

PARISH INFORMATION NEWS SHEET
Parish of Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy
with Calary

MAY 2020



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Dear Friends,

As I write these notes – I cannot but reflect on the position we are all in at present during these unprecedented times. Initially I wondered whether the appropriate word to use at this time was ‘despair’ – but then I realised that such is a state of being without ‘Hope’ and you and I are far from being considered to be without hope – not least due to our Christian belief.

Then I wondered about the word ‘regret’. Without doubt there is profound sadness and disappointment at this time of restrictions on our civil liberties and not least at the suffering and death that ‘*Covid 19*’ leaves in its wake.

I also wondered was the appropriate word perhaps ‘annoyance’ – feeling annoyed at our inability to be amongst friends and family and the community at large.

However- strange and all as it might seem – the word ‘Blessing’ comes to mind. Despite the pain and suffering – for those of us fortunate enough to escape from the pervasive nature of this new worldwide virus- I do believe that we have reason to turn to God and thank him for our wellbeing. This in no way is intended to neglect in any way those whose livelihoods have been either temporarily or permanently destroyed and whom we must constantly remember. Our thoughts and prayers are with all directly affected.

Pause for thought! Could ‘Social Distancing’ actually make us think about Matthew 22 v 39? Could we ‘Love our neighbour as ourselves’ in a more real and practical way? Thank you - to each one of you for all that you have done and are doing for yourselves, your family and for the community.

Some of us – yours truly – have found that a whole new world lies within and beyond the ‘screen’. We are planning and have already ‘aired’ a number of ‘online’ services on *YouTube*. We may have a little way to go before we are in the running for an ‘Oscar’ but hopefully we can bring a short message Sunday by Sunday to all corners of the parish. Details of how to access these ‘virtual’ wonders will be circulated each week by our ever efficient parish administrator.

Events concerning *Covid 19* are moving rapidly and by the time of publication of this edition of ‘PINS’ some positive steps to at least commence the ‘Reversal of the Lockdown’ are anticipated to have occurred.

We look forward to celebrating the Festival of Pentecost with renewed hope and joy. We live with the Hope of the Risen Christ. We will overcome.

Revd. Niall



**Happy
Belated
Birthday
Essie!**

**Sorry we couldn't
celebrate with you.**



**Congratulations
to Dorothy, Dave and Holly
at Rectory Cottage
on the birth of Oscar.
We wish you all lots of
love and happiness.**





**Well done to
Anna O'Toole
overall winner of our
April competitions.**

Look out for a surprise in the post!

Easter

We were fortunate over the Easter period to have several sources of worship, despite the 'lockdown'. Aside from the various services on radio, television and online, we were lucky enough to have a short service for Easter uploaded to Youtube by Rev. Niall Stratford, and a Reflection for Holy Week plus an Easter Holy Communion service from Rev. Nigel Waugh.

If that wasn't enough, Peter Johnston treated us to a daily piece from the Parish Choir during Holy Week, set to time lapse videos, mostly of sunrises and sunsets. These were a great comfort to parishioners.

Many thanks to all of you.

Sustentation and Weekly Giving

If you are in a position to donate as normal to keep the Parish afloat, please do so by using the bank details below. It is very important to reference your name please.

Bank: AIB, Church Rd., Greystones

Account Name: Select Vestry Parish of Newcastle & Newtownmountkennedy

IBAN: IE72AIBK 9335 5415 2450 30

BIC : AIBKIE2D

Thank you.

Song of Hope

1. O sweet To-morrow! -
After to-day
There will away
This sense of sorrow.
Then let us borrow
Hope, for a gleaming
Soon will be streaming,
Dimmed by no gray -
No gray!

2. While the winds wing us
Sighs from The Gone,
Nearer to dawn
Minute-beats bring us;
When there will sing us
Larks of a glory
Waiting our story
Further anon -
Anon!

3. Doff the black token,
Don the red shoon,
Right and retune
Viol-strings broken;
Null the words spoken
In speeches of rueing,
The night cloud is hueing,
To-morrow shines soon -
Shines soon!

Thomas Hardy

Superstitions associated with Ascension Day 21st May:

- According to Welsh superstition, it is unlucky to do any work on Ascension Day.
- In Devon, it was an ancient belief that the clouds always formed into the familiar Christian image of a lamb.
- If the weather is sunny, the summer will be long and hot; but if it rains, crops will do badly and livestock, especially cattle, will suffer from disease.
- Rain collected on Ascension Day is said to be good for inflamed or diseased eyes.
- Those suffering from goiter should bite into the bark of a peach tree at midnight on Ascension Day, so that the disease passes to the tree and the sufferer is cured.
- Gifts to the blind or lame made on this day are sure to be rewarded with great wealth within the following twelve months.

