



PARISH OF ABBEYSIDE, BALLINROAD & GARRANBANE

EASTER BULLETIN 2021

“Will you keep going through the Winter?” a fellow swimmer asked last Summer. Aghast and unable to answer, I made a face. Now, without countenancing or planning, I’ve done it. Day by day, week by week. It helped to know I wasn’t the only one feeling the cold, to hear others shriek in shock on initial immersion was a comforting distraction, shivering in a socially distanced solidarity afterwards...but beaming an inner joy at surviving, coping, continuing to breathe, kick and propel forward (however clumsily!) regardless of wind, waves or current. Either in or out of the water, no one else can do it for us. We’ve each done it together, though individually. Over a year of mostly seclusion now, solitary confinement for some, family containment for most, homes all at once catapulted into co-existing and intergenerational offices, classrooms, playgrounds, canteens: broadband and neighbourliness the new currency.

This time last year, I was a bit of a one-man band. With the office closed, the bulletin was a solo production. Thankfully this time round, Marie, Kella and Lucinda are on hand to contribute, edit, layout, print and organise/liaise with distributors. Words fail when it comes to the unseen, unheard but dedicated distributors. A key ‘cog’ in our parish’s outreach. To set out on foot or by car to

drop bulletins and Easter envelopes into each house is no small feat. Thank you. “How are you for cash?” asked my Mam out through her Dunabbey bedroom window last night. “Grand” I replied, “do you need some?” “No, no. I’m fine. But you, with the churches all closed, have you enough? I read an article about parishes and priests being short.” I reassured her that you in Abbeyside, Ballinroad and Garranbane are always very generous. I am so buoyed up by your support this past year, which is also expressed by your donations. Míle buíochas.

Permit me to be personal for a moment. I’d love to hear your individual story. For me, the Covid-induced struggle, and its obvious impact on Church during the past year, has had a silver lining. Because so much of the pre-Covid hustle and bustle, the frantic and utterly unsustainable spectrum of expectations and tasks from morning until night, was weeded out...I surprised myself by finding my ‘priestly’ feet again: more undisrupted time to think and prepare my *cúpla focal* for weekend Masses. Next, very helpfully, you let me know quite clearly that you appreciated my honest and humble efforts to convey something of what I think Christ’s message to be. I have found it a two-way conversation, even though at Masses I’m doing the talking. In between, when we bump into each other, or by text, email or Facebook you speak your truth.

Telling a lady this morning that I was beginning to pen these words, I asked her to pray that I’d say something sensible. She replied “maybe go for a cycle up the mountains or on the Greenway for a little inspiration. Give us a bit of hope.” Any more than you, I don’t have hope or inspiration on tap. The only hope I know, is that when we look life in the eye in good times and bad, when we share our troubles as well as joys, we feel more connected, more human, more cared for. This is not empty *plámás* but I genuinely feel I have been carried by you the community this past year. While I live and eat on my own, I feel far from alone. While we’ve had literally no physical contact, I feel communally hugged and held. This is how I feel hope. Our opinions and experiences may



differ, but we are all a bundle of similar needs underneath. Easter is about insides coming out, *Íosa* emerging alive out of tomb, Godly goodness in all of creation bursting out in Spring buds becoming blossom, hatched chicks breaking out of shells, latent love finding fresh expression in friendship on new

platforms, going to Mass while staying at home, ability to adapt: Covid-reconfigured family, community, recreation, work, worship. Easter. ***Cáisc Shona Dhaoibh go Léir.***

EASTER CLERGY COLLECTION

We priests pool our income from clergy collections. This fund ran completely aground last year, not helped by the churches being closed to public worship for much of the past thirteen months. You have always been most generous in this Parish, which I deeply appreciate. I thank you in advance for your ongoing support, and I'd appreciate if you could use either the accompanying Easter Clergy Collection envelope or the Green one from your box of envelopes and return to either of the Churches, Parish Office or my own letterbox. Please feel free, if you wish, to avail of the electronic payment options: Standing Order, EFT (***Bank details IBAN: IE79BOFI90602116007979, BIC: BOFIE2D***) or Donate button on www.abgparish.ie *Míle buíochas.*

NEW PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council has come to the end of its term. We intended to form a new Council earlier in the year, but the unexpected post-Christmas lockdown stopped us in our tracks. I thank the members for their patience, creativity and commitment to leading our Parish. They especially came into their own in responding to the challenges of ministering during Covid. We invite nominations for the new Pastoral Council, endorsed by the person being proposed and should be returned to the collection boxes in the churches by 2nd May 2021.



WELCOME TO ABBEYSIDE CHURCH

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

LIVE ON

<https://abgparish.ie/live3/>

HOLY THURSDAY

7.00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY

12.00 pm Stations of the Cross

3.00 pm Passion Liturgy

HOLY SATURDAY

7.00 pm Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES

9.30 am The Resurrection of the Lord

12.00pm The Resurrection of the Lord

EASTER WATER

Easter water will be available for collection in each church from Easter Sunday.

PARISH DETAILS:

Parish Office
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Abbeyside
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058 45787

Email: abgparish@gmail.com

Web: <https://abgparish.ie/>

Donate: <https://abgparish.ie/donations/>



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