



# TULLOW PARISH CARRICKMINES NEWSLETTER

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**MAY 2021**

**In this month's newsletter:**

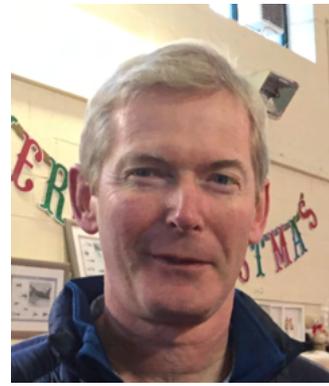
- Easter In Tullow
- Easter General Vestry
- Tullow Garden Trail
- A Day in the Life...Volunteer in a Refugee Camp
- A Day in the Life...International Rugby Player
- Tullow in the past
- Beckett in Foxrock
- Bealtaine Festival
- ...and much more

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## **The Rector Writes**

As I write there is an expectation that in-church Services will resume again during this monthof

May. Obviously, full protocols regarding sanitization, mask wearing and social distancing will still be required. However, it will be a welcome step forward to be able to gather again physically in community. Unfortunately, social gatherings will have to wait a little longer, but cautious progress at this stage is better than a reckless abandon which we will later regret. As an added bonus, many members of our parish have now either been vaccinated, or will shortly be in line to receive one, which should make the return to in-church Services a very safe activity.



One cannot but be moved by the unfolding images of the pandemic disaster in India at present. Until recently, the authorities there were congratulating themselves on having defeated the worst of the crisis.

However, a combination of extreme poverty, massive overcrowding, slow vaccine rollout and major social events has led to world record daily deaths and new infections.

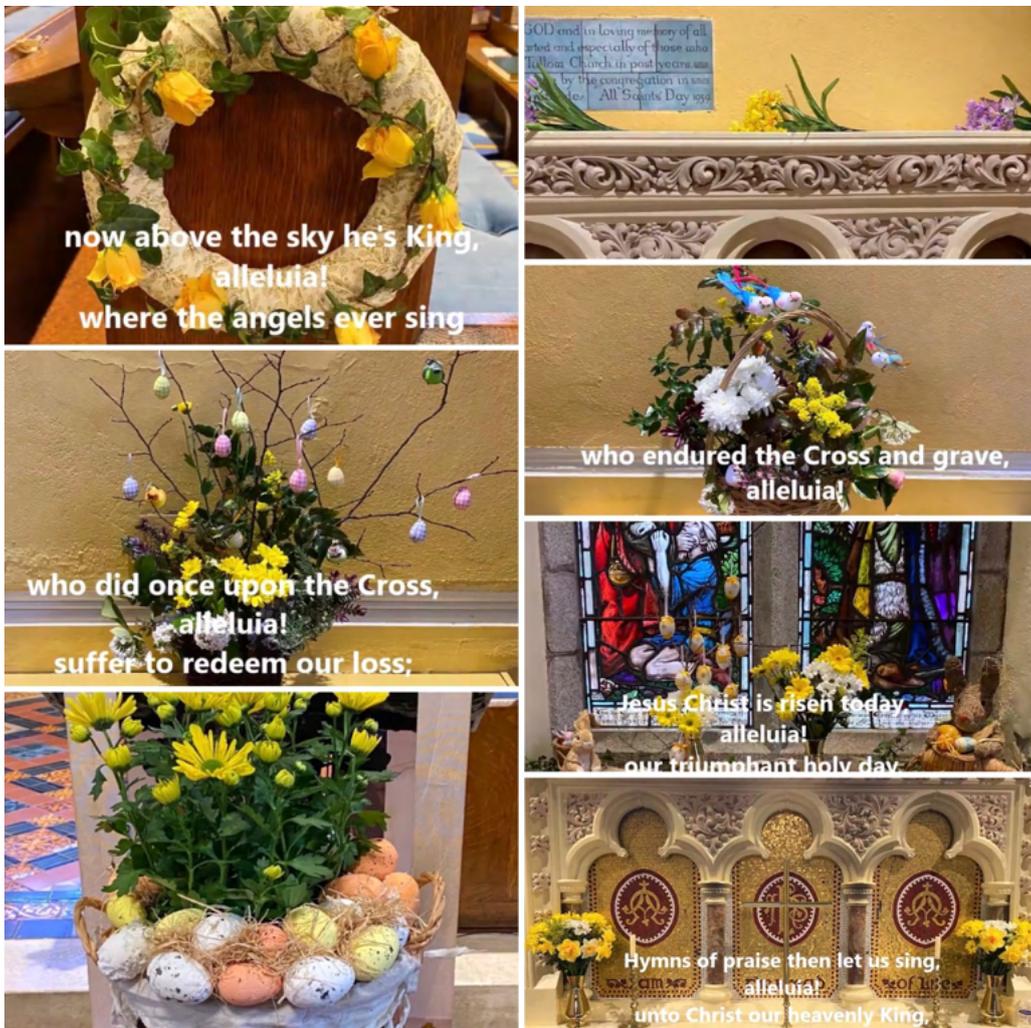
It is a sobering reminder of the need for constant vigilance and caution despite the progress we have made. Nevertheless, we are still hopeful for a gradual return to normality over the coming months here and we pray for the suppression of the pandemic worldwide, remembering all who have lost loved ones and livelihoods.

