



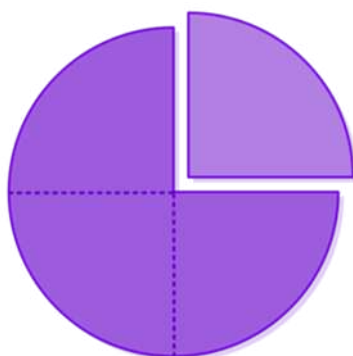
Kill O'The Grange Church of Ireland

Vol. 4 No. 1

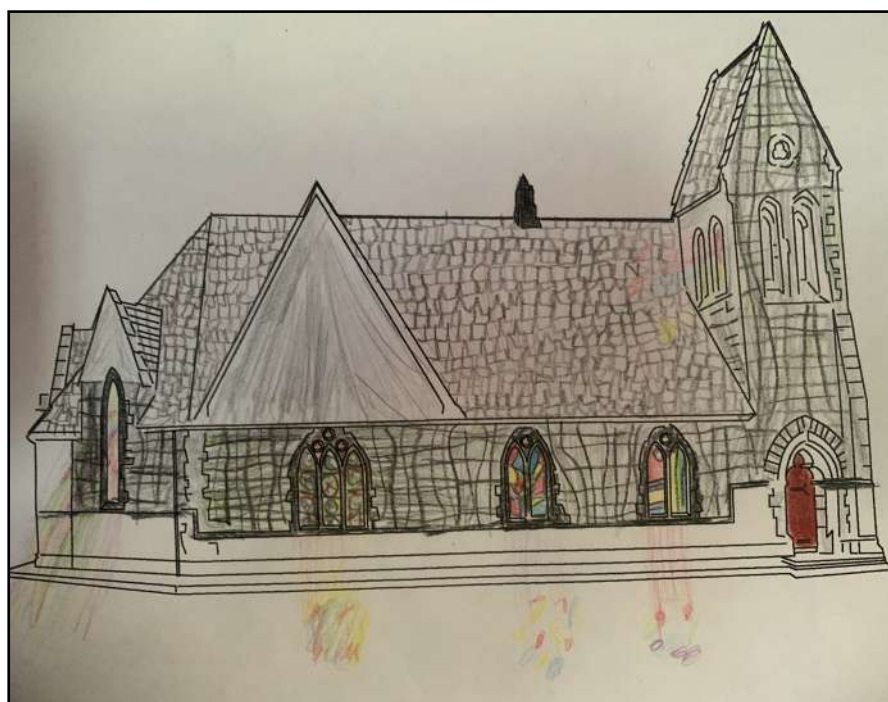
1ST QUARTER

JANUARY
TO
MARCH
2022

PARISH



NEWSLETTER



Artwork by:

**LIZZIE
CURRANS**

A pupil at
KOTG School

See page 6.

To Love and Serve the Lord

CHURCH SERVICES



PLEASE NOTE: Please read the information on page 4.
Online services continue on our website www.kotg.ie: choose
ONLINE SERVICES.

SUNDAYS

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (*Indoors*)

10.30 a.m. Outdoor Gathering (*Car park*)

ONLINE

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (*Online*)

10.30 a.m. Sunday Service (*Online*)

7.00 p.m. Evening Reflection (*Online*)

WEDNESDAYS

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (*Indoors*)

OTHER RESOURCES

- Tuesday evening Prayer Meeting (*via Zoom*)
- Moment of Prayer booklets
(*distributed by Bert Van Embden—see page 7*)

RECTOR'S LETTER

JANUARY-MARCH 2022



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. (John 1:6,7)

We live in a society where belief in leaders is low. Many people are cynical and have lost their faith in leadership, whether it be in government, church, education, hospitals, or in our homes. There can be no surprise in this, as the leadership many people have experienced has lacked honesty and integrity. We read in scripture about people called into leadership. Joseph, David, Moses, Joshua and Abraham to name but a few.

All these leaders failed at some stage in their life, but they all had one thing in common. They tried to put God first and they all directed the people around them to God. As they tried to model God's love and law to those surrounding them, people listened and changed the way they lived because of the love of God. What would our nation look like if our leaders all tried to model the love of God?

I'm an expert in rugby and football from a distance! When watching football or rugby, I know what move I'd make, but it's easy saying it (or shouting it!) from my chair. Modelling Jesus' ways is done not just with words but with actions too. As a church community we want people to know and experience the love of God. It should not just be a story read from scripture, or a prayer heard in church, but it should be experienced in how we treat those around us. We all can be the leaders that we need. We all can point people to God and lead other people well into a positive experience of who Jesus is through how we love those around us.

