

**“I will not leave you orphans”**

In today's 2<sup>nd</sup> reading we are encouraged to '**Always be ready to give the reason for the hope that is in you.**' in other words 'know why you believe what you believe and have faith and hope in Jesus'. It is OK to ask questions, in fact, as sensible human beings we are encouraged to do so; to ask until we have answers. We have been taught that God is present with us at all times. How do we know? The answer is there in today's gospel reading. Jesus tells us **“I will not leave you orphans,”** and later on **“On that day you will know that I am in the Father and you in me and I in you.”** That is pretty clear to us; God is with us always. Closer to us than our own selves.

When we stay at home to keep infections rates low, God is with us. When we go out to exercise and delight to feel the wind in our hair or the sun on our cheeks, God is with us. When we telephone a friend or relative to keep in touch, God is with us. When we use the Webcam to try as best we can to participate at Mass, God is with us. When we sit down and read or do nothing at all, God is with us. In Celtic spirituality there was always a short prayer at the beginning of each task: a prayer for milking the cow, a prayer for baking a cake of brown bread, a prayer for making butter and so on. In school we were taught to say 'In anim Dé an obair seo'.

Short prayers like these keep us aware of God's loving presence.

In these strange times, times of profound change if we could engrave these words of Jesus in our hearts and minds we would always be ready to give the reason for the hope that is in us

**Bible Study Group**

Today's readings

First reading, Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Second reading, 1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel, John 14:15-21

**New Email Address for Skerries Bulletin**

We have had some problems recently with our Hotmail address and have changed it as follows - [skerriesbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:skerriesbulletin@gmail.com). Please use this new email address for any future messages. Both addresses will be in operation until mid-June, after which time the Hotmail address will no longer reach us. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

**ANNIVERSARIES REMEMBERED**

- ✠ Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> May 6pm: Malachy Armstrong
- ✠ Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am: Charlie & Fran Grimes
- ✠ Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> May 11am: Johnny & Lucy Burke
- ✠ Mon. 18<sup>th</sup> May 10am: Michael, Mary and Peter Gaffney
- ✠ Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> May 10am: Josephine Egan
- ✠ Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> May 10am: Dick Fanning
- ✠ Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> May 6pm: Harry Boylan (MM), Carmel Healy (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv)
- ✠ Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> 9.30am: Charlie & Fran Grimes

**OUR SYMPATHY**

To the families of John Grimes, The Square, Peadar Clerkin, Shenick Road and May Andrews, Mourneview, who died recently.  
May they Rest in Peace.

**ROSARY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY**

During the month of May we will pray the Rosary after the 10am Mass on **Tuesday and Thursday**.

**BIBLE STORIES and PRAYER FOR FAMILIES** Join us on **Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm** on the parish webcam or radio for some time together in family prayer. An opportunity to pray with your family during these challenging times. Feel free to contact us with any suggestions about future sessions. Visit the Contact link on our website [stpatricksskerries.ie](http://stpatricksskerries.ie)

Next prayer time together this Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Over the next two Wednesday evening sessions we will remember the children due to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in a special way.

**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.

**Q. Who is God? A.** God is God. God is everywhere, above and below, today and tomorrow, without beginning or end. God was here when not even a

grain of dust existed. And God will still be here when the world no longer exists. God is the one that all good in the world comes from: God is love.

**Q. What is God capable of? How powerful is God?** A. God has power over everything. All creation exists because God wanted it and God sustains all things: time and space, heaven and earth, the universe and the stars, angels, humans, animals...God has wonderfully ordered everything so that we can live on earth.

**Q. How did the world come to be?** A. Before the beginning of time, when nothing at all existed, not even darkness, not even time, God was there. God said: "*Let there be...*" That is why God is the creator of all that is. The Bible tells the story of the seven days of creation to make it clear that God has created the world. For millions of years until today the earth keeps developing and God holds it in his hands.

**YOUCAT for KIDS is available in all major book stores or can be ordered online. Visit [youcat.org](http://youcat.org) for more details.**



#### **PARISH BOOK CLUB SUMMER READING**

As we slowly emerge from hibernation and as the summer months come upon us, our hope is that our parish book club can meet again sometime in the autumn. In the meantime, a good book to read over the summer months is

**The Rule of Benedict - A spirituality for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by Joan Chittister.** The book offers practical and inspiring commentary for our lives today from one of the most influential religious and spiritual leaders of our age. Enjoy the book!

#### **SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB**

Zingo numbers for 10 May were 7 6 3 2 5 4 1 and we had no winners. Next week's Jackpot is €1,200. As envelope sales remain suspended we would encourage regular weekly players to sign up online through the following link – [https://play.clubforce.com/play\\_newa.asp](https://play.clubforce.com/play_newa.asp) or see club website [www.skerriesharps.ie](http://www.skerriesharps.ie).

Allcare Pharmacy are supporting our Virtual Academy sessions hosted by Louise & Emma on Saturday mornings through a secure & safe platform; details are on our Facebook page.

Our Ladies Football & Camogie players have commenced their challenge of running the equivalent

of a marathon each during May to keep fit and active while at the same time raising funds for Jane's House in memory of Jane Dardis. There has been a fantastic response to date and you can donate via the [gofundme](https://www.gofundme.com) page – see club Facebook page.

Another good cause ... On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, Team SJB will undertake a 'One Million Step Challenge' in memory of Sarah Jane Branagan and to raise much needed funds for Pieta House. Any donations or 'steps' you can contribute would be greatly appreciated. Sarah played on our Ladies Football Team which won the Dublin Junior Championship in 2015. To ensure we reach our goal, 5 members have committed to walking 100,000 steps in a day (approx. 80km). Members of Team SJB are living all around the world – Dublin, Vancouver, Toronto, San Diego, Sydney, Beijing. Locally, we will all be following social distancing rules whilst walking. On the day, we are inviting you all to get out and walk with or for your one in a million. If you would like to have your steps included in the final count, you can DM a picture of your steps to @onemillionstepsforsarah on Instagram or email your steps to [onemillionstepsforsarah@gmail.com](mailto:onemillionstepsforsarah@gmail.com). Please donate whatever you can to [www.justgiving.com/team/teamSJB](http://www.justgiving.com/team/teamSJB)

#### **SKERRIES LADIES BOWLS CLUB**

Protocols have been received from the BLI and LBLI to be observed when the game resumes in the not too distant future. We'll keep you posted.

#### **30 YEARS AGO IN THE PARISH**

Tidy Towns were sponsoring a competition for children called Plant around a Tree

It was planned to set up an Age Action group in the town

Congratulations to the winners of the Joe May Squash Club championships: Men: Noel Meade (A group), Sean Foley (B group); Ladies(A group) Ann Lawless, Ann Bradshaw(B group) Skerries Athletic Club sent 70 competitors to Santry to the Open Sports Day with very good wins for Kevin Johnson, John Brady, Olivia Hurley, Deirdre Moloney, Shane Hegarty, Edel Quigley and Clive Lawless. The girls team missed out by 2 points winning the overall trophy

#### **SKERRIES BULLETIN TEAM**

We send our sincere sympathy to our former member Marie Clerkin on the sad passing of Peadar. May he rest in peace.

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Fr Melvyn 01 8491250; Fr James 01 8106468 Parish Mobile No - for out of normal hours emergencies only - 085 2320479

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