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### **Easter in Tullow**

This was our second Easter of online-only Services. It's not the same as being in the church but, thanks to John, Alan, Paul our organist, singers and church decorators, it's the next best thing. John and Alan deserve our thanks - planning, organising and filming five Services in one week is quite some feat. Each Service was different and had its own atmosphere; the lighting, candles and music created a memorable experience, and using photos of the decorations overlaid by the words of the hymns gave a lovely sense of how attractive the church was.



### **Easter General Vestry 18th April**

The Easter General Vestry, which is like the Parish AGM, was held on Sunday 18th April by Zoom. The Rector's Address as well as the parish accounts and minutes of the meeting have been emailed to all parishioners on the parish email list.

The outgoing Select Vestry was elected en bloc and the Rector's Churchwarden and Glebewarden as well as the People's Churchwarden and Glebewarden were nominated and re-elected.

Rector's Churchwarden - Leslie Ruttle

Rector's Glebewarden - Ernie Porter

People's Churchwarden - Ken Gregory

People's Glebewarden - Chris Wojnar

### **Select Vestry**

Don Beck, Jane Bowes, Paddy Bowes, Barbara Cooper, Hilary Cran, Torren Gale, Alan Rhodes, Sandra Ruttle, Patricia Stewart, Nigel Swanwick, Bob Willis. The wardens also sit on the Select Vestry.

At a subsequent Select Vestry meeting held on 20th April, Don Beck was elected Treasurer and Jane Bowes was elected Secretary to the Select Vestry.



### **Tullow Garden Trail**

This year's Tullow Garden Trail is being organised for the last two weekends in June. At time of writing we still don't know how many people will be able to meet outdoors but we're keeping our fingers crossed and really looking forward to what was, for many people, the highlight of last summer.

This is a free event but we are asking for donations towards Parish funds and the Bray Women's Refuge. As you will know from news reports over the last year, unfortunately, violence in families has got worse during lockdown so places like Bray Women's Refuge really need our help.

Booking information will be emailed to everyone on the Parish email list towards the end of May so be sure and keep an eye out as numbers will be limited and places will book out quickly.

Jennifer Sowman

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### **Beckett in Foxrock**

*Beckett in Foxrock 2021* will be an online film in two parts: a dramatised version of Beckett's *The End* performed by well known actor Marcus Lamb and *The Beckett Country* - a journey around the places in Dublin which influenced Beckett and which occur in his writing. While primarily centred on Foxrock, including Tullow Church, the film will also include Trinity College, the Samuel Beckett bridge and Carrickmines Golf Club.

The film will be viewed around the world but will only be available for a very limited time (this is dictated by the Beckett Estate), and tickets to view will be sold on Eventbrite.ie. This will be a very unique film so don't miss it and keep an eye out for familiar places - you'll come away with an understanding of how Foxrock influenced one of the world's greatest writers of the twentieth century. We should know the release date in a couple of weeks so everyone on the Parish email list will be notified.

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Gift Day is the largest single source of annual giving without which our parish cannot function. Due to the collapse in income from the parish hall you are asked to be as generous as possible. The Select Vestry extends its thanks in advance for your continued support and generosity.

Parishioners will receive a Gift Day letter enclosing a contribution envelope over the coming weeks.

