

WICKLOW & KILLISKEY PARISH

Monthly Newsletter

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Thoughts for March



5 March. Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; St. John 3:1-17

In Paul's great Epistle to the Roman Church, he works through various elements of his theology on paper. Faith is something personal, yet also communal. Faith & trust in God must be the bedrock of all else, or our good works can be so easily corrupted. The Gospel brings us one of the most quoted verses in the Bible, & we have the opportunity to consider it in context today.

12 March. Exodus 17:1-7; St. John 4:5-26

In his encounter with the woman at the well, Jesus enters into some controversial territory. In a world of sectarian hatred between the Judean people and the Samaritans, he dismissed the main reason for enmity between them. He also gives dignity to a woman otherwise viewed with suspicion, and calls her to be part of his mission.

19 March. 1 Samuel 16:1-13; St John 9:1-11

The concepts of sight and insight are brought before us this morning, as David is anointed to be king over Israel, even though he wouldn't be the obvious choice in human terms. In the healing of a man born without sight, John's Gospel deals with superstitions & the unhelpful blaming of children for previous generations' sins.

26 March. Ezekiel 37:1-14; St. John 11:1-6, 17-27, 38-45

The miracle of bringing life where there is nothing gives hope and challenge in today's readings. Ezekiel is given a powerful prophecy in the valley of the dry bones. We see Jesus' humanity as he weeps over the death of his friend, but we are given a foretaste of what is to come as Lazarus is restored to life. Even when life or society seem arid & inhospitable to all forms of life, God can bring abundance.

Services

Wicklow: Mar 5th -
8.30 & 9.30 am
Holy Communion
Family Worship
Killiskey: 11.15am
Service of Worship

Wicklow: Mar 12th -
8.30 & 9.30 am
Holy Communion
Family Worship
Killiskey: 11.15am
Service of Worship

Wicklow: Mar 19th -
8.30 & 9.30 am
Holy Communion
Family Worship
Killiskey: 11.15am
Service of Worship

Wicklow: Mar 26th -
8.30 & 9.30 am
Holy Communion
Family Worship
Killiskey: 11.15am
Service of Worship
5pm- Family Service



March News - Wicklow



Family Service

There will be a family service at 5pm in Nun's Cross Church on Sunday 26 March. These services are aimed at children, and are a great opportunity to connect with one another and with God. All welcome!

Confirmation

Please keep the confirmation group in your prayers as they engage with matters of faith. The sessions will take place on Sunday evenings between now & the confirmation service at the end of May.



Ovoca Camp

The ever popular Scripture Union Ovoca weekend will take place over the weekend 24th to 26th March. This camp is open to 5th and 6th class pupils in primary school. Leaflets will be sent out to schools this week and bookings will go live on March 10th on the Scripture Union Website!

Pastoral Visiting

Is there someone you know who might appreciate a visit from the Rector? Or would you like to talk to Jack, in confidence? Please feel free to call or email, to arrange a time.
kinkeadj@gmail.com / 0861727654.

March News - Wicklow



Wicklow vestry open for young children during services!

We have cleared some space in the Wicklow Vestry for anyone coming to church with small children! We're delighted to see small kids in church, but understand it can be a bit stressful for parents at times! Please feel free to drop in & out of the Vestry during services, where there will be some toys & a playmat. There is also a speaker in there, relaying the service. And please keep bringing your kids to church!

Help needed!

We need volunteers to help with three areas of church life:

1. Coffee rota for after church on Sundays.
2. Church cleaning rota.
3. Flower rota for fresh flowers in church.

Perhaps sign up for a Sunday near the anniversary of a loved one, or of a special occasion

Wicklow coffee rota

Thanks to those who have signed up so far, to help provide tea / coffee after the 9.30am services. Please let Jack know if you are able to help with this occasionally.

Fundraising

Any and all ideas are welcome, so please let us know if you have an idea for a fundraising or social event.

March News - Wicklow



Toddler and baby group

The baby & toddler group has restarted, and now meets on Tuesday mornings, in the Methodist Church hall, from 9.30-11.30am. Anyone looking after pre-school children are very welcome. There are toys for the kids, and tea / coffee for their carers. €3 to cover costs.

Friendship Group

The friendship group meets in the Methodist Hall on Monday 20 March this month.



Youth Groups

The teen youth group will take place on 5th and 19th of March, in EGS, 6.30-8pm. We usually meet on the first and third Sundays of each month. Anyone of secondary school age is welcome! There will be no United Youth Group this month

March News - Wicklow



Safeguarding Trust

Safeguarding Trust is the Church of Ireland's child protection policy. Any volunteers who work with groups for under 18s, or with vulnerable adults, must undertake Safeguarding Trust training. Each parish Select Vestry appoints a Panel, to ensure that Safeguarding Trust is being fully implemented, and to meet should any issue arise. In Wicklow and Killiskey, the Panel members are: Rev Jack Kinhead (0861727654), Allyson Minion, Tony Mulrain (0871171066), (0868597423), Rev Ken Rue (0872766590), and Daphne Smith (0879152777). If you have any concern regarding child safety, please contact one of the panel without delay. <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/safeguarding>. Since the last Select Vestry meeting, there have been no incidents reported to the Safeguarding Trust Panel.



