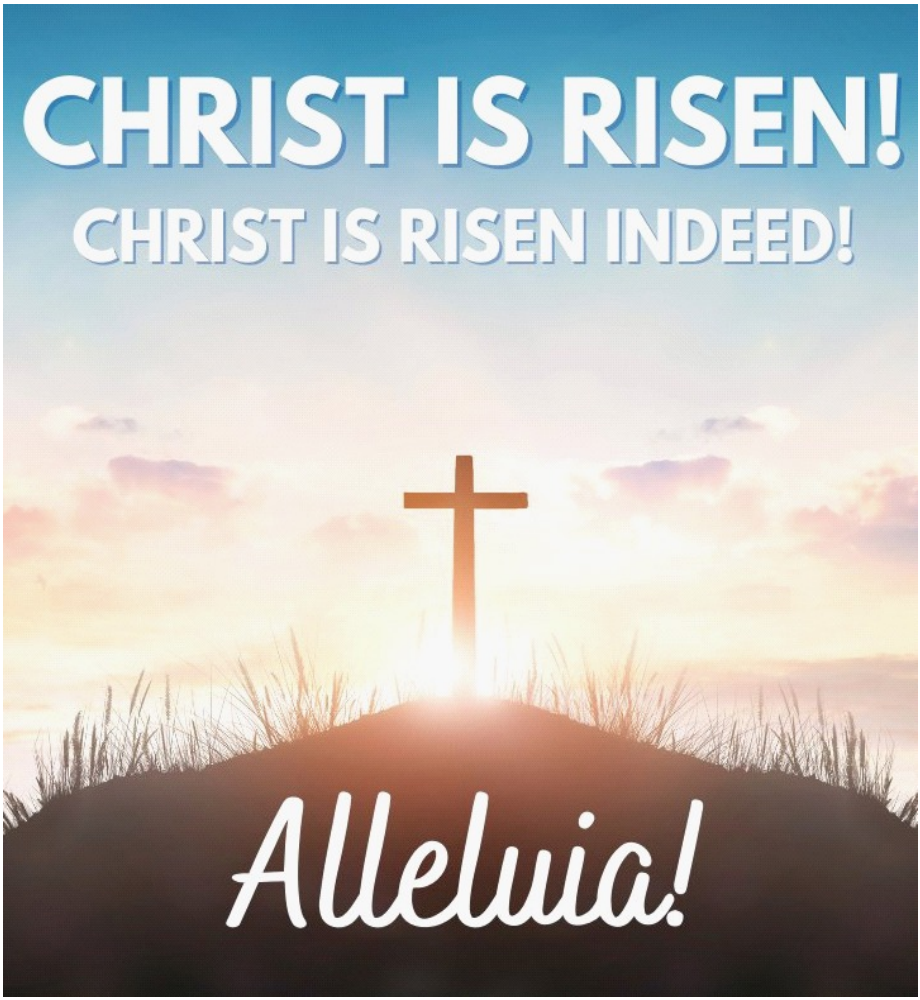
CHURCH MATTERS

The monthly newsletter of the Church of Ireland
United Parish of Whitehead & Islandmagee.

Here everyone matters

April 2025



Happy Easter

April Services & Readings

Each Wednesday there is a service in St Patrick's Church at 11:30 a.m. You are all welcome to come and join in prayer for 30 minutes.

Sunday 6th April - Lent 5 - Passion Sunday

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Epistle Philippians 3:4b-14; Gospel John 12::1-8
Reader for the Epistle - Colin de Fleury / Ann Thompson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Jeremiah 21:1 - 25:14; Psalms 22-28; John 11:28 - 12:50

Sunday 13th April - 6th Sunday in Lent - Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Messy Church
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer
Sunday Reading - Luke 19: 28 - 48
Readers for first Lesson - The Rector
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline
Weekday Readings:Luke 20 - 23

HOLY WEEK

Our Holy Week evening Services will be at 7:30 p.m. in St Patrick's
Come and share with us as we share worship and read from the story of Jesus last week on earth. We will read, and learn, from, St Luke's story of Jesus last days - to be found in the Gospel According to St Luke chapters 20-22:65; and on Good Friday chapter - 22:66 - 23:56

Monday 14th Irish Vigils
Luke 20:1 - 21:4 - Jesus' authority questioned, his teaching the people and the widow's offering
Tuesday 15th - Compline
Luke 21:5-37 - The signs of the end of the age
Wednesday 16th The Litany
Luke 22:1-6 - Judas agrees to betray Jesus
Thursday 17th Holy Communion
Luke 22:7 - 65 - The Last Supper, the Mount of Olives the arrest of Jesus and Peter's Denial