Blessings,

Alan

REVISED COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PARISH CHURCH AND OFFICE

**THESE ARRANGEMENTS APPLY FROM NOVEMBER 2021, AND WILL BE FOLLOWED
IN FUTURE MONTHS AS CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW.**

Online Services:

Our online services and daily devotionals will continue to be released on www.kotg.ie

Sunday Physical services:

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion in KOTG Parish Church

10.30 a.m. Outdoor Gathering in the church car park

No booking is needed for these services. At all services, please observe hand sanitizing and social distancing.

Wednesday Holy Communion:

We resumed these services in the church on 1st September. No booking is needed. They take place every Wednesday morning at 10.30 a.m. Please observe the wearing of masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing.

Friday Coffee:

Coffee is served at 10.30 a.m. each Friday in KOTG Parish Centre.

Parish Office:

The Parish Office is open each weekday morning.

Private Prayer in Church:

The Parish Church is open on Thursday mornings from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. No booking is needed.

Parish Prayer Meeting Online:

The Parish Prayer on Zoom resumed on Tuesday 7th September. It will be held on Tuesday evenings, from 7.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Please contact the Parish Office for a link to these sessions.

Do You Need Help?

There are volunteers within our Parish that are available and keen to help anyone with shopping or other tasks while COVID-19 is so active in our community. Please contact the Parish Office at office@kotg.ie if you know of anyone who might need this help.



BAPTISM:

7th November 2021 Sophie Shepherd, daughter of David and Hilda Shepherd.

We are delighted to welcome Sophie into the family of Christ's Church.

FUNERALS:

* 4th November 2021 Violet Walker, *née* Moran (Died 31st October 2021.)

We extend our deepest sympathies to Violet's husband Paddy, her son Alan and her daughters Denise and Audrey, and to all her family and friends.

* 19th November 2021 Blair Halliday (Died 16th November 2021.)

Blair was a long standing and highly respected parishioner at Kill O'The Grange Parish Church and when living in the local area, he and his late wife Florence made newcomers to the parish feel most welcome.

He was involved in church life for many years through his duties as a Lay Reader. Blair will be dearly missed by his family - son Graham and daughter-in-law, Joanne; grandchildren, Aimee and Clara along with a wide circle of relatives, friends and neighbours.

* 16th December 2021 Pamela {Pam} McCarthy, *née* Harris (Died 13th December 2021.)

Our deepest sympathies go to Pamela's sons Raymond and Nigel, to her daughter Gillian, and to all her relatives and friends.

* 28th December 2021 Olive Packham, *née* Orr (Died 20th December 2021 in her 97th year.)

We extend our deepest sympathies to Olive's children Cedric, Deirdre, David, Ruth and Rosalind, and to all her relatives and friends. Olive was the wife of the late Canon Herbert Packham. The funeral was held at Christ Church, Bray.

[* Private funerals for family and friends only, owing to present circumstances.]

Daily Bible reading notes for 2022



If you would like to obtain NEW DAYLIGHT and / or GUIDELINES, published by the Bible Reading Fellowship, for 2022, copies may be purchased from Footprints, 72 Convent Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. A96 V1K2
Tel.: (01) 663 8773.

'Living History, Living Faith' project by 4th Class Kill o the Grange National School

The artwork by the children included pictures of the church created by the children . Three were selected as the best of an excellent selection—by Amy Bewley, Lizzie Curran and Chloe Youngman, . These will be featured on the cover page of three issues of the Parish Newsletter.: Chloe's was shown in the previous Newsletter. This time we show Lizzie's artwork. The next Newsletter will feature Amy's painting.

THE STOREHOUSE COLLECTION

The Storehouse would normally welcome donations of food items at this time of year. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions this year, should you wish to donate, they would very much welcome a Lidl voucher of any denomination you wish. These vouchers can then be put to good use purchasing required items. You can drop vouchers into the Parish Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Averil Brennan.



CHURCH REVIEW AND CHURCH OF IRELAND GAZETTE

The *Church Review* and *Church of Ireland Gazette* will be available to collect on the first Thursday of the month when the Church is open for private prayer. If you are unable to collect, the office team will ensure you receive delivery of your magazine.

If you have a subscription to either magazine, or would like to subscribe or renew for 2022, please contact the Parish Office. [Contact details on page 31.] They will advise you of the cost.