Rogationtide

The Rogation Days (from the Latin *rogare*, 'to ask') are the three weekdays before Ascension Day. However, in practice, many churches have observed Rogation on the preceding Sunday (this year on Sunday 17th May). The Prayer Book Gospel includes the words of Jesus, 'Whatsoever ye shall ask for in my Name, he will give it you' – words associated with the heavenly intercession of the ascended Christ.

Originally, the Christian observance of Rogation was taken over from Graeco-Roman religion, where an annual procession invoked divine favour to protect crops against mildew. The tradition grew of using processional litanies, often around the parish boundaries, for the blessing of the land. These processions concluded with a mass. The Rogation procession was suppressed at the Reformation, but it was restored in 1559.



The poet George Herbert interpreted the procession as a means of asking for God's blessing on the land, of preserving boundaries, of encouraging fellowship between neighbours with the reconciling of differences, and of charitable giving to the poor. The tradition of 'beating the bounds' has been preserved in some communities, while others maintain the traditional use of the Litany within worship.

In more recent times, the scope of Rogation has been widened to include petition for the world of work and for accountable stewardship, and prayer for local communities, whether rural or urban. Not to mention, in our case, the blessing of a wide assortment of animals over the years.

Intercessions for Rogationtide

Let us ask the God of creation to send a blessing upon us.

Upon the rich earth send a blessing, O Lord.

Let the earth be fruitful
and its resources be hallowed.

We ask in faith:

we ask you to hear us, good Lord.

Upon human labour send a blessing, O Lord.

Prosper the work of our hands;
may all find dignity and just reward in their work;
free the exploited and oppressed.

We ask in faith:

we ask you to hear us, good Lord.

Upon the produce of the earth send a blessing, O Lord.

Guide us into a sustainable future,
and give us the will to share the fruits of the world.

We ask in faith:

we ask you to hear us, good Lord.

Upon the seas and waters send a blessing, O Lord.

Teach us to cherish the water of the earth,
and to conserve the seas, lakes and rivers.

We ask in faith:

we ask you to hear us, good Lord.

Upon aid agencies send a blessing, O Lord.

Where the earth is parched and the well has run dry;
where war brings want, and children go hungry;
where the poor cry out for bread and for justice,
give hands to care and heal, and compel us to be generous.

We ask in faith:

we ask you to hear us, good Lord.

We ask you to hear us, good Lord,
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Sister Mary's work is supported by Calary Parish



Information II

7th April 2020

An Update to our Supporters, Friends and Partners regarding the works of Mukuru Promotion Centre and the CoVid 19 Pandemic

Firstly, we wish to express our deep gratitude for your support to the destitute families in Mukuru Slum. From your generosity we organised for five pick up points for the 'immunity booster' parcel.

Given the restrictions of gatherings we had to develop a workable plan with the Village Elders in the different communities. We wrote to the different government officials so that our staff would not be in violation of the rules announced by President Uhuru Kenyatta. We visited Sub-County Commissioners, Chiefs, and Police Stations in the area so that the distributions could be completed without incident.

Initially, when we tried to distribute to St Elizabeth Primary, the slum dwellers did not observe the social distancing rule and were pushing to get through our gate. Two of our social workers were arrested and kept in custody after the villagers were dispersed by tear gas. After an hour's negotiations they were released. We were relieved as they could have got a six month jail sentence for organizing an assembly against government orders. Since then the social workers have been very careful. By the end of March, we managed to distribute 1,267 parcels, with the help of our social workers, security guards and the local Chiefs in the different areas. The patients who attend the Clinic are receiving the immunity booster parcel:

1. St Catherine's Primary – Dunga Road
2. St. Bakhita and St. Michael – Likoni Road
3. Sancta Maria Mukuru - Kayaba
4. St. Elizabeth – Lunga Lunga
5. MPC Clinic – Immunity Booster Parcel and Nutrition

Since our first update much has happened as we are sure that your home area is undoubtedly similar. Mukuru Promotion Centre received a number of emails from people who wanted to help the destitute and we are very grateful to people around the world who are facing major upheavals themselves from their normal routines and yet are willing to help thousands in Mukuru.

