



Donore Avenue Parish

**ST. TERESA'S
PASTORAL PARCEL 8**

OCTOBER 2020

Dear parishioners & friends of St. Teresa's,

We hope this eighth pastoral parcel finds you well.

Level 3 restrictions have been extended to about 28 October and so we decided to keep up the contact with another pastoral parcel. There is a lot we cannot do as parish and there are new ways of staying in touch. Take this parcel as our best wishes for you all in this time.

You find information on life in the parish, the masses and mass intentions for the next two weeks, reflections on the Sunday gospels and the readings and prayers for the Sunday masses. You find poems & prayers, personal experiences of living and working during these times, pages to colour, and much more.

Pastoral Parcel 7 included the new pastoral plan for our parish. Please feel free to send us any reaction or response you may have. Or you may be interested to join one of the groups to implement one of the projects envisaged.

This parcel also includes information on people returning to public mass – or not. The facts give us food for thought. Maybe you can make it the topic of a conversation with others.

God bless and stay safe!

Your parish team

PRAYER TO THE HOLY TRINITY

Most Merciful and Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we come to You in our weakness.

We come to You in our fear. We come to You with trust. For You alone are our hope.

We place before You the Coronavirus disease present in our world.

We turn to You in our time of need. Bring wisdom to doctors.

Give understanding to scientists. Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.

Bring healing to those who are ill. Protect those who are most at risk.

Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one. Welcome those who have died into Your Eternal Home. Stabilize our communities. Unite us in our compassion.

Remove all fear from our hearts. Fill us with confidence in Your care.

Amen.

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE GOD LAUGH, TELL HIM YOUR PLANS.”

I grew up in a small rural parish in Galway. Our local curate was a man of great humour. On his regular visits to our school, he always had a few yarns or lateral thinking puzzles up his sleeve for us. I always remember one of his favourite sayings “If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans.” Over my life, my relationship with God has grown and changed. I no longer hold a naïve view of God as the ‘fixer’ for all my woes, or the ‘genie’ for all my wishes. Instead, He is the friend with whom I can share my story, my hopes, my laughter and my tears.

I don’t think anyone of us could ever have imagined or planned for the year 2020, and the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic. Any plans that we might have had—family occasions, career opportunities, travel plans—were put on indefinite hold. I am a primary teacher myself now, and I recall the day of the school closures in March. Many of our young pupils were very upset. They might not have been able to fully comprehend what was happening, but the weight of uncertainty and anxiety was palpable to us all. Over the past seven months, I have often felt anxious and sad myself—worrying that my parents might fall ill, missing my sister and my little niece in London, worrying that my online lessons were not supporting my pupils enough, worrying about the wellbeing of my students and friends. At the same time, I can also appreciate that I have been so fortunate. When I moved home to Galway during lockdown, I enjoyed spending quality time with my parents. I am learning to be a little kinder to myself, and to accept that I am doing my best. I am learning to loosen my grip on my ‘plans’ for the future, and what I feel should happen. I am learning to appreciate small blessings each day. I am learning to slow down, take stock, and be gentle with myself today.

I was excited to return to school in September. The ‘bubbles’ in the classroom and on yard might look a little bit different, but I am trying to bring some of my lessons learned with me. Take the time, build relationships, be kind to ourselves and to each other, share smiles and laughter together. The future is still so uncertain, but we can support one another as best we can today.

Caitriona Egan

MASS ATTENDANCE AFTER COVID-19 LOCKDOWN MARCH TO JUNE 2020

Early in October 2020, the Iona-Institute, Dublin, sent out the results about church attendance after the lockdown early 2020 based on research by the Amarach Research (about 1000 people interviewed).

The opinion poll used the following questions:

- 1 Did you regularly attend Mass before the outbreak of Covid-19?
- 2 Are you attending again on a regular basis?
- 3 Why have you not returned?
- 4 If you have not returned, will you do so when the restrictions are lifted?