Church Review: 11 issues, including combined issue for July/August.

Church of Ireland Gazette: 10 issues, including combined issues for December/January and July/August.

PLEASE NOTE!

While the COVID-19 pandemic remains with us:

Special services, e.g. Evening Service, have been prepared by Bert Van Embden, and are distributed in booklet form. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact the Parish Office at office@kotg.ie or leave a voicemail on the Parish Office phone which is checked on an *ad hoc* basis during the current restrictions.

PASTORAL VISITS

Pastoral visits at bedsides, in homes, in nursing homes and hospitals are taking place by 'phone call instead of through personal visits during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you know of anyone who would like to be contacted by 'phone, please use the numbers below.

If you know of anyone who would like a pastoral visit, please contact us by 'phone or e-mail (details below.) The Rector and Bert Van Embden will follow up on all requests received.

Bert Van Embden – Lay Pastoral Worker

Tel. (Mobile): (087) 063 8772

Tel.: (Parish Office): 289 6442 E-mail: office@kotg.ie

THANK YOU—FROM OLIVE COMBE AND THE COMBE FAMILY

Olive and family would like to thank everyone for their sympathies following Edmund's passing. The family appreciates all emotional, spiritual and practical help offered by friends in the parish. It has been a great support in this sad time.

Pause for Thought

**“Faithless prayer is religious superstition...
and prayerless faith is religious hypocrisy.”**

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

Please note that all children and teens must have fully completed a consent form in order to attend their respective group. Kill O'The Grange fully complies with the Church of Ireland's **Safeguarding Trust Policy** for the protection of children and young people under 18 in our care. Details are available on our website and upon request.



SOME IMPORTANT CHRISTIAN EVENTS: JANUARY TO MARCH

January

6th January: The Epiphany

Collect: O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



18th –25th January: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Collect: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles, Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you: look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church, and grant it the peace and unity of your kingdom; where you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit; one God, now and for ever.



Churches
in Ireland
Connecting
in Christ

February

1st February: Saint Brigid's Day:

Collect: Father, by the leadership of your blessed servant Brigid you strengthened the Church in this land: As we give you thanks for her life of devoted service, inspire us with new life and light; and give us perseverance to serve you all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



March

Lent: Ash Wednesday 2nd March:

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

17th March: Saint Patrick's Day:

Collect: Almighty God, in your providence you chose your servant Patrick to be the apostle of the Irish people, to bring those who were wandering in darkness and error to the true light and knowledge of your Word; Grant that walking in that light we may come at last to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Note:

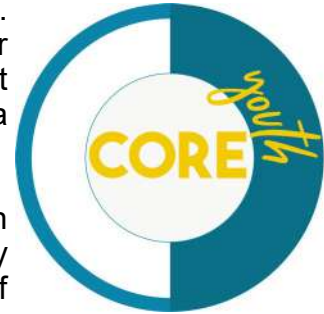
- Collects are taken from the Book of Common Prayer.
- The image of the young Patrick with his wrists bound in captivity is taken from a postage stamp issued by An Post in 2016 for Saint Patrick's Day. The artist is John Kindness.



Youth Clubs

The last month here at KOTG youth has been an exciting time. Our youth group has been going strong off the back of our weekend away in late November. We were blessed with great weather and loads of time to hangout and reconnect as a group.

We were also happy to get our nine 2020 group of Confirmation candidates confirmed last month in Christ Church Cathedral by the Archbishop of Dublin on 9th November. With the chaos of COVID-19 it was a long time coming, and we would like to say a huge thank you to the Archbishop and his staff for a great service.



**The Confirmation candidates in Christ Church Cathedral,
with the Archbishop of Dublin, the Rector and Johnno.**

We are now all looking forward to some rest over the Christmas period before we get back to school and life in the New Year.

*Jonathan Byford
Youth Pastor
Tel.: (089) 436 2287*



Children's Ministry

Kids' Club has been resuming online for the past month. While missing being in person together, we have been able to have lots of fun with our time together through Zoom. We finished off for the Christmas break with a little party through Zoom where we enjoyed some games, activities and some treats to go along with it. We look forward to being back together in the new year.

Maxpack has been continuing to meet twice a month. We have been looking at the theme of "Interactions with Jesus" and enjoying all the discussion around that. As per usual we have had lots of fun with our array of potted sports throughout the evening.

