

WICKLOW PARISH

Monthly Newsletter

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Thoughts for August



2 August - Matthew 14:13-21 In the feeding of the 5000, not only does Jesus do something impressive to point to who he is; not only does Jesus address the primary need of those in front of him; not only is this an allegory of the abundance of God's grace

and the miracle of being sustained beyond human ability. As well as all these things, Jesus confronts and challenges the systems and structure of the world in which he lived.

9 August - Matthew 14:22-33

Throughout July, we had several weeks of the Parables of Jesus, as his mission moved beyond the Temple and into the community. We now have several weeks of the Miracles of Jesus. Today's miracle is about Jesus walking on water. The miracles of Jesus can act as great affirmations of life for all of us – during troubled times, the God whom we worship is not only more powerful than our troubles, but gives us greater power to overcome them.

Services

Aug 2nd - 10am
Service of the Word

Aug 5th - 7.30pm
Service on Zoom

Aug 9th - 10am
Service of the Word

Aug 12th - 7.30pm
Service on Zoom

Aug 16th - 10am
Service of the Word

Aug 19th - 7.30pm
Service on Zoom

Aug 23rd - 10am
Service of the Word

Aug 26th - 7.30pm
Service on Zoom

Aug 30th - 10am
Service of the Word



Thoughts for August continued

16 August - Matthew 15:21-28 In the miracle of healing in today's Gospel, Jesus throws down a challenge to the woman who requests his help. Faith isn't always easy, and it doesn't operate in a two-dimensional sort of veneer over our life. Jesus challenges the women (and all of us) to dig deeper. We aren't called to suspend our sense of logic, but to understand that there is truth beyond what limited human vision can see.

23 August - Matthew 16:13-20 Today's Gospel is a powerful foretelling of the church which will emerge from the Disciples of Jesus after his ascension. He asks his followers a simple question, yet one which is not simple to answer: who do you say that I am? The question remains, and the answer is still not a simple one!

30 August - Matthew 16:21-28 Matthew's Gospel now moves into a time of preparation, as Jesus begins to unfold the next part of his mission, and the journey it will inevitably bring him on. We know that once Jesus entered into this more challenging period, with its ultimate drama, a lot of the people who followed him drifted away. How robust is our faith, and how do we respond when a life of faith presents significant challenge?



Back to church!

We were delighted to welcome everyone back to Church. The safety guidelines which have been put in place which are following guidelines issued from the House of Bishops & in accordance with state safety guidelines are below:

What safety measures have been implemented?

The entrance to the church has been marked out in 2m gaps, for parishioners queuing to enter.

A non-touch hand sanitizer dispenser has been installed at the entrance to the church.

Churchwardens will be present to help guide people in.

A notebook will be used to keep a record of those present, in the unlikely event that the HSE needs to do any contact tracing.

Every second pew has been closed, to maintain adequate distancing.

A one-way system has been implemented.

The congregation will be directed to specific pews.

A basket for the collection will be at the back of the church.

Will the service be different?

Yes, certainly initially, in a few key ways:

No singing by the congregation, as this can spread the virus beyond 2m.

Shorter service.

Non-Eucharistic services for the month of July.

Only one service in church per week, at 10am on Sunday.



Back to church continued!

Do I need to bring anything?

- Please bring a pen, to sign the book.
- Please arrive 10 minutes before 10am, as it will take longer to bring people into the building.
- Wearing of masks / face covering is advised.
- Please take your service sheet home & dispose in your recycling bin.

Anything else?

- Please pray!
- For the Select Vestry & their responsibility in safeguarding the safety of our parishioners.
- For Jack & Klaas, as they prepare to facilitate worship of and connection with God in changing circumstances.
- For parishioners who won't be able to be in church.
- For God's guidance for the future.
- For people's openness to connection with God.

The recorded services for YouTube will continue, for those who aren't able to attend church, or who don't yet feel comfortable being in a public space. The online services on Zoom will continue on Wednesday evenings.

If you have any other questions about coming back to church, or any other issues, please call Jack: 0861727654.



August News



Youth News

The youth groups have continued to meet, via Zoom, over the past few months. We have taken a break now for the summer, but will resume in August, with a youth camp. More details to follow.

Holiday Cover

Rev Jack will be on holiday from 14-22 August. Please contact Rev Ken Rue if you require any pastoral support.



Parish Finances

A huge thanks to those parishioners who have set up direct payment to the parish bank account, and to those who have sent contributions to the treasurer. As you can imagine, the parish finances are not in good shape at the moment. Not only have we missed out on regular collections in church services, but the major fundraising ventures have been cancelled for this year. If you are in a position to help out with the finances, please send a cheque to: The Parish Treasurer, c/o The Rectory, Brickfield Lane, Wicklow. Alternatively, the parish bank details are:

BIC: AIBKIE2D

IBAN: IE23AIBK93361909248084



August News

Parish Endurance

***** Parish Endurance Extended To August *****

We have a challenge for you, to get active in July and August! We are looking for individuals / teams / families / school classes to swim 4km, or cycle 180km, or walk / run 42km in aid of our Parish and the Glebe school. Exercising, having fun and fundraising at the same time!

What do you need to do!:

- **Register by sending your details to**
wicklowparishendurance@gmail.com
- **Ask your friends & family for sponsorship - there is a GoFundMe page set up -**
www.gofundme.com/wicklowparishendurance2020
- **Share information about the Endurance on social media**
- **If you cannot take part in the activities, please sponsor our GoFundMe page to support the Parish and the Glebe!**
- **All activities would need to be completed by the end of August**

This financial support will help us keep the church open for private prayer and worship, while safeguarding the safety of all who enter. We will also be able to support the children of the Glebe as they return to school. All help will make a big difference and we really appreciate your support!

August News



Surrounding Parish News- Nun's Cross

Re-opening of The Hub

The Killiskey Parish Charity Shop in Ashford Village is now open most days of the week and it is hoped that a rota of volunteers can be put in place to allow for six day opening. Many additional items have been donated since the shop re-opened and trade has been good. Among other safety measures, a Perspex screen has been installed at the counter to shield volunteers.

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

CRÈCHE

It is wonderful to see so many small children coming to church with their parents. We encourage all families to bring your children to church & establish a good routine from an early age. To make it easier for parents to engage in worship themselves, a crèche has started, for children of preschool age. It runs each Sunday during the main 10am service. Contact Jack for more details.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

We are about to undertake major renovations to the Parish Rectory, and are looking for financial support from parishioners, whether in the form of donation or loan. . If anyone is in a position to help with financing necessary capital works, please contact a member of the Finance Committee: John Clarke (0874127386), Jim Costello (0867701456) or Shane Fingleton (0862485045).





General Announcements

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 FINANCES - URGENT UPDATE

The parish finances are currently severely depleted, due to capital works undertaken this year. As it stands, we urgently need an injection of income, in order to meet our financial obligations for this year. If you can make a one off contribution, or are interested in setting up a regular payment to meet ongoing expenses, or can offer a loan to the parish, please contact John Clarke (0874127386) or Shane Fingleton (0862485045).

The Select Vestry will run a stewardship campaign in the coming months, and ask for your patience and help.

If you are unsure about how the parish is funded, or how parish resources are used, please contact John or Shane, and they can explain the system to you.

If you wish to make a contribution or a set up a regular direct debit our details are below:

BIC: AIBKIE2D

IBAN: IE23 AIBK 93361909248084

Wicklow Parish Church

AIB Wicklow branch.

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

May God be with you through the storms of life, a safe haven, voice of calm, reassurance, healing balm. And when the storms are over, may God guide you, and may you know his grace and peace. Amen.