Our schools will be on holidays during the month of April, but we normally have holiday food parcels for the 30% destitute population in our 6,500 children. Last week we already had distributed 1,297 parcels to families. We envisage doubling that number within a week. The majority of our parents are casual workers who have not received any income since March 16th. The food parcels will certainly help them. The logistics is a big task under the current regulations, but we will be

assisted by the local Police. Next week we will distribute to the families in the Maasai Village, which is next door to St Bakhita. We know of 400 families who are without an income.

We will continue to distribute to other villages in co-operation with government officials and village elders.



Part of Masai Village

In the first few days of April we managed to distribute another 547 food parcels as well as 50 food boxes, donated by the Comboni Fathers. The food box contained rice, maize meal, bread, wheat flour, cooking fat, soft drink and sugar. This will help a family for a fortnight.

The Government is requesting the use of some schools as testing centres. St Catherine's is one of our schools to be used if the virus escalates. There are very few testing kits within Kenya, all of which are in Government hands except one which is in a private clinic who is charging 13,000 Ksh (\$123US) for a test. So far there are only 142 cases in Kenya, but this could be more of a reflection on how much testing is being conducted.

There are 47 Counties in Kenya. The ones that have CoVid19 cases are Nairobi, Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa Counties. The metropolitan area of Nairobi accounts for 82% of the cases and the other counties make up 14%. As at the 6th April 2020, 4,283 persons have been tested for the virus, 158 have tested positive; 4 people have recovered from the virus while 6 have died. The Government introduced further travel restrictions within the metropolitan area and the above counties. The few confirmed cases outside of Nairobi and Coastal strip can be traced to persons who have travelled from overseas.

We are planning to have clean drinking water available as we have not seen any plans for such being made by others. It seems that those who are testing positive will be held until such time that they can be transferred to a Government hospital. Those with the means will go to private hospitals.

While the middle and upper class areas are all quiet with people staying at home, the slums are teeming with life and hundreds of people are spilling on to the surrounding roads. It would seem an arduous task for any police force to contain. We have seen on television scenes where extreme force is being used on people. While the Government spokespersons are giving dire warnings, slum people, besides their concern about food are in very good spirits. They believe God will protect them.

The Government plans to build a borehole in St Elizabeth's Lunga Lunga for both the community and the school. As it is an emergency and the slum dwellers need water, we agreed for the borehole to be built. Our concern will be about the electricity and maintenance costs. As the water is urgently needed for drinking and hand washing, we will worry about the costs later.



Our clinic remains open and operational. It is yet to see a CoVid19 suspect. They are treating the normal sicknesses of about 100 people daily. They see a number of malnourished children each day, for whom we provide immunity booster parcel. The street boys are still in residence and not happy to stay inside the compound. After a life of roaming about on the streets some found it too hard to be confined and left. We have 45 boys in residence currently.

There are rumours circulating on the media that from next Tuesday 7th April for three weeks, there will be a total lock down. In other cities this may be possible, but in Nairobi where over 50% stay in houses with no indoor toilet and no piped water, it will be an impossible directive to adhere to.

Stories from the Community

One of our social workers told us a story from a person they met. One client who received a parcel yesterday was very grateful for the food. She is a single parent at St. Bakhita Primary who has 7 children and is also taking care of her niece, making her family a total of nine members. Before the CoVid19 she had been selling second-hand socks but now it is not possible due the outbreak. The immunity booster parcel will provide them with a meal.

There was a second family of five members where the father has been jobless, the mother does bead work to make a living and the little she receives supports the family. For the month of March, she had no income as there is no one who can now buy her bead work. To her the food will help the family for some time but only hopes that the situation in the country gets better. Life at the moment is not easy for the family.



Families at Sancta Maria Mukuru Kayaba School



Families from St Elizabeth Primary

The staff of MPC and the Sisters are all well. We rejoice in our ability to assist at this time

Thank you for your support.

Sr. M. Killeen

Sr Mary Killeen

Church Bulletin Bloopers - Oops!



The Senior Choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

The associate minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

This evening at 7:00 p.m. there will be hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Next Thursday, there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

The 'Over 60s Choir' will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our Church and community.

A song fest was hell at the Methodist church Wednesday.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

22 members were present at the meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

Let us join David and Lisa in the celebration of their wedding and bring their happiness to a conclusion.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

After the sermon: A moment of silence for prayer and medication.

The class on prophecy has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

The beautiful flowers on the altar this morning are to celebrate the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.

Ushers will swat the latecomers.

The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a great chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.

Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to church secretary.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

SUDOKO

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The aim of the game is to fill each square with a number from 1 - 9.
Each number can only appear once in the same row, column or 3 x 3 box.

