

CARRIGROHANE UNION OF PARISHES



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

www.cupcork.ie
021-4877260

November 2020



This lovely photo says a lot about the parish's Carraig Centre! We can see comfy chairs of welcome – with careful Covid restriction signs! We can see an Alpha banner – inviting us to pause Netflix and try Alpha – to think about our faith in these times (all happening on-line)! We can see the new words of welcome above the main hall doors – ***'A place offering belonging, hope and God's Grace'***. We can see into the hall...to the area used by Enable Ireland every week-day...to the Adventurers' Harvest banner and the door to the playroom – used already by so many! Even though much activity is 'paused' – LOTS is still happening!

A place of offering belonging, hope and God's Grace

As you enter The Carraig Centre you see these words over the double doors into the main hall. Without doubt, that is what we have been seeing over the last months since we have been open.

The Enable Ireland folk who use our space daily have frequently told me that they are delighted to be here: indeed I was recently told that one of the young adult service users declined to go for his respite care to another location because he was so enjoying being with us here! Here they have community amongst themselves and interacting with our team, and they have access to the wider Ballincollig community as well.

The Carraig Centre is building a strong social media profile as well with over 300 people specifically following us due to the wide level of activities our users are/were offering; some of our posts are reaching 2500 people! Ranging from the Alpha Course on-line to children's art classes, drama and music, from Adult Education (literacy, computer skills, English language) to baby and toddler activities, and from Enable Ireland community hub to Slimming World - under normal conditions the place is/was buzzing!

Before the recent Level 5 restrictions, we have had a terrific team of volunteers working on Reception. That willing group (you know who you are!) was Mary Venables, Noreen McKeone, Mel Harris, Eleanor Hosford, Leigh Hudgens, Barry Brunt, Robert Devoy, Laurel Watts, Kathy Hohnbaum, Paula O'Callaghan, Theresa Cronin, Julie Oates, Sarah Kentish, Sarah Louise Hockey, and Carmel Walsh. Your help in getting TCC up and running has been invaluable, welcoming visitors, booking play-area slots, setting up signage, helping me with the organisation of opening up and closing down, cleaning schedules, extensive cleaning and tidying and setting up for the various user groups who were coming and going. We couldn't have done it without you and we really hope that when we are back to lower restriction levels and more normal functioning you will all come back to help again. I think this service has also built a sense of belonging, hope and connection to the parish as well. Anyone else who'd like to try Reception duties when we're back in action – please get in touch!

Of course there have been other people volunteering extensively in other TCC activities as well, ranging from the Carraig Centre Board of Directors, the TOG group (The Carraig Centre Operational Group), to the garden committee, planters, raised bed constructors, the prayer team who have outfitted the Prayer Space, and the kitchen planners and builders! Truly it takes a community to build a community!

Things have quietened down now under Level 5 restrictions, but Enable Ireland and the Cork Education and Training Board continue to offer their services. Robert Ferris, Matt Gould, Jaki Godfrey and I will be keeping the lights on, cleaning updated and the flag flying within the Centre while Jaki and Patsy will run the CUP office function from their homes. From time to time we may need to call on our wider team for a major clean up in TCC but for the moment we are keeping attendance to a minimum.

Bill Lane



the
**carraig
centre**
building hope together

From Robert...

Well folks – I don't know about you – but as news comes in I'm having to restrict my intake of it ... usually I like to be up to date with the latest happenings but there are times when there's just so much news, so much speculation and commentary as well as opinion pieces and the comments on the opinions that it can become overwhelming.

In this period over the next few weeks and months, there does seem to be a period of bearing with, hunkering down and simply being. This sheltering is both for our own good, and for the other as well. For some of us who are activists - we're not that good at doing this, but as is often said, this too will pass.

For others there is a call up to be active – and I know many people in this parish are having to go out and be in the frontline of the current crisis – I have spoken to doctors, nurses, shop workers, taxi drivers, meals on wheels volunteers, teachers, farmers, medical device installers and many others who are designated as essential workers. These people are going above and beyond the call of duty.

In the parish here, we are taking things day-by-day at the moment: forward planning is a step-by-step process!