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### **A Day in the Life...An International Rugby Player (3 minute read)**

*As many of you will know Andrew Porter is a front row with Leinster and Ireland and a Tullow Parishioner - he's the one on the left!*

At 6am, I wake up, shower and head downstairs to get breakfast. I usually eat porridge and eggs to start off my day along with a lot of coffee! I leave for training at around 6.45am every day and drive to the Leinster headquarters in UCD, which usually takes around ten or fifteen minutes. In order to be Covid-compliant, I need to complete a screening form to ensure that I'm symptom-free. As soon as I walk in the door, my temperature is taken, and I drop my belongings off in the changing room. I then meet my physio in the gym and work on any injuries or niggles that I may have picked up during a game on the weekend prior. This usually take half an hour, and afterwards, I get even more coffee and have a chat with my teammates before our first team meeting at 9am.

During our team meeting, we analyse clips of the game from the weekend before, and talk about what we can improve on and what we did well. We also preview our opposition before we play them, and take a look at what areas we will be focusing on for the upcoming week. About an hour later, the forwards

and backs split up after the meeting. Usually, the forwards will train in the gym first, while the backs have a meeting. We would typically spend around one hour in the gym, which is one of my favourite parts of my day, as it allows me to get my body moving before our training session later in the afternoon. There is always good competition in the gym between the lads, and we always try to one-up each other when lifting weights!

After the gym session, the backs and forwards swap, which means that I would have a forwards meeting, and the backs would train in the gym. These meetings are where we sit down and analyse our scrums and lineouts. We would also learn new lineout calls for the upcoming game on the weekend, which can be tricky as there are a lot to remember! As part of the meeting, we would also do a lineout walkthrough on the gym floor, to ensure everyone knows their role inside and out.

After the meeting at 12pm, the whole squad gets Covid tested just before lunch (another favourite part of my day!). Gourmet Food Parlour always provide us with food on a daily basis. The food is always varied, and the menu has been approved by our Leinster nutritionist. At the end of lunch, it's time for another coffee to keep me going! An hour later, we have another team meeting which features a much more in-depth analysis of our opposition for the weekend. This would include scouting their key players and their attacking threats. The team selected to play on the weekend is also announced during this meeting, so everyone is aware for the week ahead. We also go through our attacking set-piece plays, which is followed by a walk-through of those plays on the gym floor.

Immediately following this, we have a mobility session that lasts for around half an hour. During this session we do foam rolling, stretching, and plyometrics to get us ready for the pitch session. After this, the team gets taped by the physios if needed. At 2pm, we then head to the pitch for our training session, which typically takes an hour and a half. Before we start the pitch session, we are given GPS units which are placed in the back of our training jerseys in order to monitor the distance covered in training by each player (so there is no hiding from the coaches!). We also have the opportunity to work on areas of the game you would like to focus on, such as tackle technique or ball-carrying, before the session kicks off.

After we warm up for ten minutes, the pitch session gets underway. We start off with ball-handling drills and follow that up with team-based attack and defence games. We usually have enough for three teams in training due to the large number of players we have in our squad. This usually lasts for forty-five minutes and can be very tough. We usually split from the backs once again, to work on scrums and lineouts. I always find this to be the most physically demanding part of training as there is a lot of contact work involved. At the end of the session which normally finishes at 4pm, I take a quick shower before leaving for home.

Once I'm home, I head straight to kitchen to cook another meal, which is usually a few steaks and rice. After I have eaten, as I am studying for my

economics degree in UCD, I catch up on my college work for about an hour and a half. Sometimes I find this very difficult, as I'm very tired after training all day. I like to then relax and switch off for the evening by walking my dog Pablo, and watching tv with my girlfriend Elaine, before making dinner. I usually go to bed early at around 10pm, to be up at 6am the following morning.

Andrew Porter

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Photo: Ben in navy T-shirt with fellow volunteers among whom are his landlord,

a fashion designer and a photographer for National Geographic

Many of us have heard about Lesbos (Lesbos) - one of the largest of the Greek islands. A huge number of refugees have sought help there and we are proud that one of our young parishioners is working there at the moment. This is Ben's story:

**A Day in the Life.....a volunteer in a refugee camp** *(3 minute read)*

I'm Ben Arrowsmith and I'm currently volunteering with an NGO in Greece that works with refugees and asylum seekers. Before I describe my typical day's work, I'll give a little background as to the situation in the Aegean - the epicentre of the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean- as I know I would have been relatively oblivious until a few years ago and that it's not a problem at the forefront of most peoples' minds over this past year.