We hosted "An Advent Messy Church", organized by the Messy Church Team of Hilda, Sonya and Seb. Many families met up to collect their goodie bags filled with materials for the activities and a few treats to keep the energy up. We focused on the joy, happiness and giving that we can find in Advent as we prepare for Christmas by making our own Advent Calendars to give onto others.

We have had a lot of fun in the run-up to Christmas and can't wait to meet together once more after the Christmas break. We hope you enjoy your Christmas and Happy New Year!

Seb Dungan
Children's and Family Worker
Tel.: (089) 472 3063
E-mail: children@kotg.ie

SUNDAY CLUB

Maxpack

GRECHE

MESSY Church

Church Bulletins—Not Always Free From Error...

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children. The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow..
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon. This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM .. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
And this one just about sums them all up:
- From 2 Timothy 1:10—"...who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel..." [Spotted on a KOTG service sheet some years ago]

Most of these gems were supplied by the Rev. Geoff Hill.

KIDS' PAGE

Here are some of God's wonderful promises in the Bible. Make them your New Year's Resolution in 2022!



Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever.
Psalm 107:1



FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN.
MATTHEW 4:19



We love because He first loved us.
1 John 4:19



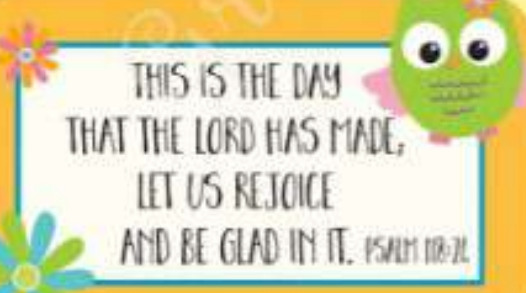
You are fearfully and wonderfully made.
Psalm 139:14



He has made everything beautiful in His time.
Ecclesiastes 3:11



Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God.
Isaiah 41:10



THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE, LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.
PSALM 118:24



WE WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT.
2 CORINTHIANS 5:7



Parish Prayer Diary 2022

1st—8th January

Psalm 90 v 2: "From everlasting to everlasting You are God"

As we embark on a new year we look to God who goes before us and commit our way to Him this year.

9th—15th January

We will use the fruits of the spirit listed in Galatians 5 v 22 and 23 as we pray over these next months. This week we focus on love and remember "We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4 v 19). We ask God to assure us of His great love as we reach out in love to those around us.

16th—22nd January

Joy: May we have God's joy no matter what our circumstances are this week. Lord, help us to search after Your joy and may it be evident to those around us and within our church community.

23rd—29th January

Peace: We pray this week for places of conflict across our world, praying for God's peace to prevail. We ask during anxious times this winter for God's peace to fill us.

30th January—5th February

We pause to remember and commit Gill and Carlos Olaaka and family to God's provision and strength and pray for the work of Abaana in Uganda with vulnerable children, praying for God's special blessing on this ministry.

6th—12th February

Patience: Lord, forgive us for our impatience, when we expect things to happen instantly. We pray for Your patience to teach us to wait and trust in You.

13th—19th February

Kindness: Lord, we think of those who need a kind word or action this week. We pray for anyone who is suffering, due to illness, bereavement, isolation, hard times. May we be the answer to our prayers as You lead us to reach out and show kindness in Your name.

The rota of prayers for Parishioners is on page 16.

Parish Prayer Diary 2022



20th—26th February

Goodness: We focus this week on God's goodness and sinlessness. We confess where we fall short. Thank You that You are a good Father, accepting us in our brokenness.

27th February—5th March

We pause again as lent begins this week and as we begin to especially consider Jesus' sacrifice for us. Lord, prepare our hearts, despite everything around us, to make time to praise You, listen to Your voice leading us and examine our hearts before You.

6th—12th March

Faithfulness: We think of this quality and remember those known to us who have been faithful examples of followers of Jesus. May their lives inspire us and we thank God for them now.

13th—19th March

Gentleness: We pray for our church community. For this fruit of the spirit to be evident in how we treat each other and others who are part of the wider community at Deansgrange. We pray for God's gentleness to be in our speech and actions and to bring a deep unity.

20th—26th March

Self control: we think of our actions and their implications in terms of how we talk, treat others and our environment. We pray for self control, that we would be sensitive to the Holy Spirit leading us not to follow the world's ways, but Jesus' ways.

27th—31st March

We commit Alan and his family and all our staff team at Kill O'The Grange : Bert, John, Seb, Caroline and Jane. We thank God for each one, praying for them and for God to equip them for their specific roles and bless them in their work for Him!

