

A few words from Pope Francis

Choose
to hope

Hope is “a very appropriate value” for the Sixth International Conference, “Por el Equilibrio del Mundo” (“For World Balance”), Pope Francis says, precisely because the forum’s “aspiration to be open, plural, and multidisciplinary” gives it the capacity “to look into the reasons that move the heart of today’s men and women.” In a Message to participants in the Conference that takes place in Havana, Cuba, from 28 to 31 January, the Holy Father focuses on the Jubilee Year theme of hope, which gives Christians the faith and love for Jesus Christ” that allows them to be ready to share in the struggles that are a part of the life of every person and society.

Working to translate hope into peace

Recalling his indiction of the Jubilee Year, the Pope points to the signs of hope in the “signs of the times,” inviting participants to recognise the good in the world so as not to be tempted “to consider ourselves overcome by evil and violence.”

Looking to the future with hope

The Pope explained that this requires helping all those facing difficulties in life “to look to the future with hope,” which in turn involves supporting “initiatives and paths” that can help the poor and excluded to regain confidence “in themselves and society.” “The poor and the sick, the young and the elderly, migrants and displaced people, even those deprived of their freedom, must be at the centre of our considerations,” he insisted, “so that no one is excluded and everyone’s human dignity is respected.” Pope Francis said that Christ’s admonition, “What you did to the least of these my brethren, that you did to me,” invites Christians to recognise the image of God in every man and woman, who are called to be “brothers and sisters” in the human family, and children of God.

Contributing to the common good

But even for those who do not share faith in Christ, the Pope said, “This affirmation retains its full force, for we are all called to live in fraternal gratuitousness, and everything we do for others has repercussions for us as individuals and as a society.” “Let us learn this lesson from love,” the Pope said in conclusion, “building hope that seeks that all may have what is necessary, teaching others to share with the poor, and to open ourselves with generous welcome to others, so that we may know how to contribute what we are and what we have to the common good.”

In our own communities, are we at peace with each other? What can we do to promote peace?

Kilmacanogue

History

Did you know it is estimated that there are about 15000 shipwrecks off the coast of Ireland and 3000 of them are off the coasts of Louth, Meath, Dublin and Wicklow? If you would like to hear more about the stories behind these wrecks, come and hear our Speaker on **Monday 10th February at 8p.m in Kilmacanogue Parish Hall**. Who better to tell us than Karl Brady co-author of a number of books on the subject including "The Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland: Louth, Meath, Dublin & Wicklow (2008)". His Talk "Lost to the Sea: Mapping, documenting and preserving shipwrecks off the Wicklow Coast" will be very interesting. He is a Senior Archaeologist with the National Monuments Service., Karl has directed many marine surveys and excavations of underwater sites, including the ongoing extensive work in Lough Corrib on multi-period logboats and associated artefacts. He has a particular interest in the R.M.S. Lusitania.

St Brigid's Prayer



You were a woman of peace.
You brought harmony where there was conflict.
You brought light to the darkness. You brought hope to the downcast.
May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious,
and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.

Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.
Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.
Strengthen what is weak within us. Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.
May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind,
body and spirit. Amen

(author unknown)

Parish Gathering and Healing Mass



The next joint celebration of the Eucharist for all 4 communities, Glencree, Curtlestown, Kilmacanogue and Enniskerry will take place on **2nd March at 11am in St Mary’s Enniskerry**.

To mark the Jubilee year of hope, we will have a **healing mass** that Sunday. We hope that as many of you as possible will join us for this special event.

There will only be **one mass** celebrated that weekend in the parish,

Our hope is that each community will play its part in the liturgy, through song, reading, providing ministers etc...The mass will be concelebrated.

Put the date in your diary!

New Website ! Please check out the new parish partnership website at <https://brayandenniskerry.com/>

The Living Room



Please join on next Wednesday 5th February at 11 am in St Mary’s for the first gathering of 2025 with St Patrick’s Powerscourt. We come together for reflection and friendship. We explore the meaning of faith and God in our lives. We would love to have as many of you along as possible. All are welcome!

Join us!



To celebrate love for St Valentines day, we are inviting you to join us in **St Mary’s at 11am on Sunday 16th February**. The mass will be focused on love and relationship. There will be a short recommitment ceremony during the mass and, of course, tea and coffee and treats after mass. All are welcome.

PARISH LINK

February



Reminders....

