

BIODIVERSITY

Wicklow County Council recently organised a meeting in Ashford: "Let's Get Buzzing! Community Actions for Biodiversity". A range of presentations covering swifts (installing nest boxes to encourage nesting), biodiversity's role in climate action, waterways and the all-Ireland pollinator plan informed all present of the immediacy of retaining our biodiversity. Leaving uncut grass; growing open-pollinated flower varieties; maintaining corridors to connect habitat suitable for wildlife, clean water, fish passes; creating habitat for nesting solitary bees – it transpires that bumblebees and solitary bees are far more important for pollination than honey bees, so are essential for many of our crop foods. Daffodils, those wonderfully cheerful harbingers of spring, sadly are not pollinated by bees, so be sure to plant other spring flowers as well. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (available on-line) provides invaluable, detailed information regarding pollinators, for individuals, groups, townies, farmers – everyone. If we all do a little, a lot can be achieved: by providing the correct habitat, there will be more insects, which both pollinate our food and provide food for wildlife, enriching life all round.

ROTAS

We need more help with arranging flowers for the church and with organising tea/coffee for the end of services. We are very grateful to those who help the church in this way but would like to spread these tasks more widely. Rotas are posted on the church notice board in the porch. Please sign up if you can!

PRAYER POINTS

Please pray for:

- * Strength to help those in need
- * Thankfulness for those, like St Patrick, who have passed on the Christian message to the next generation
- * Forgiveness for those who have done us wrong and from those whom we have wronged
- * The elderly of the parish

Please also remember and give thanks for the faithful departed

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

If your postal, email or phone number has changed please let us know. Also to promote events or post information in the parish newsletter or on the website, please contact our Parish Administrator Sinead Todd by email on: wicklowandkilliskeycoi@outlook.com

FACEBOOK

You may find the latest parish news and some great photographs on the Nun's Cross Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/KilliskeyParish>

WEBSITE

You may access the parish website at: www.nunscrosschurch.ie

CLERGY CONTACT DETAILS

Rev Jack Kinkead — mobile: 086-1727654; e-mail: kinkeadj@gmail.com
Rev Ken Rue — mobile: 087-2766590; e-mail: kenrue@gmail.com

Killiskey Parish

March 2020



Announcements

Date of Issue: 26th February 2020

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise (Psalm 51: 17)

CHURCH SERVICES

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| Sun 1st | 11.00am Holy Communion
Bible Readings: Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5: 12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11 |
| Sun 8th | 09.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Morning Prayer
Bible Readings: Genesis 12: 1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4: 1-15; John 3: 1-17 |
| Fri 13th | 10.00am Nun's Cross School Service |
| Sun 15th | 11.00am Holy Communion/ Comaoineach Naofa
<i>In anticipation of St Patrick's Day/Lá Fhéile Pádraig, the service will be conducted bilingually, as Béarla agus as Gaeilge.</i>
Bible Readings: Exodus 17: 1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42
05.00pm Family Service |
| Sun 22nd | 09.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Morning Prayer (Mothering Sunday)
Bible Readings: 1 Samuel 1: 20-28; Psalm 127: 1-4; Colossians 3: 12-17; John 19: 25-27 |
| Sun 29th | 10.00am Joint Parishes Service (in Wicklow)
Bible Readings: Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45 |

ASHFORD COUNTRY FAIR

Ashford Country Fair is Killiskey Parish's main fund-raising activity. This year it will take place in Rossana estate on Bank Holiday Monday 4th May. The success of the event in previous years has led to a demand for additional car parking which can be accommodated in the new venue. Our grateful thanks go to the Freeman family who have hosted the fair in the Bel-Air hotel for the last seven years.

To advertise this event, a float will be entered in the St Patrick's Day parade in Wicklow Town.

The Country Fair committee is now in full swing. If you can help in any way with this important fund-raiser, please contact Bernadette Glover, Amanda Mooney or Lesley Rue.