Answers to question 1: 27% attended Mass regularly before Covid-19

Answers to question 2: 36% of people who were attending before the outbreak, have returned to regular attendance again.

Answers to question 3: 64% of the regular mass goers have not returned. Reasons: Fear of Covid-19 45%; Limits on numbers 22%; Other reason or don’t know 20%; have lost the habit 7%; happy to watch online 65.

Answers to question 4: 19% don’t know; 4% will not come back.

The Institute concludes a new outreach to invite back to mass is needed.

As parish, we invite you to raise this topic possibly using this research in conversations with family and friends.

My Little Soulmate

Joe McGorian, Dublin

I have a little soulmate
Who watches over me.
She showers my path with roses;
The thorns, she hides from me.
Whenever I am lonely
Or walking through a maze,
She leads me on her Little Way,
My little flower, Thérèse.

She knows my heart was broken;
Hers was broken too.
Love was her calling
And love brought her through.

She is my little soulmate
For the rest of my days,
Till the Good Lord introduces me
To my little flower, Thérèse.

Dry Bones

Sister Mary Cecilia, Wicklow

Dry Bones

Encased in a magnificent casket.
Dry bones
Six sturdy men to carry it.
Why? Who? What is its secret?
Mysterious.
Questions not answered by words
But by actions unexpected.
Crowds queuing, thousands thronging,
Old and young, sick and well,
Patiently waiting, fervently praying
In faith and hope and trust,
Inexplicable.
Lost in wonder at the reliquary,
Gazing spellbound, awestruck.
Touching, kissing, kneeling, weeping
Through the day, all through the night
They come – drawn as by a magnet.
Irresistible.
Listen! These dumb dry bones speak,
And in their dead immobility
Point beyond themselves.
‘We are but an icon, no more, no less,
Reaching out towards the Transcendent
God of Love and Mercy.
Go to him.

LIFE HAS CHANGED – CHANGED UTTERLY

I never imagined in January that I would be writing about my experiences living and working during a global Pandemic. Looking back now, I don't think any of us could have imagined what was in store in the months ahead; Zoom meetings, smelling of hand sanitiser, and wearing a face mask are now part of our daily routines. These attributes are all part of the “new normal”. While it has been easy to change and adapt our lifestyles, it has often been tough and overwhelming at times. I am always thankful that I am healthy, have remained employed and my family and friends have stayed safe.

Since March my life has completely changed. I left work on a Friday afternoon with my laptop and some documents, hoping that that the restrictions just announced by the Taoiseach would be temporary. Seven months later I have still been working mostly from home. For my career, I work in the Human Resources department in Dublin Bus. Since the outbreak of Covid-19 we were able to provide the necessary services to front-line employees without any disruption. These workers ensured that all healthcare employees, hospital staff and all other necessary personnel were able to get to work during the worst of the public health emergency. We will always remember what part we played during this period.

These changes to work practices have been mainly positive. It has allowed us to be more focused in our work and take a more collaborative approach by embracing new technologies. In January I had never heard of Microsoft Teams or Zoom, but we have grown to rely on them. These video calls and platforms are effective, but they do remove the human touch and atmosphere of a face to face meeting. I always look forward to catching up with colleagues when I am in the office. I am by far a people person and it is this interaction I do miss the most.

Outside of work I am involved in the local Scout group in Donore Avenue. Our group is comprised of over 150 youth members and adults. The restrictions came as a huge blow to us all. Our annual Scout camp abroad to Austria had to be cancelled. This camp is always the highlight of the year having spent many months planning and preparing for it.

Overnight we had to change. Our weekly meetings over the last number of months were held on Zoom, an app that we are all only too familiar with now. They were a great way of keeping in contact with the Scouts and for them to keep in touch with their friends. We even held a camp online which was a brilliant success. But nothing beats the real thing. In September we recommenced after our Summer break and have held many activities on the weekends in small groups outside. This is the way we will continue into the new year. It does give us the opportunity to do more outdoor activities.

