

WICKLOW PARISH

Monthly Newsletter

Thoughts For March

BY REV JACK KINKEAD



As we continue through the season of Lent, it is really obvious that following Jesus isn't something we do purely for our own pleasure, or for complete ease of living. Yet, to follow Jesus brings real fulfilment, and the opportunity to be part of a movement which is, literally, awesome.

4th March - The readings today are all about God's wisdom. Life as followers of Jesus is liberating, not constricting. Yet, as followers of Christ, we are called to a high standard of living – to bring the light of the Gospel wherever we go, and to treat everyone with respect. To follow Jesus might also mean the need to challenge selfish behaviour, even when it might be unpopular.

11th March - Today, we are reminded of the precious gift of God's grace. Yet, for such a precious gift, it is not a fragile one. We also see from today's readings how God's care goes way beyond our sphere of experience and influence – God so loved the world. But not only the world: the whole created order, and everything that lives. This is particularly worth celebrating on Mothering Sunday!

18th March - The cost of discipleship is to the fore in today's readings. We are reminded that with great privilege comes great responsibility, and that those with influence are challenged to be the ones who effect real change in the world.

Services

SUNDAY 4TH MAR

9am Holy Communion
10am Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAR *

10.30am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 11TH MAR

9am Holy Communion
10am Family Communion

WEDNESDAY 14TH MAR *

10.30am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 18TH MAR

9am Holy Communion
10am Service of the Word

WEDNESDAY 21ST MAR *

10.30am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 25TH MAR

9am Holy Communion
10am Palm Sunday Messy Church - Begins in the Glebe for croissants & crafts, before the Palm Sunday procession to church, for a reading of the Passion narrative

WEDNESDAY 28TH MAR *

10.30am Holy Communion

* Prayers for the sick

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25th March - Palm Sunday. Today's service will be a little different, and we will bring some drama into our worship. Come along! Be part of the crowd that called for Jesus as saviour as he entered Jerusalem; hear again the story of the Passion; gather together in worship of one whose power was most obviously expressed in humility...

26-30 March - Holy Week. Throughout Holy Week, there will be evening services, as the journey to the cross picks up pace. The services from Monday to Wednesday will be short, reflective services, and a necessary break from the relentless busyness of daily life. Maundy Thursday's service is particularly moving, as we commemorate the first time Holy Communion was celebrated - by Jesus and his disciples. On Good Friday, there will be services during the day in both Wicklow and Nuns Cross. In the evening, will be the Walk of Witness: we start in Wicklow Methodist Church, where we hear the first part of the story of the Cross. We then walk, as a community, to Wicklow Parish Church for another part of the story. We then walk to St. Patrick's Church, where there is a time to pray and meditate, assisted by the use of music, candles, and readings. This is a wonderful act of Christian witness, so please make a special effort to come along!

Easter Day - This is the most important day in the Christian year, as we celebrate the power of love. Nothing can separate us from the love of God!



Holy Week Services

MONDAY 26TH MAR

8pm 'The Garden of Gethsemane'

TUESDAY 27TH MAR

8pm 'The Crown of Thorns'

WEDNESDAY 28TH MAR

8pm 'The Penitent Thief'

THURSDAY 29TH MAR

7.30pm Nuns Cross.
Maundy Thursday
Communion, with the
clearing of the sanctuary

FRIDAY 30TH MAR

12noon Wicklow. 'The
Cross of Christ'. 2pm, Nuns
Cross. 'Meditation on the
cross.' 7pm, beginning at
Wicklow Methodist Church,
the Walk of Witness

SATURDAY 31ST MAR

9pm Vigil service in
Nuns Cross

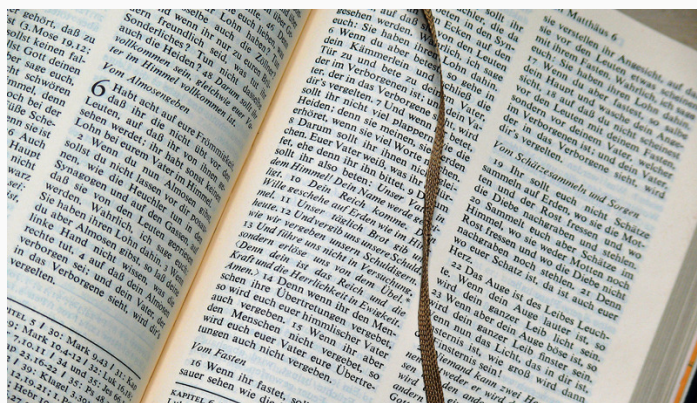
SUNDAY 1ST APR

Easter Day -
The Day of Resurrection!
9am Holy Communion
10am Morning Prayer



March Events

Have a read of March's Newsletter. The Wicklow Parish is looking forward to some great events during 2018. Keep reading our monthly newsletters to stay in touch with what's going on!