Friday 18th - The Three Hours - 12noon to 3:00 p.m.
Luke 22:66 -71 - Jesus before the Sanhedrin
Luke 23:1-5 - Jesus before Pilate
Luke 23:6-12 - Jesus before Herod
Luke 23:13-25 - Jesus before Pilate, Barabbas released
Luke 23:26-32 - Jesus taken to be crucified
Luke 23:33-43 - Jesus Crucified
Luke 23:44-49 - The death of Jesus
Friday 18th - Late Evening Office
Luke 23:50-56 - The burial of Jesus

Sunday 20th April - EASTER DAY (The First Sunday of Easter)
6:30 a.m. Dawn Service at the Castleview Car Park, Whitehead
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Acts 10:34-43; Luke 24:1-12
Readers for first Lesson - Jack McKinney / Alan Hayward
7:00 p.m. No evening service on Easter Day
Weekday Readings: Song of Solomon; Psalm 111 - 116; Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:13- 49

Sunday 27th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer
Sunday Readings - Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 150, John 20:19-31
Readers for first Lesson - Bobby Herron / Sarah Henderson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Deuteronomy 1-4; Psalms 117 - 119; John 20 - 21

Sunday 4th May - 3rd Sunday of Easter
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Epistle - Acts 9:1-6; Gospel - John 21:1-9
Reader for the Epistle - Scottie Hayes / Joy Kerr
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Deuteronomy 5- 8; Psalms 120 - 126; Ephesians 1-3

A message from our Rector



"Easter Day is always the first Sunday after the full moon which happens upon, or next after, the twenty-first day of March; and if the full moon happens on a Sunday, Easter Day is the Sunday after." [This quote is from the Book of Common Prayer (1926) page xxi at the beginning of the section on 'Tables and Rules for the moveable and immoveable feasts;']

This is followed by a couple of pages of historical information about how to find the date for Easter, and the fact that this full moon is an ecclesiastical full moon (ecclesiastical means 'of the Church'), and so wasn't calculated in quite the same way modern astronomers would. There are also tables for finding the date for Easter from the present (1926) to the year 2199 and another for the years between 2200 and 2299 inclusive.

Easter is confusing, we have set dates for Advent and Christmas and Epiphany. We have set dates for Saint's Days. But the three Sunday's before Lent, Ash Wednesday and Lent, Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Easter, Ascension Day, Whitsunday (Pentecost) and Trinity Sunday are all dependant on the date for Easter, which changes every year.

So how did all this come about? And why do we use the Moon to calculate the date of Easter?

The method to calculate the date of Easter is called 'computus', from the Latin word that means 'calculate'. It was a big thing in the Middle Ages – and still is today.

Easter marks the date of Jesus's death and resurrection, which, from the Bible, happened around the Jewish Passover. The date of Passover, like the date to mark the Resurrection, was calculated using the lunar calendar, which is based on the cycles of the Moon. There is a problem as lunar cycles were calculated in various ways back then. Moreover, different Christian groups disagreed on the date to celebrate the Resurrection. Some celebrated it on Passover itself, some the following Sunday.

In 325 AD, Emperor Constantine called the Council of Nicea, the first council of the Christian Church. As well as discussing other key beliefs, the Council wanted to settle the issue of the date of Easter. It was decided that all Christians should celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the spring equinox. That should have put the issue to

bed once and for all. But different traditions kept calculating it in different ways, backing up their choice with different Gospels. In England, for example, Irish monks forcefully argued that their way of doing it had started with John the Evangelist. But Roman monks claimed their calculations had begun with St Peter himself.

A Northumbrian King, Oswy, followed the Irish tradition and celebrated Easter at different times from his Kentish wife, who followed the Roman tradition. So, in 664, a meeting of the clergy was organised in Whitby Abbey to sort the matter out. King Oswy had the final say and decided, because he loved his wife, the Roman tradition should be adopted in the whole of England; and it was.

Apart from wanting to celebrate at the same time as his wife, his decision came down to the fact that St Peter is the gatekeeper of heaven, and the King wanted to get there. So, the Roman tradition was adopted in England. Bishop Coleman of the Irish monks was furious, resigned, and went back to Ireland with a group of like-minded monks, never to return.

At the end of the 16th century, things changed again. Christians had, up to this point, followed the Julian calendar. However, this calendar overestimated the length of the tropical year, the time from one equinox to the next, which also affected the date of Easter. To solve this, in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII suggested knocking off a few days from the calendar. That year, in all countries who went with the Pope's plan, 4 October was to be followed by 15 October. But, by that point, England was largely a Protestant country. The change suggested by the Catholic Pope proved to be quite controversial and wasn't implemented.

