heart-felt question and doubts of Thomas. Jesus led him along to see the truth of his resurrection. Thomas does come to faith in the resurrection. Thomas's answer 'My Lord and my God' is the most complete affirmation of faith of anyone in this gospel. Three times in this reading Jesus says to his disciples 'Peace be with you'. We all need to hear these words. God's peace keeps our hearts and minds safe.

'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe'

The second reading takes up the topic of faith in quite a strong way.

'Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.'

The first reading from Acts of the Apostles, portrays the very model of Christian community. 'Being of one heart and soul' seems to mean not just agreeing on all disputed matters, but also ready to regard other's needs as one's own. At present as we isolate and distance ourselves from one another, the Christian community we live in has become very powerful. Sharing of goods including skills, energies, time, the help and kindness offered by volunteers, our shop owners and their staff, medical support from our nurses, doctors, carers, chemists, spiritual guidance from our clergy, the concern shown by neighbours and many others, confirms an active Christian community.

Bible Study Group

Anniversaries and Special Masses

- ✦ Saturday 18th 6pm: Rona Ivory (1st A), Eugene Ivory (A), Barry Morris (A), Esther Bolger (A), David Gilsenan (A), Steve and Barry Duff (A)
- ✦ Sunday 19th 9.30am: Joe Coleman (1st A), Bree Grimes (A), Mary McGirl (A)
- ✦ Sunday 19th 11am: Melia Halpin (MM), Mary Sutton (MM), Helen Beggs Dunne (A), Willie and Kitty Beggs (A), Tom McDonnell (A) and deceased members of the McDonnell Family.
- ✦ Saturday 25th April 6pm: Patrick Ryan (1st A), Gerry Fitzgerald (A), Larry Carr (A), Michael Ryan (A), Kathleen and Bernard Leonard (A)
- ✦ Sunday 26th April 9.30am: Rory Shiels (A), Neil Kennedy (A)
- ✦ Sunday 26th April 11am: Brendan O'Brien (A)

Please Note: Intentions for Masses can be emailed to info@stpatricksskerries.ie, through the contact page on our website stpatricksskerries.ie or you can drop intentions or Church offerings into Fr. Melvyn or Fr. James's house. Please print the name of the person clearly in block capitals and include the date and time of the mass requested. Please also include your own name and contact tel. number. Please give one week's notice where possible.

Our Sympathy is extended to the families of May Goundry (nee Rooney) formerly of Strand Street (late of England), Leo Fulham TLC Nursing Home, Margaret (Margery) Reddy, South Strand, Catherine (Kitty) Greene and John Joe Mulvihill, both of Loughshinny Nursing Home, who died recently. May they Rest in Peace.

The webcam in our Parish Church is up and running and can be reached via the parish website: stpatricksskerries.ie. Also our Parish Radio 87.5 FM.

HELPING your CHILDREN LEARN about GOD at HOME

YOUCAT for KIDS is a Catechism for children and their parents. It follows a question-and-answer format. In the Foreword Pope Francis writes to parents: 'Keep this little catechism with you and take the time to contemplate it together with your children page by page, mystery of faith by mystery of faith, question by question. Help your children discover the love of Jesus! It will make them strong and brave. I entrust you with YOUCAT for KIDS.'

How the world and all that exists came to be:

Q. Where does the world and everything that exists come from? A. All that is comes from God. **Q. Why do I exist?** A. You are here because God wanted you. He knows you. He loves us infinitely and wants to make you happy. **Q. How do we know that God exists?** A. We know that God exists because we can see his footprints all over the world. Look at all this: the sun in the sky, the stars at night, the woods, mountains, seas and rivers, the big and the small animals, people on all continents. God made all this. (More questions and answers will follow next week)

YOUCAT for KIDS is available in all major book stores or online (once restrictions are lifted). Visit youcat.org for more details.

Parish Website: www.stpatricksskerries.ie Email: info@stpatricksskerries.ie Ph (01)8106771

Fr. Melvyn 01 8491250; Fr. James 01 8106468. Parish mobile number - for out of normal hours emergencies only - 085 2320479.

Bulletin Email: skerriesbulletin@hotmail.com

Support Services for Older and Vulnerable People COVID-19 community supports

are now in place to ensure vulnerable members of the community are reached and helped at this time.

These comprise the Local Authority, Health Service Executive, County Champions, An Post, Community Welfare Service, An Garda Síochána, other State organisations, charities and other stakeholders. Please try to ensure any vulnerable or elderly neighbour is aware of these services.