Many thanks to **Hilda Shepherd**, who has written this Prayer Diary.

Prayer Diary

January—March 2022

Pray for:

Eddie and Muriel Ahern; Brenda and Herbert Alexander; Lynn Alexander, Jamie, Joey and Molly Madigan; Omar Al-Kaisy; Audrey Al-Kaisy; Heather Andrew; Ben Andrew; Bruce Andrew; Phyllis Atkinson; Arthur and Maureen Austen; Jonah Bailey; Keith and; Rosemary Bailey; Zara Bailey; Nigel and Bairbre Ruth Ballantine, and Charlotte; Joy Barratt; Terry and Barbara Barrett; Jane Barrett.

Arthur and Gillian Barton; Glenys Bateman; John and Jane Bateson; Hannah Bateson; Ken Bateson; Greg Bateson; Lara Bateson; Albert and Veronica Beattie; Nigel and Edel Bell, Lucy and Edward; Katie Bell; Ron and Annette Black; Penny Bleakley and Graham Fogarty; Cameron and Irene Boardman, Joel and Ross; Doreen Joyce Bowmer; Nicola Boyle, Daragh and Beth.

Tony Bradley, and Jamie; Aodhan and Lorna Breen; Alan and Ruth Breen, Naomi and Andrew; Averil Brennan; Jean Brook; Geraldine Burke; Matthew Burke; Margaret Buttanshaw; Jonathan and Jennie Byford; Suzette Byrne; June Campbell; Leanne Campbell; Anastasios and Sharon Carlyle; George and Norah Castle; Clive and Sandra Chapple; Muriel Chapple.

Heather E. Checkett; Max Ryan Checkett; Gerry and Emma Jane Clabby, Hannah and Daniel; Dave and Mya Clarke, Taedhg, Levi and Isaac; Helen Collins; Olive Combe; Pat and Johanna Connolly, Ellen, Lauren and Eavan; Andrew and Grace Cooke, and Josh; Joe and Audrey Cooke; Ivan Cooke; Ross Cooke; Alan and Geraldine Cooper; Blanche Cooper; Ronnie and; Olive Cotter; Helen Court; Marjorie Cox; Nicola Cummins.

A PRAYER FOR OUR FRIENDS IN SOUTH SUDAN

We remember in our prayers Bishop Levi as he takes up the challenging task of leading the Lord's people in Yei. We pray for his wife, Mama Agnes.

We pray also for his predecessor Bishop Hilary and his wife Mama Joyce, good friends in Jesus Christ, as they enjoy a well-earned and peaceful retirement.

Lastly and by no means least, we pray for the Rev. Cosmas Gwagwe, currently in Uganda, and all his family, at a time of considerable unrest and disruption.

On a Lighter Note ...



A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of Morrisons store.

As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, "Son, can you tell me where the Post Office is?"

The little boy replied, "Sure! Just go straight down this street and at the end turn to your right."

The man thanked the boy kindly and said, "I'm the new minister in town. I'd like for you to come to church on Sunday. I'll show you how to get to Heaven."

The little boy replied with a chuckle. "Awww, come on... You don't even know the way to the Post Office."



**FROM
GILL AND
CARLOS OLAACA
IN UGANDA**

December 2021

Dear KOTG family,

Hello to the KOTG family, and we do hope you had a wonderful Christmas season and wish you every blessing for the year ahead. Who knows what will be in store, but we can be assured that God will be present in every situation. I saw something recently that people are dreading that 2022 will be 2020 – 2 (2020, part two!), but we do pray there will be less of the stress, isolation, testing, distancing, worrying, wishing and, of course, home-schooling, than the last couple of years. To be overwhelmed with ‘COVID-fatigue’ is all too understandable; choosing to count our blessings, and focus on doing our best in what we can control, while praying that God helps us with everything else, seems to be the best way, though of course, this can be easier said than done. At Abaana, we had a prayer day at the end of December as we closed our year, as is our habit, and we truly were able to testify about God’s goodness in many ways, despite many difficult days. I do hope and pray your reflections can also be similarly positive, whilst acknowledging the very real challenges we have all faced.

With schools still closed in the last quarter of the year, Abaana staff has been distributing learning materials and textbooks for home study, with teachers marking the work through children bringing books to the school site. Teachers have also been carrying out home visits in the communities. We have also been blessed to distribute various gifts to children, including blankets, saucepans for the family, schoolbags, a basin, a game and food, the latter being for Christmas. It has continued to be an outstanding achievement that the staff team has managed to deliver these items to over 2,000 children living across the east, north and central part of the country, hundreds of miles away from the Abaana office.