It is my hope and prayer that we would use this time to think, to pray, to be kind to ourselves and to those around about us. Each of us, whether or not we are designated as such, are essential, loved, loving and precious brothers and sisters in Christ – we are sons and daughters of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Whatever else we may or may not be doing in these days – my prayer is that these days would not be wasted – that we would do what we can do – to develop our relationship with God, to serve him, to pray, to be kind to our neighbours.



STAY SAFE BE KIND

I find myself having to try to figure out what the priorities are for my day.

I wonder what they are for you?

Robert

It's lovely that Adventurers are thinking about Rainbow too! We have a WhatsApp group and have been sharing Rainbow pictures...and thinking of ways we can be the Rainbow in someone else's cloudy sky – with an act of kindness.

St Peter's Notes

A small working group from St Peter's reported back to the Vestry during the summer on a vision for the future of the congregation. Due to COVID the group had to meet by Zoom and carry out consultations with members of the congregation by electronic means. Arising from the process there was a real sense of excitement about the future for the congregation. This was reflected in the new Vision Statement *"St Peter's is a welcoming community that is centred on making the goodness of the life-giving God known to our faith family, neighbours and wider community."* Arising from this the group recommended a number of short term objectives including:

- 1) Further improvements to the building, graveyard and St Peter's field;
- 2) Developing a communications strategy for members and the wider community;
- 3) Implementing new ways of connecting with the local community;
- 4) Developing a stronger family focus in services;
- 5) Developing new leaders.

It has been encouraging to see some progress in some of these areas including the approval by the SV for a more eco-friendly way of managing the graveyard and the introduction of new signage. In order to see these recommendations fully implemented, it was recommended that a Development Group be set up under the Select Vestry. It is hoped that this group will be established once the vacancy is filled. If you would like to read an electronic copy of the report from the St Peter's working group please contact the parish office.

Ivan McMahon

Thank you George Quinn – for this prayer!



Staying in touch...

If anyone isn't receiving the weekly email update and would like to...

There's a link on the website...or email the office office@cupcork.ie!

If anyone has children who'd like to be on the kids' mailing list for occasional puzzle/news sheets and activities...

Please email the office as above...or text/call Patsy on 087 6413559!

Youth Update from Sarah Hockey

Although it's been frustrating having to pause a lot of our in-person youth activities, it's also an opportunity to continue to be creative in how we support and encourage each-other. Over the past little while our young people have been receiving care packs in the post. (Our local post office has been very busy!!)

As part of the packs, we've asked each member of "Glow" to decorate a puzzle piece to be part of a banner when we're able to gather again.

To our older groups, we've sent out "celebration balloons" as a reminder to keep on the lookout for things to celebrate and whenever they find something to blow up the balloon and take a picture of the scene.

I for one feel like I've spotted more rainbows in the past few months (prompted by the wonderful Adventurers!) than I've seen in my whole life. I'm sure there were always that many- I maybe just wasn't looking for them.

So, as we journey into the joys of November in level 5, we'd like to extend this Celebration Balloon challenge to the wider Parish to keep your eyes open too and send us any pictures of things you'd like us to join you in celebrating and to remind each other that God's fingerprints are everywhere, and he is still breathing life in the midst of trouble.

Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement,
God bless,

Sarah

P.S. I've sent packs to everyone I could find consent forms for (with the mailing permission section ticked) but If your children are of Glow or Glow MAX/Sunday PM age and haven't received a care pack but would like to please to contact Sarah (sarah@cupcork.ie)! I'm so sorry if I've missed anyone!



(Some example of things I found that were worth celebrating!)

Select Vestry

The newly elected Select Vestry met on Zoom on Monday 2 November – chaired by Dean Nigel Dunne. They received an update on things across the parish from Robert Ferris, and reports from Janice Healey Bird on finance, Bill Lane on The Carraig Centre finance, & Robert Devoy on property matters and The Carraig Centre Board.

Thanks (and congratulations!) to everyone for their willingness to engage 'remotely' in this way!

TCC Garden

For anyone too far away to see around the back of TCC – this was just the beginning of the flower bed work...they are now all completed, around the sides of the patio...and work has begun on a canopy cover for the patio space – so we can use it in all weathers! After Christmas – restrictions allowing – we'll need volunteer help to barrow soil into the beds for the garden team to begin the planting. The wood used is SO solid, the suggestion has been made that we call it 'The Ark'! When the canopy is up it may be even more suitable!