Select Vestries

Both Select Vestries met towards the end of January, and both discussed the practicalities around Rev Jack now having sole responsibility for both Wicklow and Killiskey parishes. Both vestries are engaging in processes of looking towards a sustainable future for the parish community, and welcome the input of the wider parish family. Although overall outgoings have reduced, finance continues to be a perpetual worry, and the vestries appeal to parishioners to consider planned giving for financial contributions - either standing order or donation envelopes. Any donation over €250 per year will be eligible for an additional tax rebate contribution from the government. Our bank details are as follows: Wicklow Parish Church. BIC: AIBKIE2D; IBAN: IE23 AIBK 933619 09248084 Killiskey Parish: BIC: BOFIE2D; IBAN: IE16 BOFI 906734 11025991

March News - Wicklow



Parish Future Group

Members of Wicklow Parish have been meeting to consider how the future of our church looks. The Parish Future Group is made up of people who responded to Rev Jack's call and others are welcome to join in at any time. The group is made up of people who have been connected or involved with the parish for many years and those who are new to Wicklow so there is an emphasis on both honouring the past while committing to exploring new ideas. People bring a wealth of different experiences and talents to the group and together we are exploring how these skills can be nurtured and enjoyed in our own parish context.

A number of themes have emerged during the group's discussions. Community has been a central theme – both building on the firm foundations of our parish community and continuing to reach out into our wider community to serve and support the people of Wicklow and surrounding areas. The church has much to contribute to wider society bringing the Good News of Christ to all and supporting people who are struggling mentally or spiritually.

Members feel the desire to gather together before God in worship and prayer. They also recognise the need for this gathering to adapt and consider new approaches as well as the traditional services in order to enable people to engage who might find coming to church difficult. This may be because they do not relate to the traditional service or simply because the time doesn't suit.

The first steps are being taken on Friday March 3 when an evening of Praise and Prayer will take place in Wicklow Parish Church from 7.30pm to 9pm. All are welcome to this relaxed evening of music, song and prayer. Full details are available elsewhere in this newsletter.

The group is very excited about the new energy and ideas being generated and members are delighted to be able to support Jack. The population of Wicklow continues to grow and we look forward to continuing the work of exploring how best to serve God for the good of the whole community.

March News - Killiskey



Killiskey Churchwardens

As we have no official churchwardens at the moment, we need some parishioners to volunteer to undertake warden duty as part of a rota. Please let Jack know if you can help (0861727654).

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.

The Hub

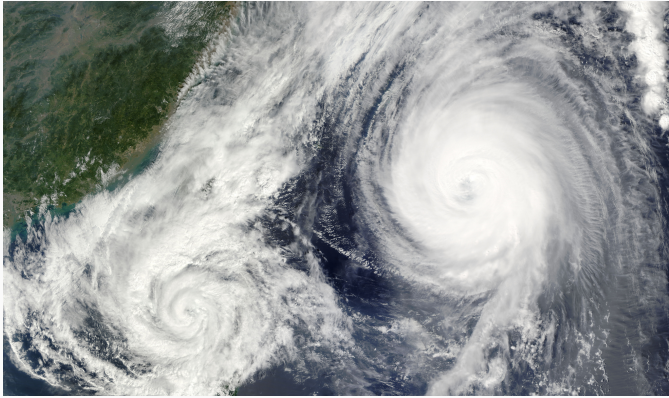
Ashford Charity Shop has a wide range of goods for sale, Opening hours are from 11am-3pm Mondays to Saturdays.

If you know of anyone who has been unemployed for a year or more and would like to earn some extra income, please ask them to contact Lesley Rue on 087-2766590

Table Tennis

The Table Tennis club meets in East Glendalough School on Thursdays from 7.30pm—9pm

March News - Killiskey



Eco Tips

The Value of Hedges

Hedgerows can be incredibly important for wildlife, forming corridors that link up woodland and other wild areas. March sees the end of the hedge-cutting season and most people will have noticed the results of all the trimming. Hedge-cutting is essential, especially along narrow rural roads. However, although some hedges are cut neatly, others are cropped in a more cavalier fashion: sometimes, branches are too large to be cut properly and they end up broken and with ripped bark dangling down, making an ugly mark on the landscape. Yet other hedges hardly deserve that moniker, being cut very low to the ground. Hedgerows provide a valuable habitat for birds, small mammals and insects.

With a little more foresight and compassion, our hedges could all remain healthy environments for wildlife, as well as being more aesthetically pleasing. However, it is not just up to farmers to provide suitable habitat for our wildlife. There is an opportunity for rural and urban households alike to plant hedges – plant a diverse variety of plant species, native where possible, and allow them to thicken up at the base. (Griselinia hedges are commonly grown but have little or no biodiversity value, so are best avoided.) Come the spring/summer, rejoice in the bountiful blossom and later on the autumnal fruits.



General Announcements

FLOWER ROTA

Please sign the flower rota sheet in the porch of the church if you are available to help with church flowers. This isn't a big job & doesn't involve fancy arrangements (unless you want to!) but is about having some fresh flowers, in vases, in church week by week.

HELP WANTED!

We always need volunteers to help with parish organisations and events. Could you help with: Children's activities, youth clubs, fundraising events, the Fete, the BBQ, Messy Church, church flowers, crèche? Any time and help, however little, is so much appreciated. Contact Jack for more details

PRAYERS

We are really keen to involve more people in worship in Wicklow Parish. One way to do this is to involve people in leading the prayers of intercession at services. Would you be willing to help with this, on an occasional basis? If so, please speak to Jack. There is an information pack available, with pointers on how to lead a congregation in prayer.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

If you have items you want included in the Parish Newsletter, please send to Sinead before the 20th of each month at wicklowandkilliskeycoi@outlook.com

God in whose image we
are made

During this period of Lent
Nudge us to spend time
discovering
The person that we could
be.

Help us to be honest in
confronting

All that we prefer to hide.
So we might offer all we
are to You

And know that much is
waiting

To be unveiled;

For us to live a life in full

According to Your will.

Help us, Lord we pray.