We did receive good news on 16th December that schools plan to open on 10th January 2022 for all classes. They closed fully on 20th March 2020, with just some classes in and out for short periods from November 2020 to June 2021, then all schools closed for the rest of that year. With children aged 4 – 10 approximately (up until primary 3) not having any classroom time for 21 months, it is quite daunting to think of what the teachers will face in terms of trying to help children catch up and reintegrate into formal education again. Unofficial reports predict that up to 30% of children may not return to school at all; some being younger ones, but many older, being those who have started to work and don’t see the value of education anymore, and unfortunately, many teenage pregnancies means thousands of young girls will struggle to go back to school. Vaccination has focused on teachers, though it is still below the expected

From Gill and Carlos Olaaka in Uganda *[Continued from previous page]*

numbers, and so there is fear that opening of schools will result in mass cases. Our prayer is that even if this is so, it is a milder form that can mean our hospitals can manage the patients. Our numbers have only ever reached just over 1,000 a day, and for a short time, so for whatever reason, Uganda seems not to have faced the worst of the pandemic, and we pray this remains (total recorded cases are nearly 130,000, with 3,300 deaths, which out of a population of 45 million is mercifully low).

At New Life Homes, we have been fortunate to have time to do some great activities to supplement the home-schooling going on (two teachers have been coming to teach the boys in phonics and other school subjects). Two different specialist organizations have been coming to do Christian-focused counselling and Bible study, and it has been so useful to help the children discover more about their identity as God's children. We also had the great news that one of our university graduands, Emmanuel, whom I shared about previously, won a scholarship to do a Masters in South Africa, under the Nelson Mandela Rhodes scheme for young leaders. We are so thrilled for Emma, whose life journey is truly amazing, from being a young, bitter boy who ran away from home and survived on the streets, to a mature believer in Christ who is now passionate about peace and reconciliation.

As I am writing this in December, we are looking forward to spending Christmas with close family friends here, for whom our children count each other as 'cousins'. It has been a busy season since Gill's return from Ireland in late August, so it will be good to rest and enjoy time at home. For us, even though schools will open in January, we will continue having our teacher Josephine come to teach the boys at home until June; it is working very well, for now, and it is a more affordable and stable option for now, with some uncertainty still about what may happen next year when schools do reopen.

We do wish you all the very best and thank you once again for your love and prayers, and also for Mum and Dad, being very grateful once again for our August visit.

Love,

Carlos, Gill, Josiah and Judah

Continued on next page.

From Gill and Carlos Olaaka in Uganda

[Continued from previous page]

Please pray:

- For the school reopening process to be smooth, safe and well organized, for children to desire to go back to school, and for parents to be able to find the school fees necessary.
- For our cases to remain low even with school reopening, and for a step-up in vaccinations (less than 3% of the population is fully vaccinated, so boosters are a far off programme for now)
- For continued strength, energy and wisdom for Gill and the Abaana team as we try to support our vulnerable children and families whatever comes our way this coming year.



Christmas tree 2015

Carlos with Judah, then 2 (on Carlos's shoulders) and Josiah, then 4



Christmas tree 2021

Carlos with Josiah, now 10 (on Carlos's shoulders) and Judah now 8

The boys have changed positions since 2015!

Continued on next page.

From Gill and Carlos Olaaka in Uganda

[Continued from previous page]



Home visit to give out gifts of blanket and saucepans



Choir child with Christmas gifts



Home schooling at NLH - phonics lessons



NLH boys drawing umbrella of care

[Photos in this article: Gill Olaaka]

South Sudan News:



Yei Diocese

After a serious hiatus in building, the roofing is now complete at three new classrooms for Immanuel Model Secondary School, Yei. This project was started before 2016 and was halted by the recurrence of fighting at the end of that year. We are thankful that the situation has settled enough in Yei for this building to be now almost complete. Bishop Levi tells us that he hopes that students will be able to use the classrooms in the new year.



Students at YVTC have recently been completing their final tests. Soon the graduation of the full year of students will take place - over a hundred young people equipped to start work with practical skills. CMSI was delighted to send funds for each young person to have a toolkit to start off their working life – these range from sewing machines to drivers' licenses!