The organisation I work with is called Refugee4Refugees and was established five years ago by Omar, a young Syrian who escaped the civil war and fled to Turkey, from where he swam seven miles to the Greek island of Lesbos, where I currently work. Though this last leg of Omar's journey was extraordinary, his story is one experienced by hundreds of thousands of terrified, desperate people since the current crisis flared up in 2015/16.

These people flee war and persecution in search of a better life in Europe, but are more often than not kept by Greek authorities in 'reception centres' that, in many instances, amount to tented camps of oftentimes squalid conditions. Some people I know have remained 'trapped' here for over 18 months while their asylum application is processed painstakingly slowly, unable to move off the island until they are given EU papers.

My working week is split evenly between days in and out of the camp, and while we usually get one midweek and one weekend day off, these can go to wayside if an urgent response requires 'all hands on deck'. In camp, R4R organises a free clothes shop from our base-tent: three days a week this caters for babies, given that kids under three grow out of their clothes so rapidly, while a designated age and item will be provided for the remainder of the week (eg. women's trousers and shoes, kids 7-10 jumpers and jackets). These shops are supplemented by weekly distributions of clothes and hygiene products to families' tents, again to a targeted demographic. Most camp residents have crossed the Aegean in tiny dinghies (images of which I'm sure many of you may have seen on TV) and those few who managed to bring belongings often lose them overboard, meaning clothing is in short supply and these items are essential, particularly in the harsh winters and summers of the exposed campground, which sits on a headland on the water's edge.

Alongside this, we run a woodwork shop as well as organising tent winterisation (finished now) which involves repairing tents after storms and laying out sandbags. One of R4R's core ethos is to empower refugees to help themselves and their community, as opposed to purely offering handouts. This is strived for by offering free shops, where they have a wide choice of garments rather than having to take what they're given, but more so by including community

volunteers among the staff. These are people who live in the camp and work as translators for the shop and distributions, as well as constructing furniture at the wood-shop which is given to families and older residents. The idea is that we are there to facilitate and give resources to them, so that the community can be improved by the efforts of those within it rather than by overseas visiting volunteers.

The most identifiable and striking description of the camp's conditions that I have come across was when I asked a German engineer who I volunteered alongside what her initial thoughts were and she replied: "it's like the final day of a festival, where there's mud everywhere, the facilities seem exhausted and ready to be shut down, and everyone's sick of the place and needs to go home". The response to the influx of refugees by the Greek government and the EU leaves much to be desired, as the bare minimum in shelter, food and sanitation are provided - but to a shockingly low standard. Thus, it has fallen to a wide range of NGOs to plug the holes the authorities have left and ensure that these people, many of whom have encountered untold hardship, trauma and loss to reach Europe, are supported and can be provided with a standard of living that is closer to what any of us fortunate to live in Ireland might call acceptable.

On days when I am not in camp, I will be sorting clothes in R4R's warehouse, where we receive shipments of donated clothes (mainly second hand) from around Europe. If you have ever donated to a clothes bank please rest assured that those jeans that don't fit anymore do make it to a good home! Though this work is more mundane and tedious, it is of course necessary to ensure that refugees are given the correct sizes and items. Most volunteers prefer spending time in camp and interacting with the residents and community volunteers. For instance, I previously worked with a Norwegian NGO who ran a laundry service (as there are no clothes washing facilities in camp) and mother-and-baby spaces and kids activities, so spent every day working in camp and got to know many of those who helped us as translators very well. However, I find that it's important to continuously remind ourselves that all those who have come to volunteer here do so to try and make a small difference in the lives of those who live in terrible uncertainty, powerlessness and deprivation, and the experience that we aim to get from it is irrelevant in this context. It's always best to keep this in mind when the boredom starts to kick in after six hours of sorting baby one-pieces between 6-12 months and 13-18 months...

I should mention that the situation here has not escaped the impact of COVID. For many months last year when cross-border travel was a no-go, asylum applications were stalled and a backlog developed of all those wishing to move to Germany, Holland and elsewhere (almost all refugees want to move on from Greece). We also must adhere to mask wearing, even outdoors. However, I would say that in comparison to home, COVID is an afterthought: social distancing in a camp of 7,000 living in an area smaller than Cabinteely Park is completely unfeasible. Moreover, the threat of the disease pales in comparison to the troubles that these people have faced and continue to face.

