



# CARRIGROHANE UNION OF PARISHES

St Peter's, Carrigrohane  
St Senan's, Inniscarra  
The Church of the Resurrection, Blarney  
The Carraig Centre, Ballincollig

[www.cupcork.ie](http://www.cupcork.ie)  
021-4877260

**MAY 2020**



In the last few weeks we have...lit candles of gratitude...candles of prayer for climate justice...made decorations of praise...put 'palms' on our doors...maybe played the odd silly game!



Some of us have been ill, some feel lonely, and some have sadly lost loved ones. We have had worries and fears, delights and pleasures. Many of us have learned to zoom – and other things! Some of us have been busier than usual – and many of us have had more time than usual.

We've all had so much to think about – to pray about – and to find ways to share and connect, even while staying apart.



**OPENING SOON**

**...as soon as possible!**

**WANTED...**

## **Volunteers Receptionists for The Carraig Centre**

Although things are likely to be done with a 'new normal' for a while...when we are able to open of The Carraig Centre, we do need a group of parishioners who are able to give at least 4 hours per week to serve as volunteer receptionists.

As a volunteer receptionist you will play an important role in welcoming visitors, showing them around and trying to answer their questions! A role description is available with the application form.

So all volunteers are comfortable and confident in this enjoyable role, two sessions of training will be provided.



As volunteers will be expected to complete Safeguarding Training, we will be holding brief interviews with all those who are interested.

If you are interested, please email the Parish office and ask for an Application form and a copy of the Role Description.



**the  
carraig  
centre**  
building hope together

### ***Some thoughts about these days....***

"It is in the quiet crucible of your personal private suffering that your noblest dreams are born, and God's greatest gifts are given in compensation for what you have been through." Wintley Phipps – sent in by **George Quinn**

**‘Lockdown’ time.** This has been a really strange time. The ‘not knowing’ when it will end and the fact that already it has gone on way longer than any other time I can remember when, what one might call ‘normal life’ stopped, like ‘snow days’ or even hurricane Ophelia. But this is different, the danger is hidden and silent and all we can do is listen to the advice being given and follow it. At first, I was wondering what will I do, but it turned out there was lots to do: teaching on zoom, online church and meetings, taking time outside in the sun, helping in the garden and having fun skipping, knitting (lots of hats and mittens for Team Hope Christmas boxes next year and maybe some other charity depending on how many I do!), cross stitching, reading. So, it hasn’t been boring like I first imagined it might be. One really big disappointment has been that I now won’t be going to Zambia, something I was getting really excited about and have been waiting to do for so long, but who knows maybe I will get to do something else another year. I’ve also missed long walks on the beach but my hope is that I will get to do that sometime later this summer.



*April*

## **Update from Blarney**

What a confusing strange time - To even begin to write about these past few months is difficult because we’re still living through a period which we’ve been plunged into with little warning and even when we’ll come out of it is also an unknown entity at this stage - even with roadmaps and the timescales which the Government has helpfully set.

Things we’ve taken for granted all of our lives have been turned on their heads - some of the greatest sectors of society have had to take a break - who would have thought this time last year - airlines would be grounded, Irish Pubs would close for months and even McDonalds drive throughs would be shut up for months on end. Then there is schools - where do we even start with them.

As we come through this, we do so together - even through we are apart for a while. I am so looking forward to being together at some point in the not too distant future (keeping social distance of course!) Until that day - wherever you are and whatever you are doing - Let’s be kind to those we come across - take the extra time for a smile - enjoy God’s creation - appreciate the bird song and know that you are loved by Him and part of a big family.

Appreciating the small but important things in life is so important.

