



Skerries Parish Bulletin

No 2358

18th – 25th February 2024

“Friends Save You A Fortune in Therapy”.



This little message on a recently seen greeting-card set a thought process in train. Could Lent do the same? How about Confession? God really is our best friend! Lent is Spring-cleaning for the soul. It's an annual ritual just like domestic Spring-cleaning. At the end of our efforts, we feel really good about the outcome – a new beginning, clear and fresh. Everything comes into focus and we feel secure again.

On this first Sunday of Lent, the Scripture passages highlight the essence of the forty days 'Spiritual Refresher'. We need to focus on a Covenant, the Spirit, and Water. These are symbols of the Divine connection to us and that connection needs to be reviewed and renewed from time to time.

The mushrooming of counselling services and therapies of all kinds over recent decades is proof of how urgently we need to give time to our own living-style, our soul. The self-assessment that used to be regularly done for Confession has all but vanished. It nevertheless forms the basis of most therapies. Recognizing our flaws and shortcomings is healthy and is really important in centring ourselves, restoring our mental, emotional and spiritual balance. Lent is a time for looking at our lives critically, seeing what needs to be 'cleaned up' and asking for help to get the job done. And we don't need to make ourselves miserable while we're about it! "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full". Our happiness is God's happiness. He loves us totally, no matter what, wants us to be fully alive.

God is faithful; the Spirit is our direct link to the Divine; Water is life-giving. The 'Alternative Therapy' of Lent doesn't cost a fortune, just needs focus and time. God is the centre of everything, not us. What a relief! We sing this morning:

**“Father in my life I see you are God who walks with me;
You hold my life in your hand, close beside you I will stand;
I give all my life to you. Help me Father to be true”.**

Skerries Church Choir.

ANNIVERSARY / SPECIAL INTENTION MASSES

- ✦ **Sat 17th 10am:** Colm McGilly (Memorial Mass)
- ✦ **Sat 17th 6pm:** Michael Coleman (1st A), Kathleen Larkin, Paul Wilde, Finley Gannon, Bernard (Benny) Donnelly, Dolores & Hose Louis Sala Grau, Mary Cawley, Michael Conlon
- ✦ **Sun 18th 9.30am:** David & Margaret Noonan, Vincent Woodlock, Anne O'Sullivan & decd members of O'Sullivan family, Susan Woods & decd members of Woods family, Patrick Keenan Johnson, Patricia, Sheelagh & Helen Johnson, Christopher Radley
- ✦ **Sun 18th 11am:** Patricia (Pat) Reilly (MM), Tommy Quinn, Carol Russell, Declan O'Halloran, John O'Dwyer, Ben Gaughran, Terry Justice

- ✦ **Mon 19th 10am:** Mass Card Intentions
- ✦ **Tues 20th 10am:** Eva, Charles & Caitriona McGinty, Colin Mooney, Alf Coleman (BR), Bernie Kiernan (BR), Maura Sheehan (Rec Decd), Paddy Duffy (Rec Decd)
- ✦ **Wed 21st 10am:** Gerry Mansfield, Anne O'Sullivan & decd members of O'Sullivan family, Denis Keogh
- ✦ **Sat 24th 10am:** Rose Murray (BR), Special Intention
- ✦ **Sat 24th 6pm:** Margaret McCarthy (MM)
- ✦ **Sun 25th 9.30am:** Margaret McCarthy (MM), James Everard
- ✦ **Sun 25th 11am:** Terry McDonald (1st A), Fr Michael Flanagan, Joe & Carmel Boylan, Janice Dowling, Denis Keogh

FEASTDAYS

17th February: St Fintan

21st February: St Peter Damian

22nd February: The chair of St Peter, Apostle

23rd February: St Polycarp

THE SEASON OF LENT – EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

We are asked to mark the season of Lent in some way so as to prepare for the great celebration of Easter. With this in mind the blessed sacrament will be exposed in the church on the Tuesdays during Lent from 3 pm to 5 pm starting Tuesday 20th February.



ACCORD COLLECTION

The 2nd collection this weekend (Feb 18th) will be taken up as the Annual Collection for Accord Dublin, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family. This collection will replace the usual Share collection.

APOLOGIES

Work on the paving area in front of the church will commence this Monday 19th February. For the duration of the work for your health & safety, the area will be cordoned off with fencing. The construction company has asked me to pass on to you their apologies for any inconvenience caused while this work is ongoing. Access to the church will be as usual i.e. by the front & two side doors. Please do not park on the pavement in front of the church at any time during this work.

30 YEARS AGO IN THE PARISH

- The Lenten garden on the altar was beginning to show growth
- Girls and Boys from the First Communion classes were asked to bring their photographs to school during the coming week
- Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes via Nevers/Lisieux/Paris to take place in July, names now being taken
- Good news for train commuters, the station roof canopy had been restored
- 6th years from the College were going on a two day retreat to Emmaus
- Rush Dramatic Society was staging Mairead Ni Ghrasa's The Trial

DUBLIN CITY U3A [UNIVERSITY OF THE 3RD AGE]

Meetings / Presentations / Talks held in Pearse Street Library last Tuesday of each month at 11am to 12 30pm, fee € 5. This month Tuesday, 27th at 11am. Talk by Cathy Scuffle, Historian with Dublin City Council.

SKERRIES LADIES BOWLS

Monday morning competition continues at 10.30 am - please check in on time. The next ladies meeting will take place on Monday 11th March. The Winter League will finish up next week and final results will be known.

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

Sun.18 Feb. Senior football Div.1 v Ballyboden, away at 10.15, Inters v St Marks, home at 10.15, Juniors v Ballymun, away at 12.15 and Minor Hurlers v Fingallians, away at 11.00.

Under 15 A footballers had a winning start to Feile '24 with victory over Fingallians.

Skerries Harps won Club of the Tournament at the finals of the Gormanston Indoor Tournament. Gala Presentation Night on Friday 23 Feb in the Bracken Court Hotel, Balbriggan.

Player of the Year will be awarded to Adult Teams in all 4 codes (Football, Camogie, Ladies Football & Hurling) Juvenile Academy each Saturday at 10 am. To register see

www.skerriesharps.com/academy

Fri 8 March – Annual Fashion Show in Clubhouse at 8 pm. Tickets €15.50 available online or contact Noeleen 086 7832743 or Grainne 085 1746294. Zingo for 11 Feb. 6, 7, 3, 2, 5, 1. 4 No winners - Jackpot now €6,200 and Dividend is €450. Draw on Sunday at 6 pm in Clubhouse Bar. Play Online or by Envelope for €2 per line.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ursula Gorman: The Gorman family would like to thank sincerely all those who sympathised with them on the recent death of Ursula - to the wonderful staff of Beaumont Hospital who made Ursula's last days so comfortable; to Mr Lannon and his staff for their professional service; to our wonderful neighbours for their kindness and support; to the staff of the Windmill Medical Centre for their kindness to Ursula over many years; A special thanks to Fr Melvyn for his support and help and the celebration of the funeral mass. A Mass will be celebrated for the intentions of all.

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