



CLONTARF & SCOTS NEWSLETTER

Presbyterian
CHURCH IN IRELAND

September 2020

Message From the Minister



Rev Ritchie

Back to school

We are journeying through a significant milestone as a nation. As we seek to see our students safely back to school. Usually I would be planning in our Back2School Service, in which we take the time to celebrate the start of the school year and pray for our school staff and pupils alike. As well as those in third level studies.

As a congregation we take the time to mark this change to our rhythm of worship by starting up our Children's Ministry programme. This year sees us doing this with great concern and much prayer. We will indeed take the time to thank the Lord for every member of school and college staff who are working so hard to make this academic year be successful as well as a safe one.

We will also ask that God will give all the students and staff the patience and good humour to keep going. We specifically pray for all our parents in this congregation. We also ask the Lord to be with Howth Road School. And remain mindful of the wonderful gift of teachers, BOM volunteers, SNA's, and additional administration staff among our members.

To each and everyone we say thank you and take the time to pray for each one. Trusting God who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Psalm 18:36

"You gave a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip."

SEHO LEE

Au revoir not goodbye. Seho Lee who has been such a blessing to this congregation will be returning to his family for the foreseeable future. We will see him again. Once at the end of this Pandemic and we are settled into that new normal we all talk about, we will look forward to seeing him again.

We have so much to say thank you to Seho for; his energy and joy, at coffee concerts.

His deeply passionate care of the Church Choir, small but magnificent under his tender care. And the loving care he showed Sunday after Sunday in our Worship Services.

Thank you Seho and our prayers go with you.



Minister	Session Clerk	Deputy Session Clerk
Rev. Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie The Manse 48 Kincora Grove Clontarf, Dublin, D03 CV90 (01 833 2588)	Hugh Borland Woodlands, Limekiln Lane Saint Doulagh's Fingal, D17 PY67 (087 968 2300)	Hilary Fairman 2 The Mews Brookwood Crescent Artane Dublin 5. D05 H2F5 (01 846 5888)

Covid Reflections

Part Three: Our Common End

The advent of the novel coronavirus and the resulting illness of Covid-19 have disrupted our daily lives across the world, through both deaths and restrictive measures. People have underreacted, overreacted and reacted in measured ways, depending on the individuals, organisations and governments involved. The advice also either keeps changing or is inconsistent: to wear a mask or not wear a mask, social distance by one metre or two metres, the virus is airborne and it is not, it survives for a few hours or a few days, people should be allowed to travel or should not, people are responsible for their own health or for that of others as well, physical health with strict measures is more important or mental health with more freedom of movement and social interactions is more important. It can be hard to know what is the best thing to do with all these conflicting attitudes and advice.

Some people, through fear of the virus, have attained a level of hypochondria and become aggressive or intolerant (sometimes in a self-righteous way) towards others who they perceive as breaking lockdown restrictions. This is especially evident on social media platforms, where people vent their anger. A part of the reason for this intolerance is because people like pointing fingers at others and judging them, so that people can feel that they are more virtuous than others. But those who judge – have they never done anything which could be considered selfish? *You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgement on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgement do the same things.* Romans 2:1.

However, there is another root at the core of this blame mentality, which is the fear of death. This is an understandable fear, as it is innate in humanity, and also in the wider animal kingdom of which we are a part. Many people fear death, but it will happen sometime, and we have to remain realistic in that most people do not die from this illness (but we will all ultimately die from something).

While it is true we should try to keep the virus in check with realistic measures, a healthy attitude that we absolutely need to have simultaneously to the physical measures (because to do otherwise would be to lie to ourselves and others) is to remember that all life ends with death, and fatal illnesses are a part of life, always have been, and always will be.

To put it into perspective: Covid-19 is only one of very many ways that life can end. A change of attitude might be to try to become less afraid of death. As Christians, we can use our faith to see the bigger picture, although this is admittedly not always easy, and sadness at death is completely natural.

Another member of the congregation recently shared a message with me that said that we always have to be ready to meet God in death, and that there will be no time to get ready once the time comes to depart this life. So, if we actively live our lives in as much a way that we are happy with, this will hopefully take away the fear of dying sooner than we might want (and hence excessive fears of Covid-19). We would do well to make sure to complete as much unfinished business as we can, whether spiritual or physical. Write that will, declutter your house, pursue your hobbies, find a spiritual space with God on a regular basis and spend the time with yourself or others that you feel is necessary to grow, develop and strengthen your spirit so that you do not leave this world feeling totally unready. This eases a huge burden, even in normal times with no epidemic (because death is technically always possible, every day, unexpectedly, for any one of us).