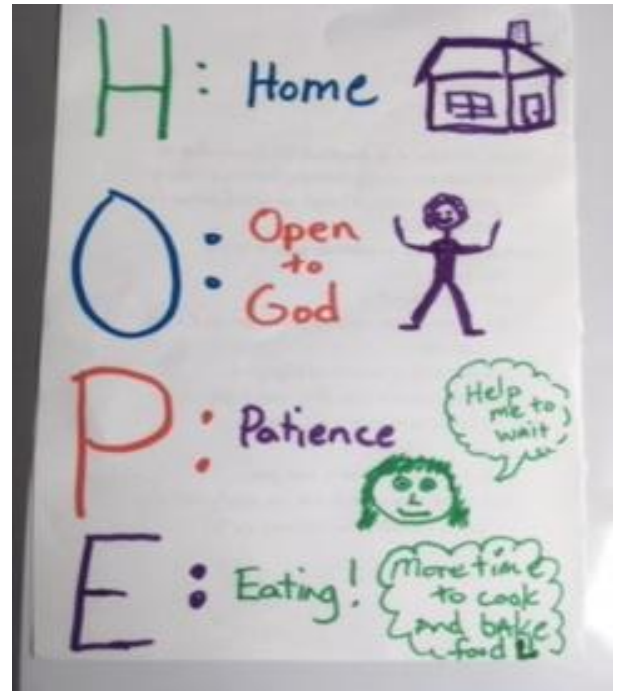
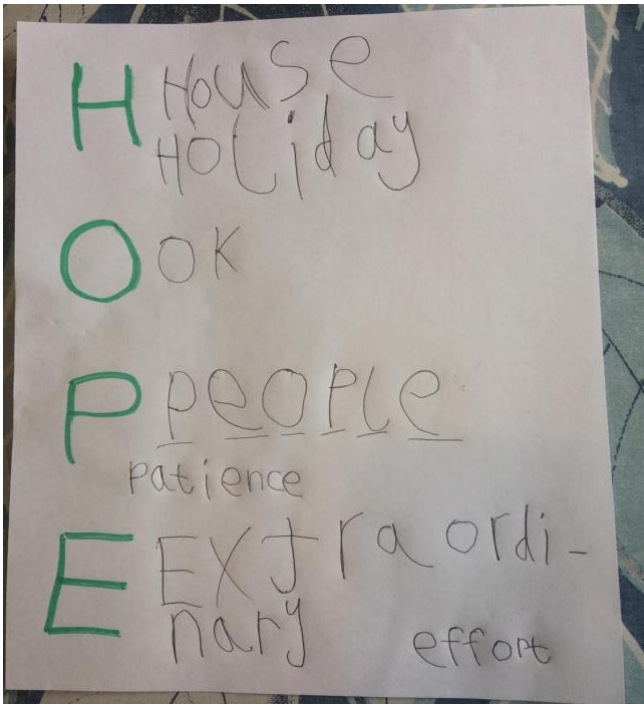
If you do need us - we are here - do get in touch

Regards, **Robert**





*The big word from our 1 Peter series on Sunday mornings at 11 am (live on-line via Facebook or YouTube) is H O P E! Here are the H O P E words that two households came up with!*



### ***Patsy's were...***

**H** is for How are we all doing - it's the question everyone's asking everyone!...how are you doing? Are you really busy - or much less busy than normal? What are the things you're enjoying...and what are the things you're finding tricky or sad? What has encouraged you?

**O** is for Over all the earth! This is a weird and astonishing time...I've said to my grandchildren that they should keep a list of what they do and what it's like because when they have their own grandchildren they'll ask them about this time and what was it like?! One of the things that's so unusual about it is that it affects everyone - over all the earth! It is much, much harder for the poor people of the earth - but even the richest & most famous people are affected too...and that's an unusual thing. We sometimes sing a wonderful song, 'Over all the earth, you (God!) reign on high. Every mountain stream, every sunset sky. (Everywhere!) But my one request, Lord, my only aim is that you'd reign in me again. Which brings me to my P...

**P** is for Praise - and there are SO many things to praise God for! A few that I thought of are: I see and hear so many times when people are being patient and kind with each other and helping each other; we're having such a lovely Spring and the weather really helps me; we can praise God for our homes and our families - those we live with and those we are missing; we can praise God for all the technology that means we can talk to each other and even see each other when we can't be together - and even come to

church together!; we can praise God for the wonderful care and work of so many people who are taking care of us and especially taking care of those who are sick, and for those who are volunteering and helping people who haven't enough or are living in difficult circumstances. And we can praise God for the way he loves every single person across the whole earth...and that's what E is for!

**E** is for everyone...every single person, made by God and loved by God - the youngest to the oldest, the fittest to the sickest, the richest to the poorest, the happiest to the saddest. Every single person - including YOU and me - is SO precious to God. So that's my **H.O.P.E.** I wonder if yours had some of the same!?



