

Parishes of Donabate and Lusk with Swords Clonmethan & Kilsallaghan Newsletter May 2024

Nursing Home Ministry Report

“Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.” Proverbs 16:31

David Snow writes: “In July last year, Reverend Neal Phair asked me to visit a Parishioner within Care Choice Nursing Home, Swords, Co. Dublin. This was my first time in a Nursing Home, I was not sure what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised with the genuine care of the staff afforded to the residents. Over the next few months, I visited our Parishioner and got to know a few of the staff.



Little did I know that my own Mother Mary, would take ill in September and require admittance to a Nursing Home. After her stay in Hospital, I called on Care Choice Swords and since September, they have been taking excellent care of my Mum.

Whilst there I got to know one of the residents, a good Christian man, Sean Galavan who prays for the residents and supports them as best as possible. We had a conversation and decided to offer an Ecumenical Service of Worship and thanksgiving in the Nursing Home on a Saturday morning.

Management backed us and our first service commenced in November. Initially we only had a handful of residents attend, however this has grown to 20 plus residents.

On Easter Saturday, we were joined by Reverend Yvonne Ginnelly, seen below with myself. We provided an Ecumenical Service including the Eucharist. Once again the Service was well attended by over twenty Residents and staff who assisted us with the Service. Everyone took Holy Communion and the Service was a great success with Hymns, great singing, prayers and Bible readings.

One of the Residents suggested we should pray for everyone who does not have anyone to pray for them, a truly inspirational and thought-provoking lady of 90+ years. A great example of the Holy Spirit working its way through an individual.

The experience for me a Lay Parish Reader in training for Diocesan Lay Reader has been one of great education. I am so fortunate to provide Services of the Word and Ecumenical Services to the residents and staff who have been so supportive. We may not have a Church building, but the Church is the people who attend on the Saturday morning and enjoy the word of the Good News that is the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Nursing Home Ministry Report continued

I have also had the honour of Ministering to some of them as they prepare for their final journey and also being with them and their family during this difficult time. This has been personally challenging as it's impossible not to feel emotionally attached. But I use the word honour, as it is indeed an honour to pray and share their remaining time with them, before they return to the Lord.

I would encourage all fellow Lay Ministers, Readers and Locally Ordained Ministers to visit your local Nursing Home, to share the Gospel and to pray with the residents. In the giving of my time, I have received so much and have been truly educated by my experiences from the people whom I have met.

We enter this world with nothing and we leave with nothing. That is not exactly true, as we leave with the love we have shared with our family and friends. It is true what they say... love never dies."

"This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you." John 15:12

Contributions to Saint Columba's Church Funds Requested

Thank you for supporting the work of our church by making a regular contribution to church funds.

Payments can be made direct to the bank.