In the 18th Century, Parliament declared that enough was enough. It was decided that Wednesday 2 September 1752 would be followed immediately by Thursday 14 September 1752, and from then on England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland would follow the same calendar as most of Europe.

Today, although the Gregorian calendar is the international civil calendar, it's still not used by all churches. The Orthodox Church follows the Julian calendar, so the Orthodox Easter normally falls a bit later (for example, in 2024 it was marked on Sunday 5 May.) In 2025, both Churches will celebrate Easter on Sunday 20 April.

There have been talks of fixing the date of Easter but, for the foreseeable future, it will remain a movable feast. So if you always want to know when Easter is from the top of your head, you know what to do: learn computus! Or perhaps search it online or use the tables at the front

of the old Prayer Book, or page 75 in the current Prayer book (but only for the next 5 years as the list stops in 2030).

So now we all know why Easter moves about a bit, date wise. Of course there is a major constant that comes with Easter! It is not just a one off thing, it is the annual celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is also the model for every other Sunday in the year - for each Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection. Each week, on the first day of the week, we gather together as a community that believes in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and celebrate the fact of his resurrection from the dead and the gift of our redemption and our salvation.

This is what Easter is actually all about. If we were to celebrate, fully, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, our redemption and our salvation, every week it would soon become a bland celebration, lacking in actual celebration and real joy. It is like if we were to eat our favourite food every day, or even every week, it would stop being special and may even stop being our favourite - it would become ordinary. If we only ate it once a year we would look forward to it with an expectation and an enthusiasm that would make that meal very special indeed. So it should be with Easter! It should be special, it should be looked forward to with expectation, with enthusiasm. It should be celebrated with joy and exuberance. May be that is why Lent and Holy Week are so important. They give us time to prepare, to get ready to celebrate Easter. It is not like the celebration of Christmas, where we are sending cards, buying presents, ordering turkey and every one gets excited. Yet this is, or should be, an even bigger celebration than Christmas. Nothing happened at Christmas other than the birth of a baby, admittedly the Son of God, but a baby none the less. At Easter our sins were forgiven, we received the promise and the gift of eternal life. We talk about the gift Christ coming to us at Christmas, but nothing happened until Easter; some thirty years later! At Easter it was only a wait of three days! And the gift was immediate, and long lasting.

Use the rest of Lent to consider what Easter means for you and to you, so that you will be ready to celebrate fully when Easter day comes around. Celebrate that Jesus died to pay the price of your sin. Celebrate that he rose again and gave us the promise of heaven and the gift of eternal life. Celebrate that we are all redeemed, at no cost to us. Celebrate that all we need to do is simply believe.

Have a happy and blessed Easter, and don't eat too much chocolate.

Mark



With the last edition of the magazine was a sheet to help Count Your Blessings and support the work of CMS Ireland. There are still some collection boxes to help with this available at the back of the Church. The daily donations are only as a guide and you may follow them or exceed them as you wish.

For over 20 years we have supported the on going mission work of the church, the spreading of the good news about Jesus Christ and supporting local churches in different countries as they grow and develop. Traditionally we have done this during the season of Lent; through a Sunday School project as well as through the congregation generally.

I hope that we will all take part in this as best we may during this season of Lent.

Messy Church

Dates for your diary up to June 2025
Starting at 10:30 a.m. in St Patrick's Parochial Hall,
Edward Road., Whitehead.
Come and join us for fun, games, crafts, singing and food as we discover what the Bible says to us.

Sunday 13th April - Palm Sunday
Sunday 11th May
Sunday 9th June - Feast of Pentecost

Ukrainians in desperate need of help

I have shared stories of hope from Ukraine but in this season of Lent these facts shared by parish pump seemed more appropriate.

As Ukraine recently marked the third anniversary of the Russian invasion, charities have warned of the desperate need for humanitarian aid for the country.

An estimated one in three people in Ukraine have been displaced by the war. Roughly 3.6 million have been internally displaced, while 6.5 million have fled the country. 90 per cent of these refugees are women and children.

The children remaining are also traumatised, with schools destroyed, homes bombed, and an ongoing lack of food. As World Vision warns: "The emotional burden faced by Ukrainian children cannot be overlooked."

One Ukrainian mother says simply: "We see death. We see destruction every day. There's too much pain and sorrow."