During his visit to refugee camps near Arua in November, Bishop Levi was also able to visit Bishop Allison Theological College for the graduation of a further cohort of students who will go back to camps or to Yei to serve the Church in ministry. In the recent *inMission* publication you can see the efforts Bishop Levi has been making to provide clergy for the rural areas of the diocese. Many of these areas have had no pastor since so many fled the fighting in 2016. Please pray for the graduating students of both YVTC and BATC, and for the new clergy posted to rural areas.

patrick—patron saint of ireland

Ireland celebrates Saint Patrick every year on 17th March in various ways, sacred and secular—Prayers and Parades come to mind. However what do we really know about him?

Firstly there are many myths about him that have no backing in the records we have of his life. So we cannot claim that he banished snakes from Ireland, nor that he used the shamrock as an explanation of the Holy Trinity.

There is no certainty about the dates of his birth or his death. Traditionally he is said to have been born in about A.D. 385, and to have died at Saul in the year 461 on 17th March. The best we can do is to place him in the fifth century.

Patrick wasn't even Irish! He was born in Romano-Celtic Britain, perhaps around the time the European tribes of the Angles and Saxons first came to Britain and in the course of time gave rise to the English.

What can we say about Patrick for certain? We are fortunate that he left us two of his writings. The best known is his *Confessio*, written in Late or Vulgar Latin. He gives his name as Patricius. He says that his father was a Romano-British deacon named Calpornius, and son of a presbyter Potitus. His father came from a village called Bannaventa Berniae where he had a country residence. Scholars have been unable to identify the location, except to speculate that it could have been in northern England or Wales.

In his *Confessio*, Patrick tells us that “I am Patrick, a sinner, the most rustic, the least of all the faithful and the most contemptible in the eyes of many.” He describes how he was taken captive by pirates when he was about sixteen, and taken to their home country of Ireland. At that time he states that he did not know the true God, through having turned away from Him and having ignored the teachings of the Church.

The *Confessio* is a remarkable testimony of a Christian through his spiritual struggles and physical hardships. It is liberally sprinkled with quotations from the Bible, and is a testimony to a very honest and humble man. Several years later he returned home to his parents. They pleaded with him to stay, but then in a vision he saw a man from Ireland called Victoricus. He handed Patrick a number of letters, and then Patrick heard a chorus of voices calling: “We beg you, holy boy, to come and walk again among us.” His impact on the Irish people of his time was profound, and so he obeyed the call to return to Ireland.

In the *Confessio*, Patrick describes his ordination to Christian ministry, and eventually his consecration as Bishop.

patrick—patron saint of ireland (continued)

The Church of Ireland and the Roman Catholic Church both acknowledge Patrick as the first Bishop of Armagh. The National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland in Dublin is dedicated to Saint Patrick. There is dispute as to where he is buried: one reputed location is Down Cathedral (Church of Ireland.)

In the current Church of Ireland Hymnal is Saint Patrick's Breastplate (Hymn 322), attributed to Patrick:

*I bind unto myself today
The strong name of the Trinity*

The other writing we have of Patrick is his Letter to Coroticus.

Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday 2nd March. For your Lenten reading, why not consider Saint Patrick's *Confessio*? It is available in a book, *Patrick in his Own Words* by Joseph Duffy, giving the text in English and Irish as well as in the original Latin. It may be purchased from the publisher Veritas.

Note:

One of the sources of the *Confessio* is found in the Book of Armagh, housed in the library of Trinity College Dublin.

Saint Patrick's Bell Shrine

[National Museum of
Ireland]



Our Mission Contacts

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PARISH NEWSLETTER:

