

# ST MATTHEW'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

January 2021

## MESSAGE FROM REV JOHN MARCHANT

I won't mention the V word this time round; but Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" seems to sum up our situation at present. We're waiting for a vaccine – any vaccine - that will allow normality to return. Our school has closed for the month; so has our church. Services are live-streamed every week due to the dedication of our parishioners. But it is cold and dark, wet and miserable. And we seem to be stuck.

But we are Christians, and, to borrow from Barack Obama's recent memoir, we have the Audacity of Hope running in our veins. Given the hurdles which he had to overcome, he gives me the courage to look outward from the present uncertain "waiting for Godot" time to see the good all around us.

And (not that you'd notice yet) the days ARE getting longer. Our early bulbs are appearing in the garden. And babies are, too! They're stacking up ready to be welcomed into our community in St. Matthew's, just as soon as we are allowed to congregate again. Our schoolkids are busy, learning remotely to the, er, joy of their parents. And as soon as the restrictions are relaxed, I have asked our archbishop to come and finally confirm our young people.

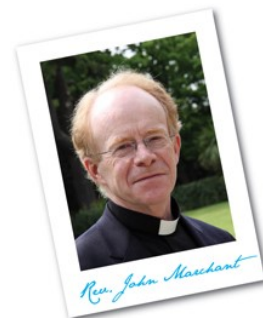
And the archbishop will also dedicate our Columbarium Wall in the graveyard, when we will be in a position to reverently offer a place of repose for our parishioners and our local community. It's all about the positivity of being, and doing, and growing: it's about community, and the things that join us together.

Mark's gospel reading for 24th January tells us that Jesus' beginnings were modest, yet he persuaded four Galilean fishermen to drop everything and follow him.

From similar small beginnings at this time, we are poised and ready for the future. As Obama's catch-cry puts it, **"Yes, we can!"**

Blessings

*John*



## NEWS & EVENTS

### Deaths in the Parish

We were saddened to hear of the death of long term Parishioner Georgina Brady who was in her 91st year who died on the 8th December 2020. Please see her obituary on the other side of this Newsletter

Also, on the 16th December 2020 we were saddened to hear of the death of Cecil Medcalf who was in his 95th year. We extend our condolences to his wife Joan and their family.

### A Birthday Milestone

On the 10th January 2021, Parishioner Irene Hughes celebrated her 100th Birthday. Irene is resident in Brabazon House and received her congratulations from President Michael D Higgins

## GEORGINA BRADY 1930 - 2020



On Friday 11th December 2020 the Funeral and Thanksgiving Service for the life of Georgina Brady took place in the Parish. Georgina had reached the great age of 90.

Georgina lived in Sandymount all her life. She was the eldest of nine. She was extra special to many because she was a beloved mother figure for many of her siblings. From a very young age Georgina displayed her incredible hard working nature. She spent her career as a highly respected book keeper where she gained a formidable reputation for accuracy. Outside of her working life Georgina loved to travel far and wide. She visited Kenya on one of her many adventures with friends.

From a young age she was a devoted and active member of the Parish. She was a member of the choir for 50 years. She was a regular decorator of the church for Harvest and Christmas and also participated in the weekly flower rota. Georgina was a member of the committee of The Friendship Hour, a group who on the first Monday of every month meet in the Parish Room of St. Matthew's. At the Annual Sale of Work she and her lifelong friend Lillian Bradfield would prepare pots of soup for all to enjoy and stood serving everyone with great pride.

Georgina had a great sense of fun and mischief and thoroughly enjoyed all the family gatherings. She especially enjoyed for many years hosting Friday night at her home in Willowfield welcoming family for food and fun. She displayed such joy of family in her long and happy life.

Georgina lived in Brabazon House for the last 7 years and she enjoyed her time there immensely. She even discovered some unexpected hidden

talents. Most recently she won a darts competition.

Georgina will be fondly remembered by everyone who knew her for her sunny nature. She took everything in her stride. She never complained and everyday enjoyed the simple things in life to the full. She was always a welcoming friendly face in St. Matthew's Church and was especially kind to the children of the parish. She was greatly loved and will be greatly missed by all her family, friends and by all of us in St. Matthew's. To sum it up Georgina was one of that small cadre of people for whom everybody felt fondly close to.

May she rest in peace and may she rise in Glory.

### PARISH CONTACTS

#### Rector

Rev John Marchant Tel: 087 419 6071

#### Parish Administration

Jonathan Bell Tel: 087 254 0378

Nicky Bell Tel: 087 688 7049

#### Hon Secretary

Lindy Farmer Tel: 087 2246203

#### Hon Treasurer

Jonathan Bell Tel: 087 254 0378

#### Church Wardens

Miriam Hollowed (Rector's), Geraldine Wallace (People's),

Virginia Stewart (People's)

#### Glebe Wardens

Robbie Hamilton (Rector's)

#### Select Vestry

Lindy Farmer, Jonathan Bell, Gordon Kelley, Miriam Hollowed, Gladys Raethorne, Robbie Hamilton, Claire Wheeler, Steve Griffiths, Virginia Stewart, Karen Woods, John Wallace, Geraldine Wallace

To contact by email:

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**Due to Covid 19 Level 5 restrictions St Matthews Church remains closed until further notice.. We continue to live stream Service every Sunday morning at 10.30am. To attend our Live Broadcast please go to [www.stmatts.live](http://www.stmatts.live)**