The last few months have really changed how we socialise and spend our leisure time. A Friday night quiz on Zoom was the substitute for a night out during the closure of all pubs and restaurants. While it was a great and innovative solution. We do miss socialising in person. As some of the restrictions eased, we were able to catch up with friends. It almost felt things were getting back to normal. Our lives may have changed greatly this year. As I have often heard, the 2020 episode of Reeling in The Years will be at least 2 parts! Despite all the challenges, it is important to remain positive and thankful for the things we do have. We should be stronger as a community when Covid-19 eventually comes to an end. We are all in this together.

Stuart Dunne

Enrolment for First Year 2021-2022
Presentation Secondary School Warrenmount

As we begin the admission process into First Year for August 2021, we are pleased to invite you and your daughter and/or son to join our school community.



Our enrolment process opened on Monday 5th October. A copy of our Admissions Policy, Annual Admission Notice and our Application Form are available on our website at www.warrenmountsecondary.ie.

If you wish to apply for a place in first year starting in August 2021, please complete the application form and return it by e-mail or post only, as listed on the application form, by no later than **Tuesday, 3rd November 2020**. Applications received after this date will be treated as late applications. Applicants will be notified in writing of the decision of the Board of Management by Wednesday, 25th November 2020.

During these restricted times, visiting the school is unfortunately not an option at the moment. However, you can get to know us by browsing through our website, Facebook page and Twitter account which is full of information that will help you to become familiar with our wonderful school.

We look forward to engaging with you in making the transition from primary to secondary school as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

Fáilte- Bienvenue- Willkommen- Benvenuto- Bienvenido- Witajcie- Welcome –
Bemvindo- Welkom- Velkomin- Vitajte- Karibu- Crozso- Valkommen- Tervetuloa

POEMS WE HEARD AT SCHOOL

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate,
God made them high or lowly,
And ordered their estate.

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky;

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden-
He made them every one.

The tall trees in the greenwood,
The meadows for our play
The rushes by the water
To gather every day;

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Joseph Mary Plunkett (1887-1916)

I see His blood upon the rose,
And in the stars the glory of His eyes;
His body gleams amid eternal snows,
His tears fall from the skies.

I see His face in every flower;
The thunder, and the singing of the birds
Are but His voice; and, carved by His power,
Rocks are His written words.

All pathways by His feet are worn;
His strong heart stirs the very-beating sea;
His crown of thorns is twined with every thorn:
His cross is every tree.

THE WAYFARER

Padraic H. Pearse (1879-1916)

The beauty of the world hath made me sad,
This beauty that will pass;
Sometimes my heart hath shaken with great joy
To see a leaping squirrel in a tree,
Or a red lady-bird upon a stalk
Or little rabbits in a field at evening,
Lit by a slanting sun.
Or some green hill where shadows drifted by,
Some quiet hill where mountainy men hath sown
And soon would reap, near to the gate of Heaven:
Or children with bare feet upon the sands
Of some ebb'd sea, or playing on the streets
Of little towns in Connacht,
Things young and happy.
And then my heart hath told me:
These will pass,
Will pass and change, will die and be no more,
Things bright and green, things young and happy;
And I have gone upon my way
Sorrowful

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BLENDED LEARNING

"Parents have the first responsibility for the religious education of their children" — so says the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Thanks to the coronavirus, that ideology was about to get very real.

On the very day in which we celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation for our boys and girls from Scoil Treasa Naofa and our parish Sacramental group, we were hit with the news that schools were closing for two weeks. We had just made it to the Sacrament by the skin of our teeth as word began to filter through of many other parishes and schools who now had to cancel their Sacramental celebrations.

With schools closed we had to also follow government guidelines, which lead to our catechesis classes being cancelled. We realised that religious education for those preparing for First Holy Communion, and a continuation of catechesis for those who had received Confirmation had become yet another part of life that would not proceed normally.