CHRISTMAS COVER COMPETITION

Calling all budding Picassos and Renoirs - get your crayons, paints, pencils, and pastels out - now is your chance to have your drawing or painting printed on the cover of the Gazette! We are excited to announce details of our first Christmas Cover Competition, open to children of primary school age across the island.

The competition will be judged by renowned Belfast based artist, Aly Harte, who will chose a winner and runner up.

The winner's illustration will appear on the December cover of the *Church of Ireland Gazette*, and they will also receive a prize of €100/£90, as well as €100/£90 for their parish. The runner up will receive €50/£45.

We hope to publish a selection of our favourite drawings in the December issue. All entries must be received by 12noon on Friday November 20 2020.

HOW TO ENTER:

Start with a portrait A4 page to suit cover layout (darker colours will reproduce clearer). Only one entry per person will be accepted.

Send a photo of your painting to christmascovergazette@gmail.com with:

1. Your name.
2. Age.
3. Name of your parish.
4. Title and medium of painting or drawing.
5. Contact email for your parent/ guardian.

We will accept work in any medium and it may be drawn or painted in pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, crayon, pastel, watercolour, gouache, acrylics, oils, poster colour or collage.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Format: Entries should be high-quality jpeg files.

File size: Each image should ideally be 1MB or larger and not smaller than 500KB. If you are sending it from a smartphone, please be sure to select "large size" or "original size" if prompted.

RULES:

1. The competition is open to children aged 12 years and under.
2. Entries must be submitted by a parent, guardian or adult over the age of 18 on the child's behalf.
3. All entries must include a valid email address of a parent, guardian or adult over the age of 18.
6. All entries must be sent via the electronic form provided, before 12noon on Friday November 20 2020.
7. The judges' decision is final and binding in all matters, and no correspondence will be entered into.
8. By entering the competition and submitting a picture, you hereby grant the *Church of Ireland Gazette* a licence to freely use that picture for the purpose of promoting the competition within the magazine and online, in printed and electronic formats.



This sample is portrait.



Ecclesiastical

The Christmas Cover Competition is kindly sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance.

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YEARS OF
GIVING

THANK YOU so much to everyone who contributed to the Harvest collection of goods for **CRITiCALL** – the new initiative with the Cork Volunteer Centre, partnering with Mothers' Union in the diocese and using The Carraig Centre as one of the drop off/collection points! Sadly, domestic violence has been called the '2nd pandemic'. Before Level 5 kicked in, everything we had accumulated was collected for distribution to the women & family refuges that are being helped throughout the county.

While this level of restriction exists...maybe some people may feel able to add one item to their shopping each week and collect them in a bag at home, ready to drop into The Carraig Centre when we're again able to organise a distribution?

General cleaning	Personal/Hygiene	Non Perishable food	Baby Items	Bedding (new)	Vouchers From...	Toys/craft	Clothing (new)
Cleaning spray	Handsoap	Tea/coffee	Baby powder	Single duvet	Tescos	Markers/crayons	Girls'/boys' pyjamas
Washing powder	Deodorant	Pasta/Rice/Cereal	Sudocream	Double duvet	Dunnes	Pens/pencils	Girls/boys clothes
Antibacterial wipes	Shower gel	Tinned goods	Baby wipes	Single sheets/covers	Penneys	Colouring book	Children's underwear/socks
Toilet roll	Tampons/towels	Soup/noodles	Nappies	Double sheets/covers	Aldi	Paper	Women's underwear/socks
Kitchen roll	Pantyliners	Biscuits/bars	Blanket	Pillow	Lidl	Toys	Women's Pyjamas
Tea towels	Toothpaste	Reusable bag	Babygrow/sleepsuit	Pillowcases	Easons		Adult/Children's coat
Tissues	Toothbrush		Calpol	Towel	Smyths		
	Facial cleansing wipes				Boots		
	Shampoo/conditioner						



#COMMUNITY
#RESPONSE
#TEAM
#CALL



volunteer centre
Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Corcaigh
CORK