

WICKLOW PARISH

Monthly Newsletter

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Thoughts For February

BY REV JACK KINKEAD



2 Feb - Today, we commemorate the presentation of Christ in the Temple – when his parents brought him to the Temple for the first time, to ask for God’s blessing, and commit his life to God. This day is often called ‘Candlemas’ in Christian churches. This refers to a tradition of blessing candles for use throughout the year.

Symbolically, we are reminded that our faith is rooted in the incarnation – that God has drawn alongside us, and lived with us. May we pray that the light of our faith will burn throughout this year.

9 Feb - The concept of ‘good news’ is central to this morning’s readings. People can be motivated by either fear, law, or love, as a means of governing their behaviour. Fear does not lead to any sense of satisfaction in life; law alone is dispassionate and can be manipulated. However, love is the motivation of God, and so love as a motivation for us brings about the greatest sense of satisfaction.

16 Feb - There is a phrase often used to describe someone under pressure – they seem to have the weight of the world on their shoulders. We can so easily get so caught up in the responsibilities and stresses of our daily lives, that we only look downwards, and never up. When we do this, our perspective is constantly narrowing, not broadening. Today, we are reminded of the importance of setting life in its context – which is ultimately the context of God’s creation. Maybe our prayers could include the line: This is a bit much for me, God – I’ll let you take it from here.

23 Feb - The Transfiguration is a miracle which is unique in an even more particular way – it happens to Jesus himself. This mystical and mysterious experience alludes to the fact that God is indeed far beyond human understanding, and yet affords humanity a glimpse of divine magnitude and glory. Significantly, the voice from heaven indicates that God’s disciples should look first to Jesus.

Services

SUNDAY 2ND FEB

9am Holy Communion
10am Service of the Word

WEDNESDAY 5TH FEB

10.30am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 9TH FEB

9am Holy Communion
10am Family Communion

WEDNESDAY 12TH FEB

10.30am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 16TH FEB

9am Holy Communion
10am Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAY 19TH FEB

10.30am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 23RD FEB

9am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY 26TH FEB

10.30am Holy Communion
07.30pm Ash Wednesday
A joint Wicklow & Killiskey service in Nun’s Cross

February Events

Presented by The Vine International Concert Series

Church of the Vine

Church Hill Wicklow



LORNA BREEN – SOPRANO

EAMON SWEENEY – GUITAR and LUTE

FRIDAY 7th FEBRUARY at 8.00pm

Tickets €20, Students €15 available at the door – Children under 16 are free

Pre-Concert menu available at La Locandina, Wicklow from 5.30pm

087 199 2490 to book a table

The Vine International Concert Series - February 7th

On 7th February we are taken on a journey through the beguiling and atmospheric music for guitar, lute and voice of the 16th and 17th centuries. One of Europe's leading exponents of the Baroque and early Classical guitar, Ashford resident, Eamonn Sweeney will partner one of Ireland's rising stars, the soprano Lorna Breen.

Eamonn has toured globally performing as a soloist and with various early music ensembles, he will be joined by the prize-winning young vocal artist in performances of songs and arias by Vivaldi, Caccini, Handel, Purcell and many more composers from the Baroque and Classical eras. As Shakespeare said 'If music be the food of love; play on...'

All the performances in this series will begin at 8.00pm. Tickets will be available in advance from www.gr8events.ie or on the door. Costs are €20, €15 for students, young people (16 or under) accompanied by an adult enter free of charge.

Ticket holders for these concerts may avail of the pre-concert menu at La Locandina restaurant in Wicklow town between 5.30pm and 7.30pm on the evening of the performances. Please contact the restaurant directly to book a table as places are limited; La Locandina, 14 Main Street, Wicklow Town – 0404 53905, www.lalocandina.ie.



February Events



World Day of Prayer

The annual World Day of Prayer service will take place in Wicklow Parish Church on Friday 6 March at 8pm. This is an important ecumenical occasion, and the service is devised each year by a different group - so we gain an insight into another culture and their style of worship.

Hymns

Got any favourite hymns? Or want to request a particular hymn around the time of an anniversary? Please let Jack know your suggestions! We can't promise anything but will try to accommodate your choices if possible!



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 17th February in the Wicklow Methodist hall. For further details, please contact **Linda Walsh: 086 8228378**

February Events



Mothers' Union Vacancy

The Board of Trustees of Mothers' Union Dublin & Glendalough are seeking to appoint an Honorary Secretary to work as part of the Dublin & Glendalough Mothers' Union team. The post holder will support the work of Mothers' Union throughout the diocese. The successful candidate will be required to work flexibly from their home base and closely with the Board of Trustees and Diocesan President. The successful candidate with need to be able to work on own initiative and have:

- Strong communication, written and verbal skills
- Excellent presentation and interpersonal skills
- Competent in Microsoft Office / Excel

Reasonable office and travelling expenses will be paid. Further information, a job description, and the application form are available from Presidentdgm@gmail.com

Youth

United Youth will take place on Saturday the 8th. We meet in EGS from 6-7.30pm, for games, stories, crafts, & juice & biscuits! Anyone aged 4th-6th class is welcome to come along. €5 per visit, which covers expenses, the balance being used to fund a trip at the end of term!

