



Skerries Parish Bulletin

No 2239

07th – 14th November 2021

A Tale of Two Women

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" wrote Dickens in the opening sentence of his "Tale of Two Cities" – London and Paris during the French Revolution.

We find ourselves in a time of revolution too. Our world is being upended and transformed by disease, climate change, conflict, emigration and immigration, polarisation of wealth and poverty, technology – for some, the worst of times, for others the best.

The stories from the 1st Book of Kings and from St. Mark's Gospel today portray two women who knew nothing of the best of times. There are obvious similarities in their stories, set thousands of years apart. Each bears repeated reading to discover the many aspects of their behaviour. Their standout qualities are: modesty, generosity, selflessness, obedience, and faith.

Christian charity is not an option, it is an obligation. Charity is at the heart of every religious system, a gesture of homage and a token of gratitude to a Divinity, and a practical help to the weak and vulnerable. The bar is set very high for us in these Scripture stories. Not only do the two women display material generosity above and beyond anything that would be considered today, they also live by total faith in the goodness of God and total commitment to it: "...from the little she had, she has put in everything she possessed..."(Mark: 12) The woman in Sidon gave no less. (1st Book of Kings: 17).

21st century Ireland finds itself enjoying "the best of times". It wasn't always so - but it is now. At this time of year, an avalanche of glossy promotions lands in our letterboxes, vying for our charitable donations. The face of "Charity" has changed into a face of "Big Business". Are we critical, cynical, suspicious, and self-righteous about this change? Probably – but does that actually matter? Our two women gave without a negative thought when they had so little to give. That's the challenge for us. Many of us are in a strong position to help materially. Are we, however, poverty-stricken in other ways? How much faith in God's Providence have we, or total commitment to the Christian way of life? Food for thought! "The Widow's Cruse of Oil" and "The Widow's Mite", by-words nowadays for generosity and its unsought rewards have ensured these women's place in history. By helping to change "the worst of times" into "the best of times" for countless thousands, at home and abroad, who knows how our efforts might be reflected, many years from now?

Skerries Church Choir

MASS INTENTIONS

- ✦ **Sat 6th Nov 10am:** Mary Ingran (memorial mass)
- ✦ **Sat 6th Nov 6pm:** Tony McDermott, Gerry Nichol (BR) Margaret Hawkins, Ivonete DaSilva
- ✦ **Sun 7th 9.30am:** Maurice McAuley (1st A), Larry & Dolores Casey, Richard & Anne Keane, Deirdre McDermot née Dowling (BR)
- ✦ **Sun 7th 11am:** Tom Murphy, Patrick Russell, Matthew & Margaret Russell, David Ryan, Sean Darcy, Christine O'Brien
- ✦ **Mon 8th 10am:** Mass Card Intentions
- ✦ **Tue 9th 10am:** Fr. Michael Mulvihill, Special Intention, Aidan Grimes
- ✦ **Wed 10th 10am:** John Power, Noel Hanly, Michael & Sheena Flavin, Dessie McGirl, Brian Taylor (SI), Deceased members of the Taylor, McKenna & McElligott families, Thomas & Lena Monks, Mary Murphy

- ✦ **Sat 13th 10am:** Róisín O'Leary (1st A)
- ✦ **Sat 13th 6pm:** Melissa O'Sullivan, Breege & Peter Moran, Sarah Killion (SI), May Ryan
- ✦ **Sun 14th 11am:** Audrey Mealia (MM), Kieran Bowers, Kathleen & Tommy Wherity, The Prendergast family, Collette Nugent (Remembrance Mass) Terry Murphy.

OUR SYMPATHY

✠ To the family of Catherine (Kate) Maypothor, late of Hoar Rock who died recently. May she Rest in Peace.

FEASTDAYS

6 November - all the Saints of Ireland
10 November - St. Leo the Great
14 November - St. Laurence O'Toole

November Remembrance Mass to remember those who have died during the year **November 2019 to October 2020** will take place on **Monday 15th November at 7.30pm.**

ST. JOSEPHS YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

The 10am Mass on the second Tuesday of November (9th November) will be offered for vocations to the priesthood. Your prayers and financial support for the Society are greatly appreciated.

Meetings of the Society will resume when the restrictions are lifted.

CONFIRMATION PHOTO

The pupils who celebrated their confirmation this year from **St. Patrick's SNS** can email their photo to patsconfirmationphoto@gmail.com

These children would have been in Ms. O'Rodaigh, Ms. Hughes, Mr. Quigley and Mr. McGinty's classes.

SCOIL RÉALT NA MARA



Enrolment for Scoil Réalt na Mara Junior Infant classes 2022/2023 is now taking place. Closing date for receipt of applications is **28 January**

2022. Please see details on the school website www.realtnamara.ie or contact the school office on 01-8490049.

SKERRIES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Skerries Historical Society presents a talk by Oona Roycroft on **A Skerries Holiday** via Zoom on Tuesday 9 November at 8.15pm. Those wishing to join should contact Skerries Historical Society.

SKERRIES LADIES BOWLS CLUB



Monday next will be the final morning of the current Autumn competition. Congratulations to lady member Shirley Jackson, who

became President of the Club at the AGM last week. Also on the committee are Isobel Murray, Club Treasurer, Eileen McMahon, Club Secretary, as well as Sheila Kelly and Marian Fagan, as ladies' reps. There are now over 50 active lady members, which is great for the club's future. New members can come along on a Wednesday or Friday morning for coaching.

30 YEARS AGO IN THE PARISH

- The death had occurred of Sr. Laurence for many years principal of the Holy Faith Convent School.
- Holmpatrick Parish was launching its Calendar of Quotations in Skerries Sailing Club.

DATE TO NOTE

9th November – Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

IRISH CANCER SOCIETY

Needs Volunteer Drivers. For more information contact 01 231-0594 or email:

transport@irishcancer.ie

WHAT CAN I DO?

With all the focus this past week on the environmental conference in Glasgow we thought we might look at some tips you might find useful in your day-to-day living.

Now that we can put all **soft plastics** into our green bin, just what is meant by soft plastics? Well, it's all that thin plastic film wrapped around your shopping items, such as vegetables and meat - **BUT, it must be clean and dry**; plastic drinks bottles (rinse them out and squash them down); plastic tubs, containers and food trays; yoghurt pots (rinsed out), shampoo and shower gel bottles. **ALAS, no fruit and veg netting yet. More next week...**

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB



Congratulations to the Under 14 Hurlers on winning the Cup final v Erin's Isle.

Minor footballers went down to a strong Kilmacud side in the Championship semi-final.

Under 16 Camogie lost to Thos Davis in the Shield final.

Cillian Emmet played on the Dublin U15 Hurling side that defeated Kilkenny – well done!

Zingo result for Sunday 31st October:

7,1,4,5,3,2,6. Next weeks Jackpot is €1,700 and the Dividend is €450. Play online or buy an envelope during the week.

Entry is €2 or 3 for €5.

Sat. 6 Nov. U21 Hurling Championship v Faughs, away at 2.30 pm and Under 16 Hurling semi-final v N. Barrog, home at 3pm

Sunday. Minor Camogie v N. Olaf, home at 10.30am

Sat 13 Nov. U21 Football Championship v Kilmacud, away at 2.30pm.

Check fixtures/results on: www.skerriesharps.ie

Tickets for our Christmas Draw go on sale, online, shortly. All prizes will be sourced locally in order to support the Skerries business community.

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