

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

March 2021

MESSAGE FROM REV JOHN MARCHANT

Have you ever moved house? Have you ever moved BACK to your family house, having lived "over the shop" for seven years? None of us reckons with the sheer amount of what's called "stuff" that builds up over the years; dogs, ex-children and the mess known as "the garden" So we are having to take hard decisions about EVERYTHING! as we prepare to move back.

During the week I sorted my treasure-trove of theological books: the practical, help-me-get-to-heaven ones, the frankly off-the-wall ridiculous ones, and the learned-but-awfully-badly-written sleep-inducing ones. And I reduced the surviving uplifting books from ten large boxes to two (almost forgetting that I have another three shelves-full in the Rectory to take back home). My brother had led the way for this theological marathon; after his death I felt heir to all his books, and may just have added one or two... I confess that it had taken an inordinate amount of reading to convince myself that this Christianity was actually sometimes, somehow relevant, but I am now doing the needful sifting. It is time to move on for many of the foundational but rarely-read books, but I'm still left with quite a few jewels to cart back home. Let me not forget what I have learned from life, rather than from books, because that is not the only source of wisdom:

Wisdom in the Bible is described almost from the female perspective, based on life experience and interactivity. And that is what I have ingested as I worked and lived in this parish. Read the Books of Wisdom or Proverbs for enlightenment.

We also have some very necessary fixing-up of our house interior to do, but it is constrained by the

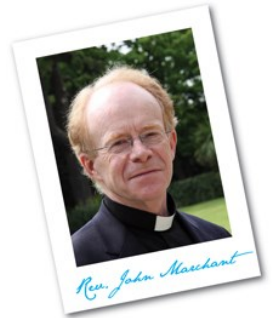
COVID lockdown - it all takes more time than we had planned. We are clearing out large volumes of everything that inexorably collects as we live our lives. It would be much easier to treat it like a hotel, on demand when necessary and not otherwise. But our hope is that we should be moving on from the Parish by the end of April.

Have I mentioned the garden? I had left a tidy, almost pristine one seven years ago. I'm sure I will get great pleasure from it again, but at present it is daunting (or perhaps that's just the mountain of weeds) I'm sure that our new golden retriever pup will happily work along with me, but assistance is not the word I'd use!

So it's all happening too fast for me, which doesn't help when you add a smidgeon of advancing age. Blame COVID for everything, I say.

May God bless all of you.

John



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



COLUMBARIUM WALL DEDICATION

On the 28th February we had a visit from Dr Michael Jackson Archbishop of the Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough to dedicate the recently completed Columbarium Wall. The Service and Dedication were live streamed and can be viewed at www.stmatts.live. We are also grateful to Lynn Glanville the Diocesan Communications Officer for providing photographs of this very important occasion for the Parish and the community. If you would like to receive more details on the Columbarium Wall please contact the Parish Office on 087 254 0378 or email Jonny Bell at jonathanbell61@gmail.com



A BENCH FOR REFLECTION

Our thanks to the Hamilton Family for donating a granite bench in front of the Columbarium Wall. The bench will provide a peaceful place for reflection to the many people who visit our graveyard.



LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTORS

As the Parish develops this monthly Newsletter we are looking for contributors in the Parish and the community. If you would like to contribute to the Parish Newsletter please email the Parish Administration Office at info@stmattschurch.ie

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:

jonathanbell61@gmail.com