Overall, my experience here is one that I've found extremely eye-opening and rewarding. While some are understandably angry or despondent, the optimism and resolve to build a better life for themselves that most of the refugees I have met display day after day has been what has struck me most, and something I find humbling and inspiring. I will continue to work here for the next few months and will be happy to have contributed (however minor) to improving the lives of these unfortunately displaced and unfairly treated people. However, my time on Lesvos has made me mindful of how fortunate I am to have a safe country to which I can return home and where I can pursue my ambitions uninhibited by the colour of my skin or what stamp I have on my passport.

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#### **Prayer of the Month**

We are an Easter people. Therefore, God of all creation, we pray that you may draw us forth. Draw us forward and away from limited certainty into the immense world of your love. Give us the capacity to even for a moment taste the richness of the feast you have so lavishly prepared for us. Give us the peace to live with uncertainty, with questions, with doubts. Help us to experience the resurrection anew with open wonder and an increasing ability to see you in all those you have created in your image.

**Amen.**

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#### **Photographic Archive - Tullow in the past**

More memories from times past - this time thanks to Jane Cremin who led the organisation of the Spring Fete 20 years ago in May 2001.

Primrose Bryan's photo album shows an outing to Rathwood by Tullow Focus Group (now Tullow Friends) in May 2002. The other photos are of a Parish Supper Dance held in the Parish Hall on 17th March 2004. Time for another dance?

Please have a look in albums, boxes etc and see if you have any photos of

people or places of interest to the parish.

Jane Bowes [bowesjane91@gmail.com](mailto:bowesjane91@gmail.com) or 086 8418138 if you find any.



### Remembrance Garden

The Remembrance Garden is looking particularly lovely now as the magnolia is in bloom and the new trees have fitted in very well.

Don't forget that the right to burial there is available to parishioners for €1,500 and a limited number of spaces for non-parishioners are available at €2,500. Please consider telling your friends and family about this oasis of peace. Contact the Rector on 086 3021376 if you're interested.

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### Teen Corner

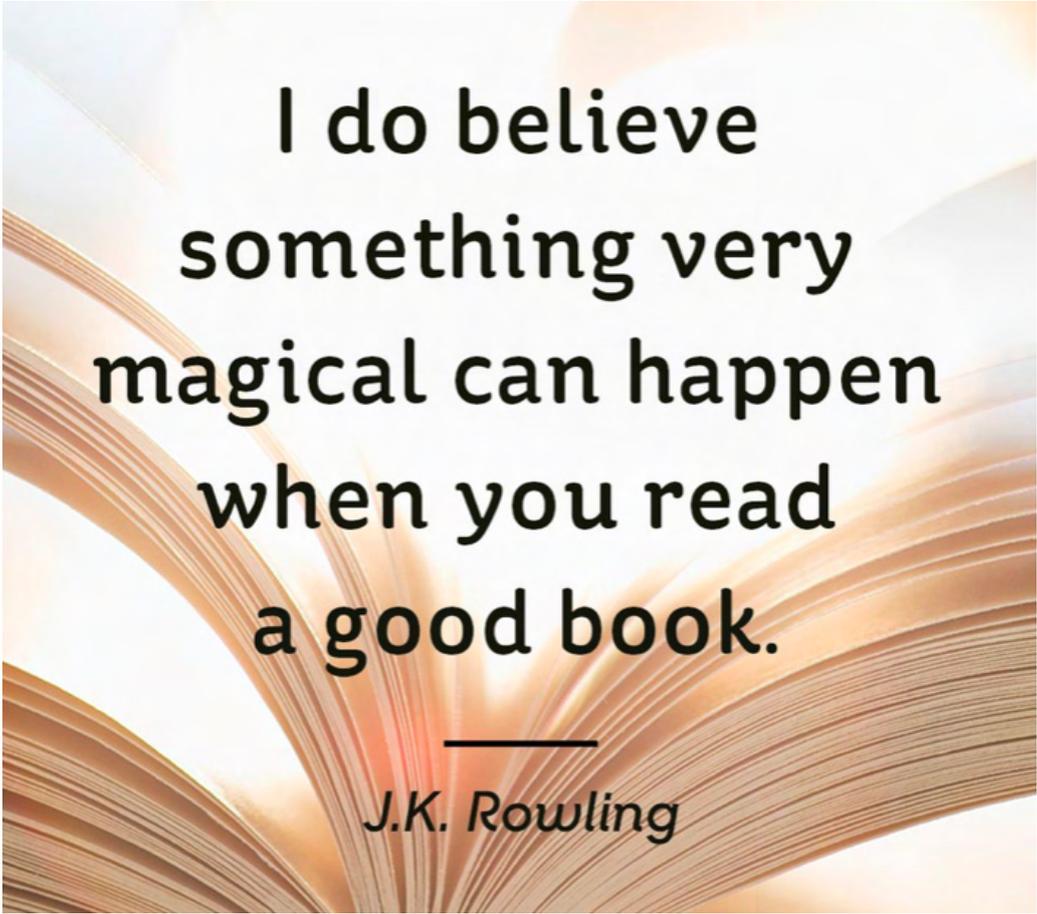
The vaccine rollout is really speeding up, restrictions are easing and the weather is getting warmer - just a bit longer to go so hang in there. Good luck to those of you who are heading towards the end of secondary school whether you're doing exams or getting predictive grades - we're remembering you in our prayers and hoping that the next stage of your lives will be just what you would wish.

