



# Skerries Parish Bulletin

No 2214

16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

## MAGIC OR MIRACLE?

The story of the Ascension of Jesus is about the nearest thing we have in the New Testament to a fairy-tale. A cloud covering a person and lifting them up off a mountain is the stuff of story-books to delight and mystify children.

Each account of the event today, in the first and third Readings, emphasises a slightly different aspect. In Acts, St Luke looks back at what has gone before, reminding readers of where the Apostles had come from, what they had experienced and endured and how things had been after the Resurrection. The whole 3-year period with Jesus was nothing if not challenging and unnerving, a series of peaks and troughs, conviction and confusion. Certainty was the last thing in evidence. No wonder the apostles were still looking for answers, right up to the Ascension. "Lord, has the time come?" (**Acts 1: 9**). St Mark's account, on the other hand, concentrates on moving forward. There seems greater recognition among some of the apostles here; we are told "When they saw him, (Jesus) they fell down before Him, though some hesitated" – surer, but still no certainty. (**Mark 28: 17**). The main thrust of St. Mark is how things are to proceed. Common to both passages and vital to the whole story is the Holy Spirit, the "magic power" which makes all things possible, as a child might see it. "What happened next?" of course, is the inevitable question after a magic event!

The reality of the Ascension of Jesus is a huge challenge to us, especially the words of St. Luke "....Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go...." (**Acts 1: 11**). It's no wonder the eleven were left gazing into space, speechless! They did, however, have work to do and were firmly nudged along by those "two men in white" who suddenly appeared. It is Mark who specifies the next step. "Go out to the world, proclaim the good news to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved". That clear direction set out a way forward and Mark's Gospel ends with the words "....while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it" (**Mark 16: 20**). It was the start of a whole new reality. We face the same today.

The mind of a child has the unique advantage of being uncluttered by facts. A child has no problem accepting the magic of a cloud on a mountain and a man disappearing. "Unless you become as little children.....etc" says Jesus elsewhere in Scripture. Maybe if we can just accept the magic, the miracles will follow; it's worth a try!

Skerries Church Choir



### MASS INTENTIONS AND ANNIVERSARIES

**Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> May:** 10am: May Andrews  
6pm: Michael, Mary & Peter Gaffney  
**Sun. 16<sup>th</sup>:** 9.30am: Eileen O'Neill (MM),  
Fran & Charlie Grimes, Nancy Jordan,  
Thomas & Mary Hughes  
11am: Meta (Maire) Rice (MM),  
Margaret McDonnell  
**Mon. 17<sup>th</sup>:** 10am: Mass Card Intentions  
**Tues. 18<sup>th</sup>:** 10am: Kathleen & John Mackle,  
Dennis & Monica Farrell  
**Weds. 19<sup>th</sup>:** 10am: Declan O'Byrne,  
Aidan Anglin

**Thurs. 20<sup>th</sup>:** 10am: Jean Grimes (recently deceased), James & Mary Slattery,  
John & Mary Dolan  
**Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup>:** 6pm: Jim & Lily Scanlan  
**Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup>:** 9.30am: Dick Fanning  
11am: Eric O'Toole (MM), Alan Collins (MM),  
Dick Fanning, Oliver P. Brennan, Marie Grimes

**Our Sympathy** is extended to the family of Emer O'Driscoll, Mill View, who died recently. May she Rest in Peace.

### FEASTDAYS

16<sup>th</sup> May – The Ascension of the Lord  
20<sup>th</sup> May – St Bernardine

Parish Website: [www.stpatricksskerries.ie](http://www.stpatricksskerries.ie) Email: [info@stpatricksskerries.ie](mailto:info@stpatricksskerries.ie) Ph (01)8106771

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

Bulletin Email: [skerriesbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:skerriesbulletin@gmail.com)

### 30 YEARS AGO IN THE PARISH

- Newly baptised were Dean Davey, Owen Tracey, Eadaoin Ryan, Aine McCarthy, John Ellis, Garry and Mike Palmer.
- Children from Réalt na Mara were getting ready for their First Communion
- Confirmation of 6th class pupils of the Parish was taking place this week
- Well done to pupils from 5th and 6th class in Réalt na Mara who had taken part in the Primary Schools Choral concert in the Point Theatre
- A double bill in the Little Theatre - Signpost Drama Group from Drogheda was presenting "Revenge" and Skerries "Dream Jobs"
- Skerries Historical Society was organising a field trip to Drogheda



**PARISH BOOK CLUB:** During the month of May, we will be reading **HUMANS of the WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES** edited by Brenda Drumm. The World Meeting of Families festival took place in Ireland for the first time and saw thousands of volunteers and visitors from across the globe unite to celebrate their shared faith in God and in family. *Humans of the World Meeting of Families* is a collection of first-person testimonies from some of those involved – including lay and religious, young and old – who reflect upon their own faith journey in a candid and engaging fashion. This uplifting book of words and photographs offers a revealing insight into the personal lives and motivation of volunteers, delegates, attendees, staff members and many others who took part in this event which included the historic visit of Pope Francis to Ireland.

### **Skerries Ladies Bowls**

It's good to see ladies back bowling in the sunshine - singles and pairs. Unfortunately, there will be no Leinster league matches this coming season, but the club will organise internal singles and pairs competition to fill the gap. New members are always welcome to come along now the club is open again for play.

### **SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB**

Juvenile Academy on Saturdays at 10 am. Children **MUST** be registered in advance - we cannot accept walk-ins. Contact Louise - 085 1465673 for details. Club Shop open for playing gear. Team training has resumed with games, behind closed doors, hopefully from 7 June. Our indoor facilities remain closed. The GAA has extended Membership to 31<sup>st</sup> May – this covers voting at AGM and All Ireland ticket draw, should it apply. Fees can be paid online, details on website where Guidelines on Return to Play can also be found. See [www.skerriesharps.ie](http://www.skerriesharps.ie)

Zingo for Sunday 9 May 6-3-7-2-5-1-4. Jackpot now €6,400. Online entry €5 for 3 lines.

Our Gaelic for Mothers & Others team - (G4M&O's) – are hoping to raise funds for the RNLI with a Dip a Day for May. Please support this good cause for the Lifeboat.

Coming soon – Skerries Harps All-Stars, a programme for children with additional needs who are unable to, or do not wish to participate in mainstream sport. More info on website.

### **Covid-19 Support Line for Older People**

**ALONE** manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, **8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.**



Thank you for **Items for the Bulletin** – which should reach us by Wednesday afternoon, at: [skerriesbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:skerriesbulletin@gmail.com)

Parish Website: [www.stpatricksskerries.ie](http://www.stpatricksskerries.ie) Email: [info@stpatricksskerries.ie](mailto:info@stpatricksskerries.ie) Ph (01)8106771

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

Bulletin Email: [skerriesbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:skerriesbulletin@gmail.com)