Kathy says "One down – seven more to go!"  
***Weeding in her close neighbourhood –  
the garden areas of The Carraig Centre!***



the  
**carraig  
centre**  
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**Robert Devoy invites  
anyone living close  
enough to the old  
Parish Centre to pull  
some weeds in the  
car park & outside  
areas! Thank you!**

## **Middle Eastern Christian migrants and the work of the International Christian Consulate**

Over the past few years, Christians belonging to the ancient churches of the Middle East have been experiencing a genocide which has been largely ignored by the media at large and has been met by indifference or ignorance in the West. The horrendous abuses of ISIS in Iraq, the Syrian Civil War and political instability across the region have driven thousands of Christians from their traditional homelands where they have lived for centuries. The Eastern Churches in the Middle East may soon be wiped out.

At the same time an amazing move of the Spirit is taking place in the Middle East and many Muslims are turning to Christ, particularly in Iran, which now has the fastest growing underground church in the world. When Muslims turn to Christ they are frequently shunned by the families and communities and persecuted by the authorities, forcing them to also flee their countries.

As we know, over the past few years, there has been a migrant crisis taking place, as hundreds of thousands of refugees flood into Europe caused by conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan. Migrant camps in Greece and Turkey are overcrowded with frequently squalid living conditions, as the local authorities struggle to cope. What is rarely reported, however, is that Middle Eastern Christian migrants are experiencing a second persecution when they arrive in these camps. Not only have they had to flee their homes to conflict and persecution, but once in the migrant camps they are again being subjected to further attacks by extremist elements, so that they are forced to again flee from the very camps, which should provide refuge for them.

The International Christian Consulate (ICC) is a small Christian organisation that works in Greece with persecuted Middle Eastern Christian migrants and works to promote their welfare by providing safe houses for them and is presently developing a rehabilitation centre and farm to help Middle Eastern Christians recover from the traumas they have experienced.

This month ICC writes:

*Please pray for Yusuf and his wife, with their new baby boy. They converted to Christianity in Syria about a year ago and had to flee a few months later. They have been living as secret believers in a refugee camp on Samos. Recently they were discovered as apostates and subsequently targeted in the camp. The container that was housing them was burnt to the ground and they were forced to flee the camp.*

*This is not an unusual situation for Christian converts from Islam in the refugee camps. Such cases tend to be reported as 'inter-ethnic clashes' in the media, if they are reported at all. Persecution of Christian refugees is not recognized and so believers like Yusuf and his wife end up isolated and without help or support.*

*This Syrian family are currently sleeping on the beach, unable to return to the camp but unable to get to Athens due to the Covid-19 lockdown and travel restrictions. We are working on a solution, but for the meantime they have no option but to stay where they are. Please pray that we can get them to Athens as soon as possible, so we can give them the support they desperately need!*

For more information on the work of ICC, contact **Michael Kenning**.



## We might think there's not much happening in Parish life but...

**Adventurers....** have been staying in touch with a weekly update letter and through a WhatsApp group – sharing thoughts and pictures of what we're all up to. There have also been a couple (with maybe more to follow!) of mailings in the real post – out to all the children with things to do and treats to enjoy.



Ruth challenged us all to decorate empty toilet rolls with words from A-Z that describe God – and have them ready to string up as part of our grateful celebrations when we can begin to use The Carraig Centre! Leigh also suggested we might (if we didn't do A-Z!) do the letters of the alphabet that spell our own Christian names – so we'd be personally saying thank you to God!

So **LEIGH** could be: Liberating, Everlasting, Infallible, Generous, Healing.

Kathy & Ruth came up with the complete alphabet!:

**Kathy:** Alive, Benevolent, Counsellor, Deliverer, Encourager, Famous, Generous, Healing, Infallible, Judge, Keeper, Liberating, Matchless, Noble, Omnipotent, Protective, Quiet, Renowned, Shining, Trustworthy, Unequaled, Vigilant, Watchful, Xristos (Greek for Christ), Yahweh, Zealous. **Ruth:** Alive, Beautiful, Caring, Deliverer, Everlasting, Friend, Generous, Healing, Intimate, Just, King, Loving, Master, Near, Omnipotent, Perfect, Quick to forgive, Real, Super, Tender, Unshakeable, Victorious, Wise, eXcellent, Yahweh, Zealous.

How many different words for God can you come up with? This is fun to do on your own...or in a family group! We can all still join in with the decorations, and have some of these done ready...and we look forward to decorating some when we're back together again!

Another idea (of the hundreds that everyone's having!) is to make **H O P E posters** or pictures – and they could be sent in to Robert to show everyone when we gather on Sundays for on-line worship! Sean & Evelyn were busy working with chalk on the pavement outside their home!