AIB, Dame Street, Dublin 2
Sort code: 93 12 25
Account number: 40842093

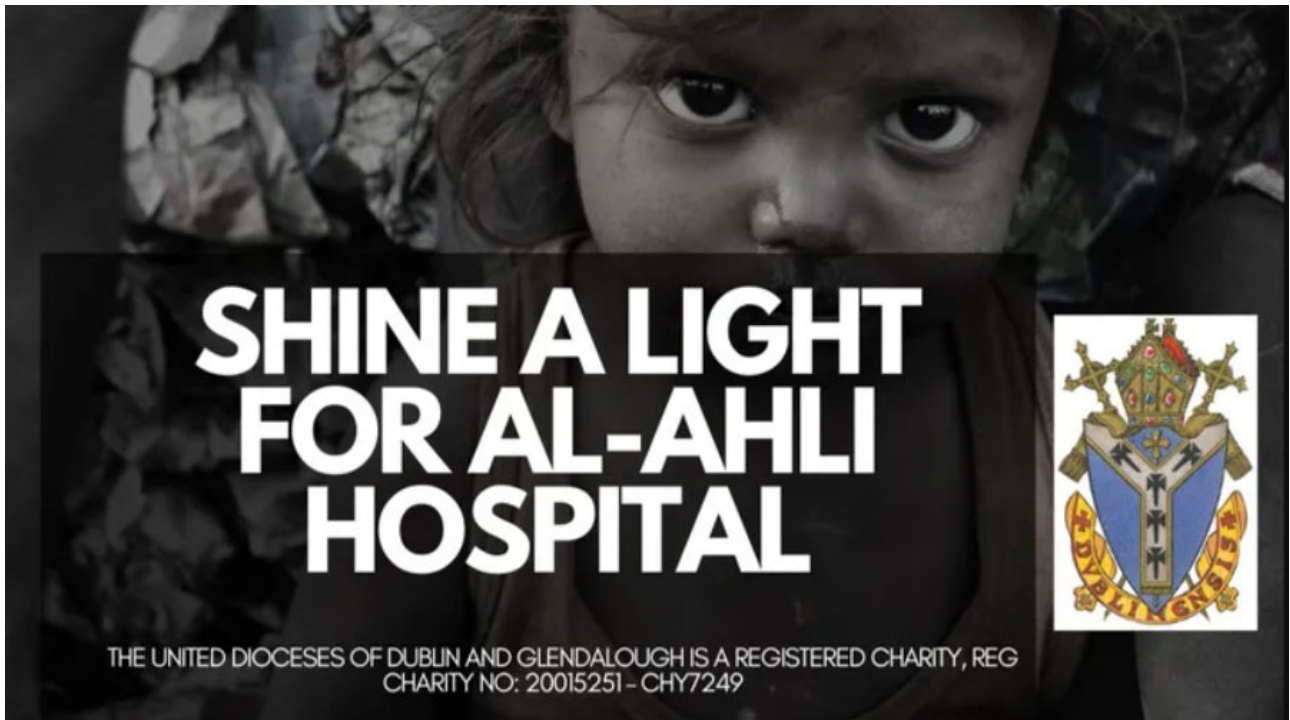
BIC: AIBKIE2D
IBAN: IE59 AIBK 93122540842093

Account name: Parish of Swords, Clonmethan and Kilsallaghan.

If you already make a regular contribution, thank you! Please contact Eric Wolfe, the Hon. Treasurer, on 086 179 8747 to obtain a tax rebate form, which means the parish will receive the tax back on any donation you make over €250 a year, at no extra cost to you.

Understatement of the century: Your support is greatly appreciated.

Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza



Dublin and Glendalough diocese writes: “Dublin and Glendalough diocese is running a Shine a Light appeal for Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City.

The hospital is the only Christian hospital in the Gaza Strip (looking after people of all faiths and none) and Gaza's only cancer hospital.

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated to collections in support of this worthy cause so far.

Every Euro makes a difference and every cent donated will go directly to our partners in the The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem which owns and runs Al Ahli Hospital.

How the funds raise by the Shine a Light appeal will be used:

First, the solar panels Dublin and Glendalough provided almost 10 years ago are now almost non-operational. We plan to repair and replace them as needed. These will enable a continuity of energy supply when there is no public electricity supply.

Secondly, before the war the Diocese of Jerusalem was planning to expand its Cancer Centre at the hospital. The Centre, as with the majority of hospitals in Gaza, no longer functions as a result of the war. This too we urgently want to help to repair.

Thirdly, the diocese was poised to locate an outreach operation of its rehabilitation facility, the Princess Basma Centre in the Mount of Olives, in the Al Ahli Hospital just as the war started.

The sensitive treatment and rehabilitation of children, both physically and psychologically, will be essential and will require substantial investment. Funds put aside by the diocese for this purpose will now need to be enhanced by donations, given the huge increase in need expected.

Full details at www.gofundme.com/f/shine-a-light-for-al-ahli-hospital-40x40-appeal

Thank you.”