Death is our common end and it does not help to label it as good or bad. It is one of the few absolute facts of life that is true for everybody. *I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. [...] When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:*

"Death has been swallowed up in victory." 1 Corinthians 15:50 & 54

Miriam Van der Molen

Brenda Stirling

It is with great sorrow that we report the death of Brenda Stirling (nee Eaton) on 21st August, aged 89. Brenda was a faithful member of this Church since her teenage years when her family moved to Fairview. She met her beloved David here, whom she married, and their children Roger and Jennifer attended Sunday School. She never missed a Sunday at Church, unless absolutely necessary. She served on the Ladies' committee for many years and was always prepared to do her bit when needed. She was a very sincere person, never said an unkind word about anybody and loved a good laugh. She will be missed very much by all who knew her. Her funeral took place on Wednesday 26th August.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FUNDAY 15th AUGUST 2020

It has been a challenging time for all of us over the last couple of months. The team of the Children's Ministry has truly been missing the children. We decided to get together and plan a fun day. Well this happened on 15 August 2020.

The invitations were sent out and we had a great response from our parents. The day was much enjoyed with the ideal weather, dry and sunny.

The time with the children was great fun. We had two activities - indoors with card making and outdoors with games. Miriam, Jennifer and Joy helped with the card making, and Reinaldo, John and Marianne spent the time with games and activities outdoors. Alan and Daniel were our Covid - officers and ensured we followed the protocol with hand washing and sanitising. Some parents also participated and helped where help was needed.

The children had a great time and also enjoyed a break with a snack pack. We ended up with all being outdoors and messing around before parents arrived. We closed in prayer together and hope to soon arrange another fun day.

A big thank you to everyone that participated and assisted on the day. To our parents thank you for your responses and allowing us to catch up and have fun with the children.

THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM





Here are 20 Bible Jokes

Who was the shortest man in the Bible? Nehemiah (knee-high-miah).

What time of day was Adam created? A little before Eve.

When was medicine first mentioned in the Bible? When God gave Moses two tablets.

What kind of car did the disciples drive? A Honda - it says there were all in one accord.

Who was the biggest sinner in the Bible? Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once,

Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible? David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.

When was meat first mentioned in the Bible? When Noah took Ham into the ark.

How do we know that cars are in the New Testament? Because Jesus was a car-painter (carpenter).

Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible? Samson. He brought the house down.

When did they play tennis in the Bible? When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

How does Paul make his coffee? Hebrews it.

Who was the smartest man in the Bible? Abraham. He knew a Lot.

Who was the fastest runner in the race? Adam, because he was first in the human race.

What animal could Noah not trust? Cheetah.

What kind of lights did Noah have on the ark? Floodlights.

Why did Noah have to punish the chickens on the Ark? Because they were using "fowl" language.

What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden? Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Who was the 1st surfer in the Bible? Paul. In Acts, he "came ashore on a board"!

Which Bible character had no parents? Joshua, son of Nun.

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark? Because Noah was standing on the deck.





Face Coverings in Church

The following statement has been issued by the Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland Primates of All Ireland, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland:

At this time, both in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland, the governments have not formally made mandatory the wearing of face coverings at services of worship. This is, in part, due to the fact that as churches we are committed to maintaining 2 metre physical distancing between household groups and strict adherence to all government guidance on hand hygiene, cleaning, ventilation etc.

It, however, remains our responsibility to ensure that our services of worship are safe places for all who join with us. It has become increasingly clear that the wearing of face coverings, in conjunction with hand washing etc., is likely to reduce the spread of coronavirus, thus helping to protect others. Their use is therefore one way in which we can evidence protection for the most vulnerable, support for our health workers, and practical love for our neighbours.

Following further recent consultations with public health authorities, we join with Christian church leaders all over this island in formally recommending and encouraging the use of face coverings at all services of worship, along with the ongoing maintenance of 2 metre physical distancing, from Sunday 30th August 2020, and earlier if practicable.

We understand that some people are exempted from the wearing of face coverings, as outlined in the two jurisdictions.

We also recognise that whilst it may not be appropriate for those who are leading from the front during worship, including preaching, to wear face coverings, they should at all times continue to maintain at least 2 metre physical distancing from one another, and 4 metre physical distancing from the front row of the congregation.

Fundraising ideas needed!

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, our usual methods of fundraising such as Car Boot Sales, Craft Fair, won't be taking place this year.

We are looking for new fundraising ideas that can take place within public health restrictions. Ideas so far, include a Zoom quiz and sponsored walk.

If you have any fundraising ideas, could you let Samuel Ritchie, Helen Dawkins, Carolyn O'Neill or Ashley O'Neill know.

Return of Church Activities Committee
Thank you!



Stay safe. Protect each other.



Klárka na klárka
Government of Ireland

The Most Revd Eamon Martin

Roman Catholic, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland

The Most Revd John McDowell,

Church of Ireland, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland

The Rt Revd Dr David Bruce,

Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

The Revd Dr Tom McKnight,

President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/News/August-2020/Face-Coverings-in-Churches.aspx>

Howth Road Mixed National School, like all other schools, is coming through one of the strangest periods in its history. The way we operate has had to adapt and change very quickly, as never before.