Shapes and Solids Word Search



Circle

Cone

Cube

Cylinder

Ellipse

Hexagon

Octagon

Parallelogram

Pentagon

Polygon

Prism

Pyramid

Rectangle

Rhombus

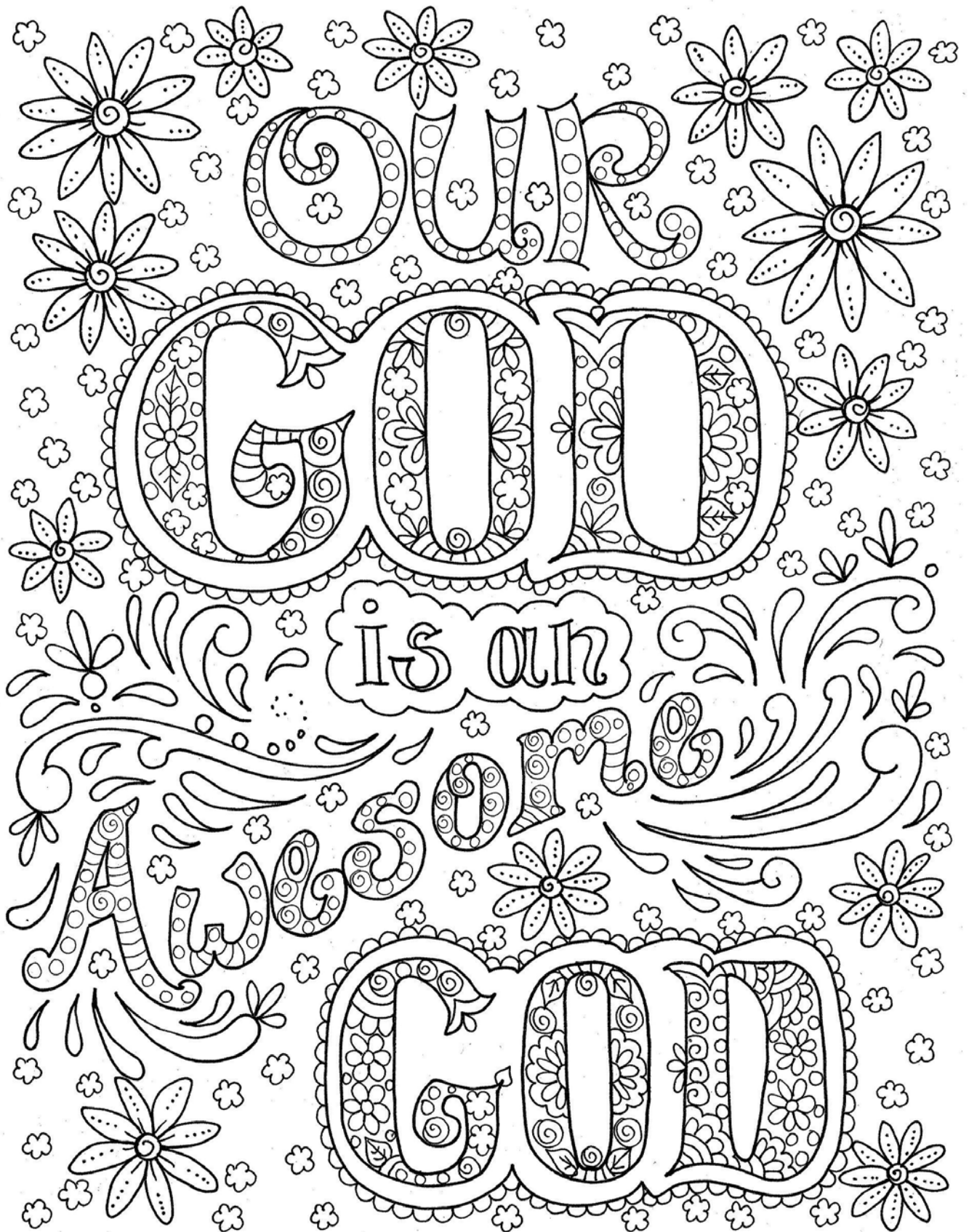
Sphere

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Trapezoid

Triangle

KIDS



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***May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace in
believing, so that by the
power of the Holy Spirit
you may abound in hope.***

Romans 15:13

USEFUL INFORMATION

Sunday Morning Service BBC Radio Ulster 10.15am

Sunday Service on Sunday RTÉ 1 11.00am

Songs of Praise BBC 1 1.15pm

Dublin & Glendalough listing of local services
available online at www.dublin.anglican.org