- Please leave in your mass intention as far in advance as possible if you would like them published in the Parish Link
- Down time Thursday will be 27th February 7pm -8pm.
- The Living room meet (With St Patricks Powerscourt) next Wednesday 5th February in St Mary's at 11 am
- We need new readers. Please give you name to Phil or to the parish office if interested
- We need some volunteers to count money, please. If you have two hours to spare once a week, please consider offering your services. Refreshments available on site while you work! Thank you.

Charabanc Time Table

31st January -2.30 p.m. Powerscourt Parish Hall-Talk by Frank Tracey – History of Glendalough
14th February- 2.30 p.m. Powerscourt Parish Hall-Celebrate St. Valentine's Day with music and stories
28th February- Time to be confirmed - Meet in St. Patrick's Church Car Park- Trip to Altamont Gardens, Tullow to view the Snowdrops
14th March-2.30 p.m. Powerscourt Parish Hall- Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with music and dancing
28th March- Time to be confirmed – Meet in St. Patrick's Church Car Park- Guided Tour of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin
11th April- Time and meeting point to be confirmed- Trip to Wexford by train including lunch in White's Hotel
25th April-2.30 p.m. Powerscourt Parish Hall- Art with Jackie
9th May- Time to be confirmed – Meet in St. Patrick's Church Car Park- Guided Tour of Glasnevin Cemetery
23rd May-2.30 p.m. Powerscourt Parish Hall- Demonstration on preparing window boxes
6th June- Time to be confirmed – meet in St. Patrick's Church Car Park- Tour of Croke Park
 For more details and to book places contact one of the following: Barbara Davis – 086 805 6817
 Jackie Gallagher – 086 108 2340
 Phil Kenna – 087 972 1491

**GOOD
TIMES**

In February we remember.....



1st/2nd ...St Kevin's 9am: Liam Quinn (A) Philip Quinn (A) Edward and Mia Opdebeeck (A)
St Patrick's 10am:Rita O'Driscoll (A) and her sisters may and Betty RIP
St Mary's 6 pm:
St Mochonog's 10am: Ann Cranny (MM) James Whelan (MM) Sinead Behan (A) Owen Molloy Snr(A) Jeremiah Cahill (A) Nuala Murphy (A) Lucy Bush (A) Bridget Kearns (A) Bridget Hopkins (A)
8th/9th St Mary's 6 pm: David Mc Cann (MM)
St Patrick's 10am: Ellen O'Gorman (A)
St Mary's 11 am: Bridget Acres (A). Ann Barry(A)
St Mochonog's 10am: Margaret Hunt (MM). Kevin Redden (A) Mary McKeown(A)
15th /16th St Mary's 6 pm: Betty Price (MM) Frances Byrne (MM) James and Margaret Barton (A). Mary Cronin (A)
St Mary's 11 am: John Callan (A)
22nd/23rd St Mary's 11 am: Ellen Moran (A) Ann Moran (A)

March.....

1st/2nd St Mary's 11 am: Tony and Mary Hunt (A)

Don't Hope, Decide

Choose to love

While waiting to pick up a friend at the airport last week, I had one of those life- changing experiences that you hear other people talk about. This one occurred a mere two feet away from me. Straining to locate my friend among the passengers, I noticed a man coming toward me with two light bags. He stopped right beside me to greet his young family.

First he gave his youngest son(about six) a long loving hug. As they separated he looked him in the eyes and said "It's good to see you son, I missed you so much" His son smiled shyly and softly replied "me too dad". The man stood up, gazed in the eyes of his eldest son (eleven or so) and said fondly, "you're quite a young man David" and they hugged a most loving tender hug.

A little girl was squirming excitedly in her mother's arms and her father took her and kissed her face gently and rocked her close to him for several moments. He then gave her to his eldest son and turning to his wife said" I've kept the best till last".

He gazed at her and silently mouthed" I love you so much". As they smiled at each other and held each others hands, they reminded me of newly weds. I puzzled at this wonderful display of love, not more than an arms length away from me.

I was amazed to hear myself ask" Wow, how long have you two been married"? "Fourteen years" he replied, still gazing at his wife. "How long have you been away"? "Two whole days" he answered, still smiling joyously.

Two days. I was stunned. "I hope my marriage is that passionate after fourteen years". The man suddenly stopped smiling.

He looked me straight in the eye, and with forcefulness, he told me something that made me a different person. "Don't hope friend.....decide". Then he gave me that wonderful smile, shook my hand and said "God bless".