Heavy Shopping

I got a call the other day from my lodger, Geno. He asked me to meet him at the train station as he had some unusually heavy shopping and, since he has only a bike, he was sorry to bother me but he'd appreciate a lift home with it. I said sure and showed up at the train station to find Geno, his bike, and a massive 80 kilo barbell. That's about thirteen stone in old money. I did what I could to help him heave this barbell into the boot of the car and stared at it in disbelief at the sheer heft of the thing. Weight lifting equipment, like most keep fit gear, is not something I come across much in my day to day life, as my idea of extreme exercise is stretching across the cat to grab the remote.

Geno said he'd cycle home and if I got there before him, not to take the barbell out of the car without him (not that there was much chance of that) in case I hurt my back.

I was amazed he'd managed to get this huge barbell from the shop he'd bought it in to the nearest railway station. I asked him how he did it.

He said, "Charisma."

Geno is a teenage Ukrainian refugee. He lives in the spare room of my house. He manages his own affairs including getting groceries and cooking. He spends most of his time studying for his degree, working out with heavy weights (apparently), and video calling his friends and family, who like him have been scattered across Europe by the war in Ukraine.

He's been living in the same house as me for six months and to be honest, half the time I barely notice he's around, unless we happen to bump into each other in the kitchen and have a cup of tea and a catch up. I have introduced him to traditional Irish food and of course, Barry's tea. He has tried with a notable lack of success to convince me of the wonders of the traditional Ukrainian dish, spicy pickled cabbage.

The reason I mention him is that the world is a stressful place right now, and it's a challenge to know what to do about it. The housing crisis in Ireland is much in everyone's thoughts, as is the war in Ukraine and the trouble in the Middle East. And there's the cost of living crisis too. We can't fix everything overnight, but one possibility is that if you have a spare room, and if you want to, you might consider hosting a refugee from Ukraine as well. The government pay €800 a month to hosts, tax-free. All the details are at www.helpingirishhosts.com. And hosting a refugee from Ukraine means that accommodation somewhere else is freed up, so you're helping two people at the same time.

I love a win-win situation. Pickled cabbage, though? Absolutely not.

Donabate & Lusk Easter Vestry Election Results

Here are the results of the recent Donabate and Lusk parish's Easter Vestry election.

Select Vestry:

Ms G Wilcox, Ms L. Jones, Mssrs M. Swarbrigg, G. Hempton, B Allen, A. Griffen, A. Pratt, D. Henderson.

Plus:

Glebe Warden Ms S. Beazley

Hon Treasurer P. Maxwell

Peoples' Churchwarden N. Minto

Rector's Churchwarden and Hon Secretary B. Scott



Martin Family Visit

On a recent Sunday, at Saint Columba's, we were glad to have a visit from Mr Martin, seen with his family at left. Mr Martin's father, Mr Frank Martin, now deceased, ended up in Swords orphanage after his parents died of TB.

When Frank grew up, he moved to England, joined the army, fought bravely in World War II, and was captured and sent to a Prisoner of War camp beside the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp.

Frank escaped three times from the POW camp, managing after many adventures and some help from Winston Churchill (long story!) on his third try to make it back to England, where his fiancée was waiting for him. They went on to have a long and very happy married life together. They had five children. One of whom grew up and emigrated to Australia. And that is the gentleman in the photo!

It was a pleasure to meet the Martins.

Bible Study

Mary Jones is conducting Bible Study at her home on Wednesday 8th May at 7.30 pm. The Eircode is K36E229.

Confirmation

Saturday May 4th. Our parishes' Confirmation candidates this year will be confirmed by the Archbishop in Saint Andrew's church in Malahide. All parishioners are welcome to attend the confirmation ceremony which is due to start at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Please remember the candidates in your prayers as they prepare for this important rite of passage.

Church Services for the month ahead

Sunday 5th May: Family Service Donabate 10am; Swords 11.30am

Sunday 12th May: Holy Communion Donabate 10am; Swords 11.30am

Sunday 19th May: Morning Prayer Donabate 10am; Swords 11.30am

Sunday 26th May: Holy Communion Donabate 10am; Swords 11.30am; and Kilsallaghan 11.30am