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### Wednesday Coffee Morning

If you'd like to 'meet' others for coffee and a chat don't forget about the Wednesday Zoom Coffee Morning. You can have tea or coffee in the comfort of your own home but still chat to others. Contact the Rector by email on [revjohntanner@gmail.com](mailto:revjohntanner@gmail.com) or on 086 3021376 and he will email the date and Zoom link to you. If you haven't used Zoom before don't worry, it's very easy to use.

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I do believe  
something very  
magical can happen  
when you read  
a good book.

—  
*J.K. Rowling*

#### **Tullow Book Club**

*One Night in August* by Victoria Hislop.

Not one of Victoria Hislop's better works. There was a feel to the book that it may have been written with some leftover material that the author felt needed to be used up. You did see flashes of Victoria's writing skills when she depicted life in a Greek prison in the 1950s and her writings in the Afterword section at the end of the book. Also, for some of us, it was interesting to learn that one of Europe's last leper colonies was based on the island of Spinalonga (an island off Crete) in the first half of the 1900s.

The book chosen for next month is *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell.

Vera Tanner

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# WALKING CUB

The logo for 'Walking Club' features the word 'WALKING' in a bold, black, sans-serif font above the word 'CUB' in the same font. The letter 'O' in 'CUB' is replaced by a stylized illustration of a grey and white sneaker with orange laces and a white sole.

## **Evergreens Walking Club**

We cannot meet in the great outdoors as a club at present under Government Guidelines. The latest relaxation in restrictions allow for a maximum of two households to meet up outside, within your own county or within 20 kms of home. It is impractical to restart activities with the two-household limit. However, members, parishioners and friends are encouraged to get out walking within the current guidelines. The website <https://20kmfromhome.com> is a useful guide to see how far you can go from your home. From Tullow Church this is as far as Greystones and the Glenree Valley and to Sally Gap! Not bad for starters but the problem is car parking, so go early at weekends, or go mid-week.

Our next Evergreen Walk will hopefully be arranged in the autumn with details in the Parish newsletter. In the meantime get out and enjoy our wonderful summer.