Fingal County Council

Helpline (01) 890 5000 with the lines open from 9am to 5pm seven days a week. Email: covidsupport@fingal.ie.

ALONE national support line for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary.

The support line is open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling **0818 222 024**.

SeniorLine is a national, confidential listening service for older people, run by trained older volunteers.

If you are feeling worried, stressed or isolated at this very unnerving time, please feel free to ring this FREEPHONE service anytime between 10am and 10pm on any day of the week on **1800 80 45 91**.

Age Action and the Irish Red Cross have raised funds to provide additional assistance to older and vulnerable people around Ireland who are experiencing hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic by making once-off grants, up to a maximum of €500, per person/household affected. Email: hardship2020@redcross.ie

Tel: Irish Red Cross (01) 642 4600 or (01) 475 6989 **Lo Call:** 1890 369369

30 Years Ago in our Parish

- Newly baptised were Ciara Clancy and Alison Weldon.
- The Padre Pio prayer group was planning an 8 day trip to San Giovanni, Assisi and Rome later in the year
- Skerries Junior Badminton team won the under 16, div.2 Cup - Maeve Clerkin, Sarah Dunne, Orla Quigley, Conor Keeling, Stephen Rafferty and Karl Wilde
- The auditions for the Community Games Variety team had taken place - prize winners were Cliona Power, Donal Carpenter, Jenny Bolton, Jennifer Carpenter, Helen Martin, Cita Hurley and Jill O'Reilly.
- Residents of Mourne View, Greenlawns, and Millers Lane were asked to get involved in a big clean-up drive, organised by Tidy Towns Committee

Women's Aid

The Women's Aid 24hr National Freephone Helpline offers confidential information, support and understanding to women who are being abused by current or former boyfriends, partners or husbands.

Freephone 1800 341 900 Tel: (01) 678 8858

Email: info@womensaid.ie

The Samaritans

Available round the clock, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If you need a response immediately, it's best to call on the phone. This number is FREE to call:

Tel: 116 123. Email: samaritans.org

Men's Aid Ireland, formerly known as Amen, is the only dedicated national service supporting men and their families experiencing Domestic Violence in Ireland.

Tel: (01) 554 3811 or (01) 539 4277

E-mail: hello@mensaid.ie

ISPCC Dublin

The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC) is Ireland's national child protection charity.

Call: (01) 676 7960

Email: ispcc@ispcc.ie

Skerries Harps GAA Club



We had another fantastic Allcare Virtual Academy hosted by our amazing Games Promotion Officer Louise and her assistant Emma last week! We were delighted to be able to host safe and secure sessions for all the boys and girls and we also had an extra special visit from the Easter Bunny!! Well done to all who took part and see you next week!!! Keep an eye on our website, www.skerriesharps.ie for more details on events coming up.

We had no Jackpot or Dividend Winner this week. Zingo Result: 5-7-4-3-6-2-1. Next week's Jackpot is a cool €3,100. Dividend €400. Next Draw will take place on Sunday the 19th of April

How do you win! You buy a ticket! You can also play on line at skerriesharps.ie and follow the links. Entries only €2 each or 3 for €5. As this is the only club fundraising activity we currently have – and the bills still have to be paid - we encourage our members, and our supporters, to support the Zingo.

Please note – all Skerries Harps facilities remain closed until further notice. This includes our main pitch beside the Clubhouse and we ask all to respect this ruling in the interest of public safety.

This Sunday we remember our former Trustee, Joe Coleman RIP, on his first anniversary.

10,000km Run/Walk fundraiser for Skerries

Community: Skerries Rugby Club aim to run/walk 10,000km between now & 4th May, with a target to raise €10,000 for Skerries Community causes. The team will include adult club players, club coaches (adult & juvenile), and other adults who wish to participate, all whilst maintaining 2km home radius routes. 100% of funds raised will be spent within the Skerries Community during this COVID-19 pandemic. We are currently in discussions with local groups, with areas foreseen as: Meals on Wheels, elderly & vulnerable residents, front line healthcare staff, possibly PPE if any local persons/groups need it. We will update in coming days as specific causes / groups are confirmed for donations. **The link to donate is:** <https://www.gofundme.com/f/skerries-rugby-club-10000km-runwalk-for-covid19>

Anyone can join our team & track your walk/run distances to our team 10,000km goal:

We've setup "Skerries Rugby Club" as a group on the STRAVA walking / running app. The link to our SRFC club on the STRAVA app is at:

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/626078>

Thank you everyone who can contribute to this Skerries Community cause.

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