**Youth work...** everyone's staying in touch with phone calls, messaging and zoom sessions on Sunday evenings. Special prayers for those who were studying to sit Leaving Cert – those that are relieved by the decision and those who are disappointed!

The first **Select Vestry** held by Zoom was a full house – no one missing! Also the **Board of the Directors** for The Carraig Centre have begun to meet.



#### **A note from Patsy:**

Many thanks to all those who have moved their parish giving to standing order – or who are lodging on-line. A few kind people are anonymous on the bank statements (including a regular contributor to the 10 year youthwork fund for the past year or so). If you'd prefer to be anonymous, that is, of course, fine! But we won't be able to include your generous giving in the annual tax reclaim which brings such extra benefit to the parish. If you'd be happy for me to include your giving in that – please email [patsy@cupcork.ie](mailto:patsy@cupcork.ie) to let me know which donations are coming from you. It will all remain completely confidential! To those who prefer to save up their envelopes or plate contributions, we'll be happy to take those in the office for lodgement when 'lockdown' is released. Thank you so much!

**Patsy**

*We also now have an on-line giving page - Details are available on [www.cupcork.ie/hall](http://www.cupcork.ie/hall)*

#### **Staff meetings & The Carraig Centre team meetings...**

are both happening every week on-line! The Parish Office is working – but from Jaki & Patsy's homes! The parish office answering machine is regularly checked! The post boxes are checked as often as possible – so we'll get back with responses when we can! Emails are probably the fastest! But you can also always text or phone Patsy on 087 6413559 if you need to check anything or be in touch fast!

If anyone would like to do a reading or help with prayers for the **on-line service** – live or pre-recorded - give Robert a call on or Whatsapp on 0851800720 or email [robert@cupcork.ie](mailto:robert@cupcork.ie)

#### **Lighthouse during Lockdown**

Do check out our Lighthouse - Messy Church Facebook page -

<https://www.facebook.com/MessyinBlarney> for activities and crafts in the coming months .



**Growth Group, the St Senan's Prayer and Bible Study group and some of our other Home groups...**are meeting on-line, and others are staying in touch with calls.

The first meeting of the new online **Book Club** is being finalised. The group, which is now FULL, has a great balance between the age groups so looking forward to hearing how we all respond to the book "The Thing Around Your Neck" by *Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie*. If you are interested in knowing more about this Nigerian author, you might enjoy one of her Ted talks, [The Danger of a Single Story](#) one of the most watched Ted talks ever! I think when you view it you will see why! **Ivan McMahon**

Wednesday morning on-line **Coffee Mornings**...hosted by Robert F...are proving popular!



Join in if you'd like to...details on the website ([www.cupcork.ie](http://www.cupcork.ie)) or email Robert for the link: [robert@cupcork.ie](mailto:robert@cupcork.ie).

Poem:

## The longing for norming – The Bridge

There are signs that things are not  
normal -

The quiet road

I know that my daily routine is not  
normal -

No handshakes,

No interactions over the casual cuppa,

No toddlers, No visits, No visitors

No sign here for the postal delivery

Then there is the connectivity - broadcast / zoom / hangouts

Oh how I long for the face to face.

Yes there will be a new normal but how I long for the new new normal when this  
subsides

When? - we know not!

But it will come

When more cars are on the road - when traffic jams occur at peak hours

Rather than empty streets, when play returns.

Oh how I long for the norming - not the new normal

(the bizarre crazy one for a while on the roadmap)

But for the new new normal - of sitting together, of peace shared.

But until that day - there is a ponderable question

How do I use this gift of space? The gift of the quieter road?

**RF**

*For me a bridge is a place that spans an obstacle - whether a road, rail, water or path - In these days we're on a bridge from what was what we took for granted - to the journey on but to stand and ponder - normal, the new normal we're facing but also the new new normal - the things we appreciate, the people we interact with and the sharing of lives. How do we use this gift of space now - to ponder? To contemplate? To enjoy to the space? The empty road. Robert*

**For anyone over 55 who would like to find out how to use your smartphone – help is available - check out <https://www.changex.org/ie/age-action-getting-started-kit>**



## Some thoughts from Julie, who joined CUP last summer...

**WORK** – 7 years ago a Christian friend of mine told me she had started a new job. I asked what – “it’s a programme teaching older people how to use computers” – the words were out of my mouth before I could stop them “That’s my job!” We were both surprised! I had been made redundant and wasn’t really pursuing the search for a new job, so I started volunteering as a tutor, helping people to use technology devices. She told me later, that her heart had never really been in the job and she felt called to something else (which she later pursued). She also told me that when she cried out to God about her dilemma he said “you’re preparing it for someone else.”