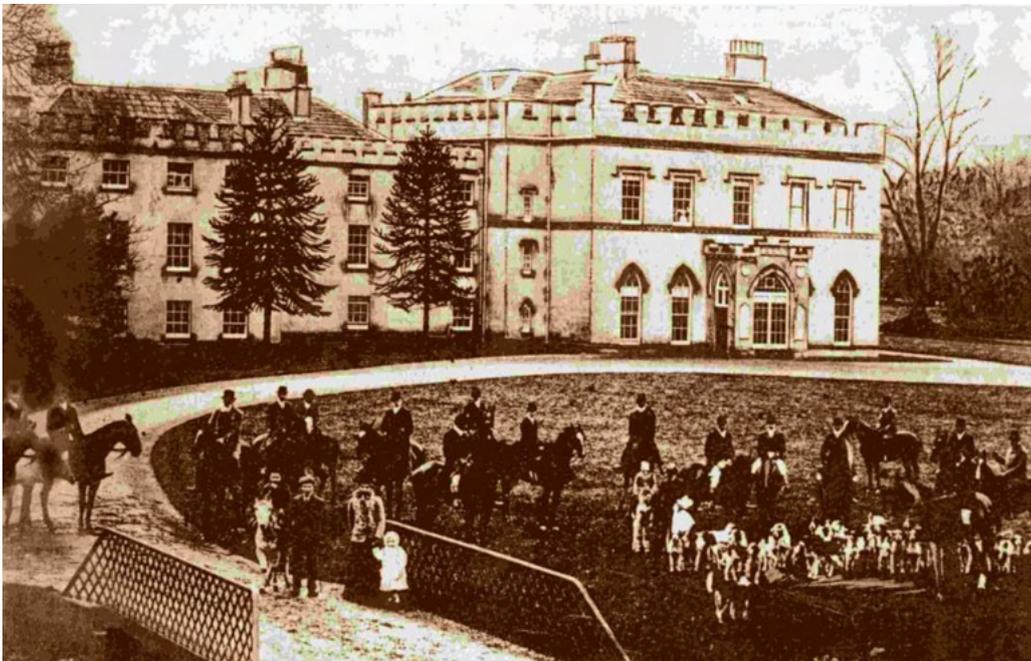
Donald Gill

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## **Church of Ireland Review**

The May issue of *The Church of Ireland Review* will be available shortly. If you are a subscriber you'll receive an email telling you that Jill Malcolm has them so please don't leave them sitting on her hall table! Her address is in the emails you received. If you'd like to subscribe to the *Review* let Jill know by sending a text to the Rector on 086 3021376.

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Photos: Castlecomer House and 8 St. Stephen's Green  
**The Prior Wandesfordes** by Ken Gregory *(1.75 minute read)*

A small number of parishioners will remember Frederick and Florence Prior Wandesforde who lived in 'The Grey House' on Brennanstown Road which is now the residence of the Korean embassy. They were parishioners of Tullow Parish for a number of years in the 1950s and 1960s. Their ancestors have a most interesting history.

The Wandesforde family originated in Kirklington in Yorkshire in the 14th century when John de Wandesforde married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Henry de Musters, Knight, of Kirklington. Christopher Wandesforde came to Ireland in 1636 along with the Earl of Stafford who was then Lord Deputy of Ireland. He was granted an Estate in Castlecomer along with the titles of Master of the Rolls and Lord Chief Justice. His son, the Rt.Hon. Sir Christopher

Wandesforde was elevated to the peerage by Queen Anne in 1706 as Baron Wandesforde and Viscount Castlecomer. The estate of the family in and around Castlecomer consisted of over 22,000 acres including considerable oak woodlands.

The discovery of coal in Kilkenny happened by chance. The first coal mine was discovered by Christopher Wandesforde who owned an iron mine in Castlecomer. When all the ore was gone the miners struck coal in 1700 and by 1802 coal mining had been going strong for over a century. In 1802 there were sixteen working pits in Castlecomer. The majority of the coal was bought by local people who used it as fuel for their hearth fires. Kilkenny coal was thought to be the best as it burned for a long time and gave off very little smoke. The small volume of smoke was very important as many houses at this time had no chimneys!

Coal mining in Castlecomer continued to be important until the closure of the mine in 1969.

The original Castlecomer House was built in 1638 and was burned down during the Battle of Castlecomer in 1798. A bigger house was built in its place in 1802. Most of the building was demolished in 1975 as it was no longer in use and had fallen into disrepair.

In 1836 the Reverend John Prior of Mount Dillon, Co. Dublin, married Sarah Wandesforde who, in 1881, succeeded to the Castlecomer Estate and the family name became known as Prior Wandesforde.

The family owned a townhouse at 8 St. Stephen's Green which was the Hibernian United Service Club until it closed in 1998.

I do hope that you found the above interesting.