Since "The Lockdown" on March 12th, the school's doors have been closed to students. Staff have been delivering lessons online (via parents) in order to complete the 2019-20 school year.

In the final week of term with the first phase of restrictions lifted, we were able to arrange for each class to meet outdoors at the school to celebrate the end of the school year. This involved a teddy-bears' picnic for the youngest, pyjama parties for others, games and hang out time. It was truly wonderful to see the pupils back together socialising once more.

For our graduating Sixth Class pupils, this year has posed a significant challenge. The loss of many traditional milestones in the run up to graduation were keenly felt and grieved. Mr Smyth organised several end of year events to celebrate in this most unusual context. First we had the Zoom, online sixth class quiz which involved rounds entitled How Well Do You Know Your Classmates?, A Picture Round of Staff Baby Photos and a round for parents Are You Smarter Than A Sixth Class Child?

Next, we marked the online graduation with pupils sharing their favourite memories from school, photo reels down through the years and the usual accolades.

With great joy we met in the church building towards the end of July as restrictions were further lifted. Sixth Class shared a formal socially distanced graduation service where responsive psalms took the place of our traditional song singing.

We followed the service with a socially distanced pizza party served to each family. We were deeply grateful for the use of the church building and hall as the weather was less than favourable at points.

For September 1st we plan to re-open for all pupils, welcoming our new pupils also for the first time. The Board of Management and Staff have been making arrangements for the safest possible use of our space to deliver lessons. We are deeply thankful for our bigger building and renovated spaces as we manage pupils and implement Covid 19 Response guidance.

We thank you all for your on-going support and prayers for all in the school community.

Martha Woolmington
Principal



Sixth Class Graduation service followed with a pizza party Sixth Class pupils and families



A socially distanced pizza party in the Scots Hall.



RTÉ Radio 1 Turbidity Martha Woolmington was on the Turbidity radio show - broadcast at 09:00hrs on Tuesday 25th August 2020.

Letting Kids be Kids with Covid 19

Martha Woolmington - Principal and teacher at Howth Road Primary School in Clontarf joined Ryan on the phone to chat about the measures they are taking to keep kids safe while still allowing them to have fun.

<https://www.rte.ie/radio/radioplayer/html5/#/radio1/21824186>

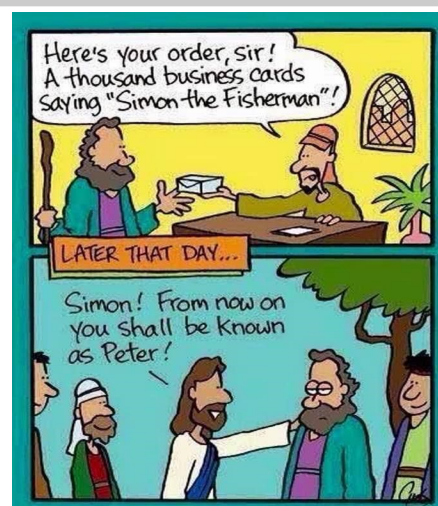
THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD by Aoiveen Simpson

Throughout this pandemic what would we have done
Without Christ our Saviour, God's only Son.
He is Christ our Redeemer a true faithful friend
Whose love for mankind will remain to the end.

Whatever the outcome He'll always be there
To help and to guide us, it just takes a prayer.
He offers us courage, with trust, grace and love
Such wonderful gifts we receive from above.

So as we continue to live day by day
Let us remember to trust and to pray
Because God our Father who sent us His Son
Knows that this battle will have to be won.

It's a great consolation to call out His name
Just knowing that His love will always remain.
So while this pandemic brings worry and fear
May the Lord keep you safe and those you hold dear.





Ormond Quay & Scots Presbyterian Endowments

Applications for 2020 Education Grants

Applications are now open for this year's Primary, Secondary & Third Level Education Grants.

To apply, please request an application form by emailing endowments secretary, Margaret Conologue, at endowments@clontarfchurch.ie

To qualify for an Education Grant, applicants must be members of Clontarf & Scots Presbyterian Church.

Application form for Primary & Secondary School Grants to be completed by the parent/guardian.
Application form for Third Level Grants to be completed by the student. Students applying for this grant must have commenced the 3rd level course by the age of 21. Proof of book/education expense receipts to be attached to the application form.

Grants can now be paid directly into an applicant's bank account. If you wish to avail of this option, you will be required to complete a Bank Transfer Authorisation Form.

The closing date for applications is **30th September 2020**.

Nominations for Outside Charities

To date, the Ormond Quay & Scots Endowment Fund has distributed €452,000 to various charities. Nominations are now open for this year's grants. If you would like to nominate a charity, please send your nomination, in writing, to endowments secretary, Margaret Conologue, or forward by email to endowments@clontarfchurch.ie

Your choice of charity should fall within the following categories: The advancement of community welfare including the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, or disability
The promotion of health, including the prevention or relief of sickness, disease or human suffering. Only one nomination per person please.

The closing date for applications is **30th September 2020**