Move on a few months, my friend becomes ill, she’s on sick leave, I’m asked to step in. Then she gets the job that God had prepared for her! I’m employed, based on her recommendation, and I’ve never looked back. It’s the one thing I am daily grateful for.

Does technology have its downside? You bet! It draws you in, it can be a vehicle for bullying, a playground for fraudsters. But, does it have its upside if you are taught to use it discerningly? You bet!

My colleagues and I have recently had to reinvent and upskill ourselves and spend our days calling our clients to make sure they are connected, (shopping, deliveries, getting medication, meals, coming home from hospital, and of course, keeping in touch with their loved ones and their communities. What a gift of a task!

And I’m now delighted to witness the pioneering of our remote learning, which offers people a set of easy to follow lessons for ways to be in touch through technology, but also calls on people to become digital champions for their older friends, neighbours and family members

What do they need technology for in these times? The list is endless and growing legs: to see grandkids, to chat to friends, to do quizzes with the family, to follow their yoga or chair exercises and very importantly for their families to know they’re safe.

**PLACE-** Last summer, God brought me to this community and guided me towards this wonderful Parish family, who encourage me in my work and in my life. It’s clear to me that God doesn’t make mistakes and plonking me ten doors away from the Carraig Centre is quite an amusing joke. I’m excited about what we’re going to do in community. The words “for such a time as this...” keep ringing in my head. I’m definitely in the right place at the right time. Both in my work and in my church family.

So one of things I’m educating my colleagues who are phoning clients on is:. Online Church. Church is the Irish community hub. If you want to spread the word about anything in this country, you do it through the Parish newsletter! And the faithful are disconnected!

What a joy it is each week here in the CUP Parish to sit down and see everyone chatting and sharing and encouraging each other. And I want that joy for others. We shouldn’t underestimate what is happening at the moment. Nicky Gumbel can’t believe the numbers that are signing up to online Alpha. I can share *watch parties* of my church service on Facebook and people can watch the playbacks anonymously if they choose to do that instead. We have no idea how many people are being reached who we may not



have reached in other times. Who knows who'll be convicted and who not, if we "put it out there"!

I have no doubt that I'm in the right place at the right time. So thank you Robert for stepping fearlessly into that technology gap and being an example to us all. And thank you God for always knowing the time and the place.

*Julie*

***Many people have found new things to  
take time and enjoy...***

Lectio 365 is a free app that can be downloaded to your phone, pad or computer. It provides a meditation for each day – lasting 10 minutes or less.

Be inspired and equipped to seek God in your every day, and learn new, countercultural rhythms of stillness.

Lectio 365 is inspired by *Lectio Divina*, an ancient way of meditating on scripture, and helps you to P.R.A.Y. the Bible every day:

P ause to be still

R ejoice with a Psalm and R eflect on Scripture

A sk for God's help

Y ield to His will in your life



Janet and Bill had to isolate from each other for 2 weeks – in case of Covid 19 infection (not there as it happened!) – so it was a joyful reunion!



**On behalf of the St Peter's working group, Ivan and Chuck say thank you** to everyone in the St Peter's congregation who have completed the questionnaire - and to encourage anyone who hasn't had time yet to please return it if they can. Everyone's feedback is important!

**PARISH CONTACTS AND OFFICE HOURS:**

**The Parish Office is closed Mondays and open on: *Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm; and Wednesdays 9.30 am – 5.30 pm.***

Phone: 4877260 - [office@cupcork.ie](mailto:office@cupcork.ie)

Rector: Ian Jonas – 4871106 - [ian@cupcork.ie](mailto:ian@cupcork.ie)

Associate Minister: Robert Ferris – 4516620 - [robert@cupcork.ie](mailto:robert@cupcork.ie)

Youth Workers: Matt & Katie Gould – 085-1080067 - [youth@cupcork.ie](mailto:youth@cupcork.ie)

WEBSITE: [www.cupcork.ie](http://www.cupcork.ie) & find us on Facebook!