Ken Gregory

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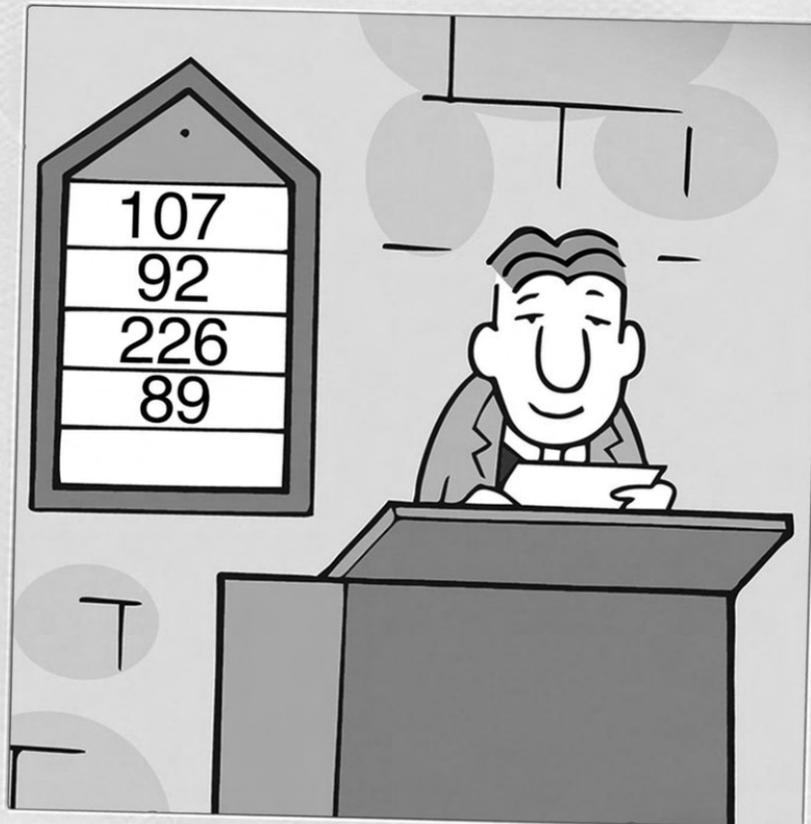
A graphic with a solid yellow background. The word "BEALTAINÉ" is written in large, bold, pink capital letters. Below it, the words "AT HOME" are written in large, bold, white capital letters. At the bottom, the text "MAY 2021" is written in smaller, bold, white capital letters.

**BEALTAINÉ**  
**AT HOME**  
**MAY 2021**

Bealtaine is the annual festival celebrating creativity as we age. In common

with so many other things, this year the festival is online. Check out <https://bealtaine.ie/> to see the many events which range from Dawn Chorus to writing and visual art talks and workshops.

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Hymns? No, that's the past month's views for Derek's online services!

©ANDY ROBB

#### **Parish Online Services and Parish Newsletter**

If you know of anyone who is not on the parish email list and would like to receive email links to the weekly online Services or would like to receive the newsletter please contact

[tullowdublinnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:tullowdublinnewsletter@gmail.com) or Jane Bowes 086 8418138. The Service is emailed to everyone on the parish list every Saturday evening but of course you can watch it whenever suits you.

The Services are also available on the Parish website

<https://tullow.dublin.anglican.org/> and also on Facebook at Tullow Parish and YouTube under Tullow Parish Carrickmines.

## **Website, Facebook & Instagram**

The parish website [www.tullowdublin.org](http://www.tullowdublin.org) and our Facebook page (search for Tullow Parish) are kept up to date by Alan R and, thanks to Samm, they are widely promoted - the effectiveness of this is illustrated by the very impressive viewing figures for the online Services.

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**Thanks are due to all these people who help to keep Tullow an active, vibrant parish. Let the Rector know if you would like to contact any of them.**

Rector: Rev John Tanner 086 3021376

Lay Minister: Alan Rhodes

Rector's Church Warden: Leslie Ruttle

People's Church Warden: Ken Gregory

Rector's Glebe Warden: Ernie Porter

People's Glebe Warden: Chris Wojnar

Pastoral Assistant: Patricia Stewart

Organist: Dr Paul McNulty

Parish Treasurer: Don Beck

Select Vestry Secretary: Jane Bowes

Readers & Coffee Rota: Barbara Cooper

Connect Group & Clevis Drivers Rota: Jennifer Sowman

Wednesday Coffee: June Hayes

Parish Newsletter: Jane Bowes

Parish Hall Bookings: Jennifer Sowman

Parish Hall Committee: Rev John Tanner, Barbara Cooper, Bob Willis, Paddy Bowes

Flower Rota: Sandra Ruttle

Church of Ireland Review: Jill Malcolm

Badminton: Paddy Bowes

Bowls Club: Jonathan Morton

Tullow Friends: Cleo Ellis

Tullow Book Club: Vera Tanner

Altar Linens: Vera Tanner

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Welcome to the email edition of the Tullow Parish newsletter. This is a very active parish so there's lots to report each month. We would really appreciate feedback - both critical and otherwise on the email edition.

Email [tullowdublinnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:tullowdublinnewsletter@gmail.com)

Please forward to other members of your family



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[tulowdublinnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:tulowdublinnewsletter@gmail.com)

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