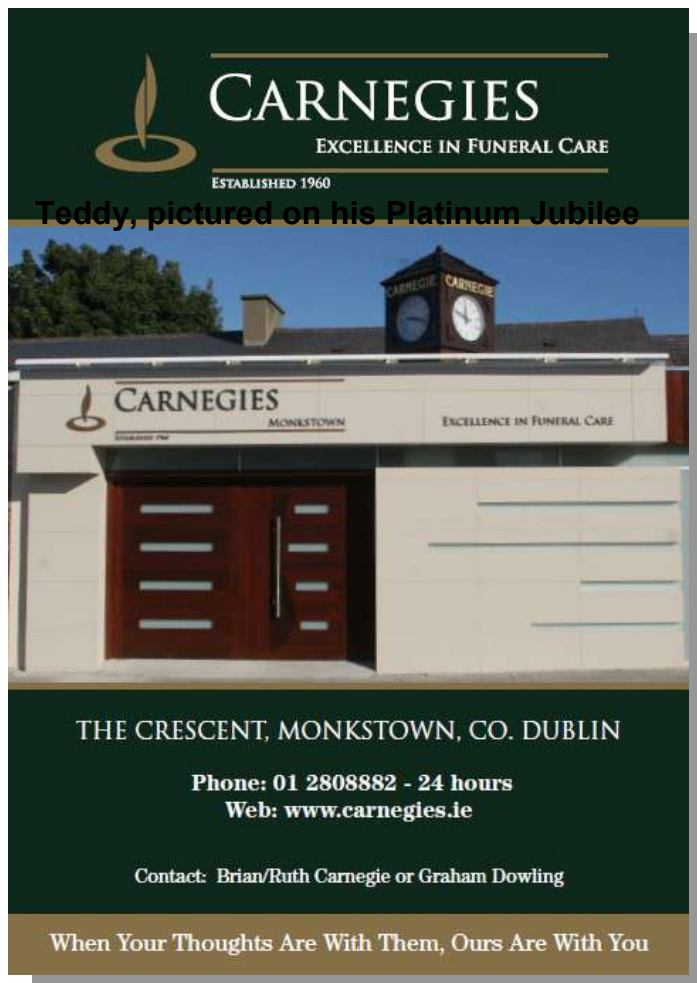
**THE NEXT ISSUE— APRIL TO JUNE 2022 –WILL BE
PUBLISHED IN APRIL**


FOR THIS, CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE SENT

NOT LATER THAN 15th MARCH 2022


TO JAMES DARLING BY E-MAIL:

nletter@kotg.ie



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When Your Thoughts Are With Them, Ours Are With You

Church Activities

	Contact / E-mail:
Choir:	<i>Vacant</i>
Church Flowers:	<i>Vacant</i>
Church Music Group:	Diane Faulkner
Growing Groups: <i>(Fortnightly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays, usually 2nd & 4th weeks of month)</i>	Parish Office office@kotg.ie
Parish Visiting:	The Rev. Alan Breen rector@kotg.ie Bert Van Embden lpw@kotg.ie
Prayer Chain: <i>(Home based)</i>	Blanche Cooper
Prayer Meeting: <i>(Every Tuesday at 7.00 p.m. via Zoom)</i>	Parish Office office@kotg.ie
Young at Hearts: <i>(Paused at present)</i>	Rosemary Knight
YOUTH GROUPS:	
Girls' Brigade: (Age 3 – 18) <i>Online until further notice</i>	Clare O'Kennedy (Captain)
CORE Youth: (1 st – 6 th year) <i>Saturdays, 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.</i>	Jonathan Byford youth@kotg.ie
Maxpack: (5 th & 6 th class) <i>Every 2nd Friday, 7.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.</i>	Seb Dungan children@kotg.ie
Kids' Club: (Age 4—3 rd year secondary school) <i>Weekly via Zoom</i>	Seb Dungan children@kotg.ie
GAMES & SPORTING:	
Parish Bowling Club: <i>Monday/Thursday, 7.15 p.m. – 9.15 p.m. (September/May)</i>	Ruth Mann
Clonkeen Bowling Club: <i>Tuesdays. 8.30 p.m. – 10.30 p.m. (September/May)</i>	John Toomy

Please contact the Parish Office (office@kotg.ie) if you would like to get in touch with anyone listed above or on the following page.

KILL O'THE GRANGE PARISH DIRECTORY

E-mail

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Rector's Churchwarden:	John Riseley	
People's Churchwarden:	Aideen LaCombre	
Rector's Glebewarden:	Bruce Johnson	
People's Glebewarden:	Mark Faulkner	
Hon. Secretary, Select Vestry:	Keith Syms	
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<i>Church Review:</i>	Parish Office	office@kotg.ie
<i>Church of Ireland Gazette:</i>	Parish Office	office@kotg.ie
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School Principal:	Hilary McBain	
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Parish Centre Committee:	<i>Vacant</i>	
Administrator-Repairs & Maintenance:	Derek Scott	
Parish Safety Officer:	Brian Lambert	
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Distribution:	Parish Office	office@kotg.ie

Parish Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

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COVID-19 Update

For the latest information from the Government, please check regularly:

- Newspapers
- RTÉ radio and television broadcasts
- The Internet: search for “Irish Government / COVID-19” - www.gov.ie



For Kill O’The Grange Parish, please check regularly:

- Our website: www.kotg.ie
- E-mails from the Parish Office (Ask to receive these if you are not already getting them)

Keep safe and well!