We continued to contact the children, through their parents, via email's and texts. They were encouraged to participate in the Rainbow for Railings initiative which we had running to cheer up the community during lockdown. We sent bible activities and worksheets to the children which encouraged them to continue practising their prayers and reading about Jesus' parables, and miracles. Just as lockdown measures eased, we were about to celebrate the feast of Pentecost. I met with each child and their parent individually for a chat about this wonderful feast and how, just like the Apostles after Jesus' death, our First Communion children were now also left with a sense of "What now?" Everything they had worked towards and prepared for was gone indefinitely. Also for the Confirmation children, they had this wonderful celebration of a Sacrament and then there was nothing after? No gathering to share their experiences or feelings about the day. No lessons on being a witness to their faith for others they will meet in their lives. No discussions about their place as a young Christian in the world, or how to use their voices to ensure that those on the margins of society are included and also give their own voice. They were asked how could they equate their experiences to how the Apostles felt at that time? Who did God send to help them through it all? The Holy Spirit. How in our time of change and worry could we call upon that same Holy Spirit to help us understand that we are not alone and God is with us every step of the way?

By the Grace of God we were able to celebrate the Sacrament of First Communion over three weekends in July. Even with restricted numbers we were able to have six children at each ceremony with their immediate family members. The teachers and principals from Scoil Treasa Naofa, St. Catherine's and Griffith Barracks came along to help celebrate on each of the days which was wonderful to see and the families were delighted to have them included, as were we. As the ceremony began I kept thinking to myself "This is not fair on these children, this celebration is so much less than what others have experienced in previous years". But in actual fact by the end of the ceremony I was almost moved to tears with the special and intimate atmosphere that was created. Unlike the usual ceremony were the children each have a part to play and a 'job' to do, this was different. It wasn't as full of movement, giving plenty of time for the liturgical element of the ceremony to expand and fill the 'gaps'. I came away thinking in actual fact "This was so much more than previous years".

This coming term is looking very different to how it usually would for September. Due to level 3 restrictions we are beginning classes in a 'blended' format which consists of one on one meetings, homework, zoom calls and emailed worksheets. Parents are having to take on a more hands on approach to the Sacramental preparation than is usually expected. This can be daunting for parents who don't always feel well enough equipped to have religious discussions at home.. I'm sure that when Sacramental classes start up properly again, most parents will be happy to hand off the spiritual education of their kids to the parish, but a few weeks of home-schooling religious education might help them to be more involved in the future, and to take that "first responsibility" more seriously.

Sam Byrne

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Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen

ALONE

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

COVID 19 / CORONAVIRUS

SUPPORTLINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

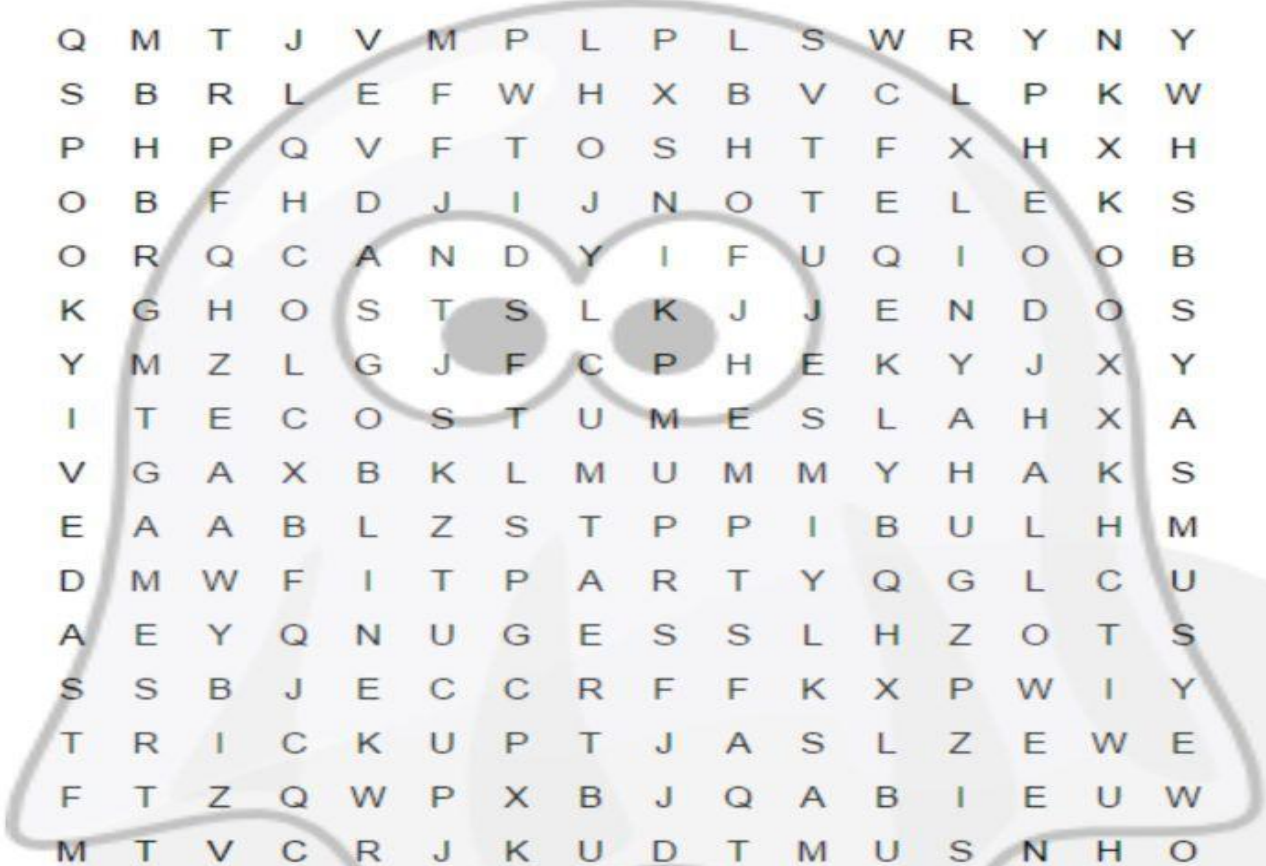
0818 222 024

OR VOLUNTEER YOUR HELP, VISIT

WWW.ALONE.IE

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Halloween Word Search



Q M T J V M P L P L S W R Y N Y
S B R L E F W H X B V C L P K W
P H P Q V F T O S H T F X H X H
O B F H D J I J N O T E L E K S
O R Q C A N D Y I F U Q I O O B
K G H O S T S L K J J E N D O S
Y M Z L G J F C P H E K Y J X Y
I T E C O S T U M E S L A H X A
V G A X B K L M U M M Y H A K S
E A A B L Z S T P P I B U L H M
D M W F I T P A R T Y Q G L C U
A E Y Q N U G E S S L H Z O T S
S S B J E C C R F F K X P W I Y
T R I C K U P T J A S L Z E W E
F T Z Q W P X B J Q A B I E U W
M T V C R J K U D T M U S N H O

BOO
GAMES
HALLOWEEN
PARTY
SPOOKY
WITCH

CANDY
GHOSTS
MASK
PUMPKINS
TRICK

COSTUMES
GOBLIN
MUMMY
SKELETON
TREAT

www.thetypicalmom.com

CHURCH OPENING HOURS

CHANGE

DUE TO THE APPROACHING DARKER EVENINGS AND COLDER WEATHER, THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN NOW FROM 1PM TO 4PM EACH DAY.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE CURRENT PUBLIC HEALTH ADVICE NOT TO VISIT HOMES AND TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF OUR SOCIAL CONTACTS AND GATHERINGS.

MANY THANKS AND STAY SAFE