The Teen Youth Group will take place on Sunday 2nd and 16th. We meet in EGS from 6.30-8pm. Anyone of secondary school age is welcome to attend. This group aims to support our teens & emerging adults in a Christian context - allowing them to question & analyse the things that are important to them.

February Events



Parish Fete 2020

The Parish Fete committee are giving Parishioners the opportunity to sponsor the Parish Fete raffle. Your business details will be printed on each raffle ticket, giving you great advertisement exposure around the town and beyond! If you are interested please reply to this email or contact Jack.

We are also appealing for raffle prizes now for the 2020 Parish Fete, can your business provide a prize or voucher? If so please contact us.

The next Fete 2020 executive members meeting will take place on February 24th.



Donate Unwanted Clothes!

Create space in your wardrobe and support a great cause this month.

There is a clothing drop week happening at the Glebe school between Saturday the 22nd through the week until Saturday the 29th of February. You can also drop the clothes into the Church on Saturday the 22nd and 29th at 10am.

Assist the parish by dropping in your unused and unloved clothing and shoes. The clothes stall at the Summer fete is an important fundraising event and we appreciate your continued contribution to making it such a success year on year.

If it's time to make space in the wardrobe for 2020, get sorting and we'll see you there.

February Events



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.

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, the Panel members are: Rev Jack Kinkead, Allyson Minion, and Stuart Daunt Smyth. If you have any concern regarding child safety, please contact one of the panel without delay.

WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENCE CLASS.



Learn essential skills to defend yourself this New Year, on our 10 week course. Cost €95 (hand wraps included). Starting Tuesday 28th of January, 8pm to 9pm. Venue, Nuns Cross NS. Limited spaces available, to book contact Felisity 0857331022.

Women's Self Defence Class

There is a Women's Self Defence class starting in Nun's Cross School, Ashford on Tuesday evenings. Please contact Felisity Cullen for more details.

February Events



Bible Course

Have you ever wondered how the Bible is put together? Have you ever struggled to make sense of the apparent contradictions within it? A new course, designed by the Bible Society, gives an excellent overview of the whole of the Scriptures, and how they slot into the narrative of God. The layout of the course is a series of videos, which are engaging and easy to understand. It is organised in such a way that you don't need any knowledge of the Bible to engage with the material, but it is still useful for those with greater Biblical knowledge.

We will join with the Catholic & Methodist congregations as we undertake this course, and will gather in the Catholic church hall on Mondays at 7.30pm, beginning on Monday 17 February. Anyone is welcome to just turn up, but please let Jack know if you do plan to attend.

(If Mondays don't suit, Killiskey Parish and Ashford Parish are combining to undertake the same course, on Thursdays, beginning on 6 February.)

March Events



Advanced Notice - The Vine International Concert Series - **March 13th**

The 13th March will feature the Dutch pianist and organist Klaas Jan de Vries accompanying the Irish lyric tenor Jack Kinkead in a recital of Art songs from the 19th and 20th century featuring the poetry of Thomas Hardy and the music of Gerald Finzi amongst others. This music charms with an ageless beauty the evocative texts of great Romantic poetry.

All the performances in this series will begin at 8.00pm. Tickets will be available in advance from www.gr8events.ie or on the door. Costs are €20, €15 for students, young people (16 or under) accompanied by an adult enter free of charge.

Ticket holders for these concerts may avail of the pre-concert menu at La Locandina restaurant in Wicklow town between 5.30pm and 7.30pm on the evening of the performances. Please contact the restaurant directly to book a table as places are limited; La Locandina, 14 Main Street, Wicklow Town – 0404 53905, www.lalocandina.ie.

February Events



Surrounding Parish News- Nun's Cross

Hub Renovations

Killiskey parish has a centre in Ashford village called "the Hub" which has a meeting space and a shop which is currently called "Ashford Gift and Book Shop". The shop has been open for eight years. It is currently closed for necessary renovations until 15 February when it will re-open as with better displays of its goods, particularly second-hand clothing. It also sells greeting cards, books and bric-a-brac. Thanks are due to David Harte who is undertaking the renovations and to Martsworth for assistance with new carpet.

Good as New clothes are needed so that the updated shop gets a good start, Please let Lesley Rue know if you can help. She is also looking for additional volunteers.

The Bible Course

The Bible Course will be running at the Ashford Community Centre on Thursday nights for eight weeks commencing on 6th February.

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 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

As the days stretch longer
each evening, And the earth
slowly awakens from her
sleep, We pray that we too will
be rejuvenated, fired up and
trusting completely in You,
Knowing that for those who
love God, all things work
together for good, For those
who are called according to
his purpose.

Amen