MOTHERS' UNION

On 16th March the parish Mothers' Union branch members are invited to a Fun Night in Greystones with its branch. There will be a Mothers' Union area service or meeting with Arklow on Wednesday 25th March. On 29th March members are encouraged to attend a service in St Patrick's Cathedral at 3.15pm when the Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, will be the speaker. For further details, please contact Jessica Clarke or Sally Smith.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The (Women's) World Day of Prayer will be celebrated in Wicklow Church on Friday 6th March.

UNITY GOSPEL CHOIR

The Unity Gospel Choir meets for rehearsals in Nun's Cross church on Mondays at 8pm. New members welcome!

TABLE TENNIS

The Table Tennis club will reopen in the Nun's Cross school assembly room on Wednesday 8th January at 8pm.

PLANNED GIVING

Please consider renewing or beginning your financial commitment to Killiskey Parish by way of Planned Giving. By doing this you can maximise the amount of money received by the Parish and greatly assist the Parish to meet its financial commitments. Planned Giving is making a pledge to donate an amount of money regularly over the course of the year whether weekly, monthly, quarterly or by a single donation. Under the tax regulations, the Parish, as a registered charity, can obtain a tax refund from the government for recorded donations from tax payers (PAYE and Self-Assessment) who contribute a minimum of €250 in the tax year. This is the equivalent of €4.81 per week. The parish can claim a further approx. 45% of the amount donated from the government. Cash donations on the plate, while very gratefully received, are not eligible for a tax refund. If you are contributing more than €250 over the course of the year through this method, you might like to consider Planned Giving.

Planned Giving can be done in any one of the following ways:

The envelope system enables parishioners to donate regular cash amounts which can be recorded for tax refund purposes. Envelopes can be obtained from the churchwardens.

By setting up a standing order with your bank for a minimum donation of €5 per week (or monthly or quarterly equivalent).

A donation or donations totalling at least €250 can be made directly to the Parish Treasurer, Scott Golden, Malvern House, The Glebe, Wicklow Town.

ROLAND EVANS

Roland Evans was a highly rated and much respected teacher in Nun's Cross National School until about ten years ago. He has been suffering from an incurable disease and his wife, Annette, is also unwell.

Thanks are due to past pupils and parents of Nun's Cross school for taking the initiative to organise a benefit evening of music and the spoken word in appreciation of Roland and Annette. This will take place in Nun's Cross church on Saturday 18th April at 7.30pm. Tickets cost €20 and may be obtained from Valerie McHugh-Sharkey (086 8349885) or Tony Dunne (086 6014755).

CHURCH REVIEW

Lesley Rue organises the distribution of the Church Review. If you would like your name to be added to the list of recipients in 2020, please let her know. There are still a few outstanding annual 2020 subscriptions of €40 which she would be pleased to receive.

THE BIBLE COURSE

The Bible Course continues on Thursday evenings in the Ashford Heritage & Community Centre until 26th March. If you would like further information please contact either Bruce Alwood (087 2547538) or Rev Ken.

YOUTH CLUBS

Teen youth will meet on 1st & 15th March, 6.30-8pm, in East Glendalough School. All of secondary school age are welcome. United Youth will meet on Saturday 7th March, 6-7.30pm, in East Glendalough School. Anyone 4th-6th class is welcome.

CONFIRMATION

Classes will continue on 8th and 22nd March, in East Glendalough School. The Parenting Teens course is running concurrently. The confirmation service will take place in Wicklow Parish church on Saturday 4th April at 3pm.

THE HUB

Following the successful re-opening of "the Hub" by the Archbishop and the favourable associated publicity in the *Wicklow People*, there has been a good response from customers.

Lesley Rue is now looking for additional volunteers, even if only for a few hours, with a view to the shop being open six days a week.

IRISH BOTANICAL ART EXHIBITION

Patricia Butler is curating an exhibition which will open in the National Gallery of Ireland, Merrion Square, D2 on Saturday, 7th March and run until June 21st. The exhibition is called *Drawn from Nature. Irish Botanical Art*.

Admission is free. This exhibition will trace the historical background relating to Irish Botanical Art and should be of great interest to members.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

There is a friendship group within the joint parishes, for people who are retired, and for those who aren't able to get out to meet people as regularly as they would like. The next meeting is on Monday 16th March in the Wicklow Methodist hall. For further details, please contact Linda Walsh: 086 8228378.