Lenten Bible Study Group

In a time that often sees people becoming entrenched in their own worldview, we want to consider Mission, and how we can bring Good News to the wider world. The Church of Ireland Biblical Association has offered discussion material, to enable parish groups to study this concept. One of this year's contributors is Jack! We will meet on Tuesday evenings during Lent at 8pm, for around an hour. The aim is to meet informally but intentionally, to speak or to listen, to be challenged and comforted, to enjoy fellowship. Dirk and Ollie Van der Flier have kindly agreed to open their home, where there is a large

comfortable space in which to meet. Their address is: Seaview, Church Hill – just a few doors away from the church. Just after the entrance to Brickfield Lane (at the top of Church Hill), on the left hand side, there is an entrance to the Van der Fliers' house. We suggest parking outside the Glebe National School. We are very hopeful that as many as possible will join with us for one or more of the sessions, which promise to be extremely fulfilling. Anyone is welcome to turn up to any meeting, but to gauge numbers, please let Jack know if you are interested in attending.

March's Study Dates

Tuesday 6th Mar. 8pm
Tuesday 13th Mar. 8pm
Tuesday 20th Mar. 8pm
Seaview House, Church Hill



March Events



Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union "Chat and Craft" has been postponed to the 12th of March in The Hub Ashford March at 10.30am. It will also hold its Annual Birthday Lunch in Chester Beatty's, Ashford on Monday 12th March at 12.30pm, price €20 each. All welcome! If you are interesting in joining us for lunch could you sign the list in the porch or contact Jessica Clarke (087) 2875601.

On 11th March we will celebrate Mothering Sunday in Nun's Cross Church using resources compiled by the Mothers' Union.



Women's World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer has been postponed to Friday March 23rd 7.30pm in the Wicklow Methodist Church, Wicklow Town.



Parent and Toddler Group

Reminder that there is a Parent and Toddler group on Wednesdays, in the Methodist Church hall, from 10am - 12 noon.



March Events



Sunday Club

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays, the Sunday Club meets, and will learn about some of these important aspects of Christian life and living. Junior Infant to 2nd class age group meet in the 5th class classroom in the Glebe School, while 3rd-6th class age group meet in the 6th class classroom.

Parents with preschool children can bring them to the crèche, in the Junior Infant classroom.



Confirmation

For anyone who is interested in taking part in classes towards confirmation, they will begin just before the school Easter holidays. Confirmation is a serious undertaking, as a public demonstration of Christian faith. Anyone in 6th class or beyond is eligible to join the confirmation classes.

Please note, any potential candidates who are not at least semi regular church attenders will be welcome to attend classes, but will not be put forward to the Bishop this year.

Anyone serious about being confirmed should engage in regular church attendance from now. Please let Jack or Ken know if you are interested to find out more about confirmation, and be included in this year's classes.

March Events



Fete 2018

The Fête will take place on Saturday 2nd June, in East Glendalough School. Please consider how you can help make this day a great success. We always need volunteers before, during and after the event so please let me know where you can help. Please also hold onto items which might be suitable for stalls such as clothes, bric-a-brac, or toys etc. Please contact Allyson Minion if you wish to help with the event. 086 8597423. Please like and share our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WicklownParishSummerFete/



Youth Groups

United Youth

We will meet in East Glendalough School on Saturday 12th March, from 5.30 - 7pm. There is a nominal charge of €5, to cover costs. If anyone is interested in helping with the youth club, please contact Jack by phone or email: 0861727654 / kinkeadj@gmail.com.

Teen Youth

Teen Youth Group meets on Sundays in EGS, 6.30-8pm. New members and guests always welcome! The March date for the Teen Youth to be confirmed later in the month.

March Events



Surrounding Parish News

Nun's Cross Parish

Lent is a great season to spend time preparing for Easter and to discipline our lives in various ways. One good practice is to take the opportunity to read God's word.

The joint Wicklow & Killiskey and Ashford & Glenealy bible study series, entitled "The Road to Calvary" continues in various venues on Monday evenings for the first three weeks of March. These venues will be announced weekly at church services.

Nun's Cross Parish Continued

The 5th annual Ashford Country Fair will take place in the grounds of the Bel-Air Hotel on Bank Holiday Monday, 7th May from 11am to 4pm. If you can help in this or any other way with this important fund-raiser, please contact Bernadette Glover, Amanda Mooney or Lesley Rue. Like and share our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Ashfordcountryfair/



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 have been fortunate in receiving council grants to help in some of the maintenance work required for our church building. However, in order to avail of these grants, we must match the funding offered by the county council. 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

As each parish in the Church of Ireland is financially self-sustaining, we can only function financially through the good will of our parishioners. Any parishioners, who have not yet entered a planned contribution scheme, please speak to Philip Hastie (parish recorder) or John Clarke (hon. treasurer - 0874127386). If you have parish envelopes, cash or cheques placed on the collection plate can be recorded. Alternatively, there are standing order forms available in church. If a taxpayer donates €250 or more per year (and we can trace the donations through the envelope scheme or standing order) we can claim a further 45% of the amount through the government's charity tax relief scheme. The details of any person's contributions are kept completely confidential. This income is used to maintain the ministry of a full time Rector, to maintain the beautiful church building, and to provide resources for parish activities, such as Sunday Club, Messy Church and youth clubs, as well as church services. Please consider the parish as part of your financial plan.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

To promote events, post online information or update your details please contact Sinead by email on: wicklowandkilliskeycoi@outlook.com

May we daily be
mindful not only of
others' needs but
those of ourselves,
taking time to be
still, rest from our
busyness, and in
your embrace
breathe in your
peace, God of
wholeness, we pray.

Amen

Prayer by John Birch