Russia launched its largest-ever drone strike on Ukraine on the eve of the anniversary.

Russian has stepped up its attacks, as a result of the current US government withdrawing support from Ukraine. We pray that the current peace negotiations will bring a meaningful and lasting peace for the people of Ukraine which means they do not lose out.



A simple Prayer for our Rector

Heavenly Father

We Pray for many blessings for Mark and his Family during lent and Easter.

Sustain him through our Lenten lunches, Lenten services and then Holy week.

May he have a very strong sense of your leading as he plans and preaches. Help us to be open to the message of God in his words and the energy it takes to preach across both parishes. We pray for the team around him, supporting him in his work.

In his busy schedule, leading us, his congregation in our united parishes St Patrick's, Whitehead and St John's, Islandmagee, we pray he finds time for family, fun and rest.

We continue to pay for Mark personally, for his good health, and strength to carry on. And for his family, supporting him , we pray that he will soon find time to take a good break from all of us to be with them.

Help us to be mindful of them all and keep them in our prayers

Amen

Alcoholics Anonymous Ireland

Do you want another chance at life?

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Every Saturday 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Now meeting upstairs at
Whitehead Community Centre:
Call 02890 351222
www.alcoholicsanonymous .ie
All enquiries are treated in strictest confidence

Let us thank God each day for those who struggle to improve their lives, especially those who fight against addiction to alcohol or drugs.
Let us pray for those of their family and friends who have been affected by their addiction.
Let us give thanks for all who support them in this battle.

Cocaine Anonymous

Do you have a problem with drugs and Alcohol?

So did we.

Cocaine Anonymous meeting

Every Monday 8 pm - 9:15 pm
Oakfield Community Centre:
Oakfield Drive, Carrickfergus, BT38 7SP

Call 0330 043 2789 (8 am - 10 pm)
www.caireland.live



I wonder what Jesus would say to those in our world who cause terror, wage war and act as if they are God. I can imagine, and they ignore Him at their Peril, if not in this world, then the next.

Conflict in Gaza and the Middle East Help us to Pray?

Millions have been forced from their homes. In Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon, local churches and Tearfund's partners are responding to people's urgent needs and providing life-saving aid.

This is their prayer guide. To call out to God in prayer for those suffering immeasurable pain and loss. God hears your prayers for them.

Father we cry out to you on behalf of the people seriously affected by the conflict in Gaza and the Middle East. Our hearts break at the devastation and suffering that we see, and we know it breaks yours, too.

We ask that you stretch out your mighty hand to bring lasting peace.

Pray for peace

Dear God we pray for lasting peace, healing and the restoration of communities. Pray for the safe and peaceful return of all hostages.

We pray for world leaders with influence in the region to make wise decisions.

Father We pray that your peace peace would fill the hearts and minds of everyone who is suffering as a result of this conflict.

Pray for safety

We pray for all civilians – that you would protect them from harm, particularly the most vulnerable, including children, older people, and people with disabilities.

We pray for humanitarian workers – for protection for those who are working to provide humanitarian assistance and medical supplies. For the safe distribution of food, water, sanitary items, medical supplies and fuel.

We pray for people forced to flee their homes once again, for safe places to stay and that they will be able to return home.

Pray for strength

We pray for church leaders – for wisdom and strength to lead people through fear and uncertainty. Pray for bravery as they guide their communities and offer loving support. Pray for faith leaders and communities across the region – that they would stand firm, and for unity, connection and mutual understanding so that they can help bring people together and show kindness.

We pray for Tearfund, their partners and other agencies working in in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and neighbouring countries – God strengthen them as they support schools and hospitals, and as they provide food and essentials to families who have been displaced.

Pray for hope

We pray for hope for those who are terrified, mourning and suffering. Ask God to save them from despair – for the trauma and violence they've experienced not to overshadow hope.

We pray that people across the Middle East wouldn't lose hope – that lasting peace is possible. We pray for the families of hostages from Israel and beyond who are desperately awaiting their release.

We pray for the millions of people in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Israel forced out of their homes under horrific circumstances.

Pray for healing

We pray for people who have been traumatised or injured. Dear God help heal their physical and emotional wounds and bring them comfort.

We Pray for hospitals and medical staff – for strength and safety as they continue to provide life-saving services to all those affected. Father God provide all the resources and equipment they need to treat the sick and injured. In your holy name

AMEN

Parish Pump Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letter from 'Uncle Eustace to his Nephew'



The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

There are times when I indulge you too much; why I ever let you run your course 'Taking Responsibility for your Church' among our congregation, I am now unable to understand. I had hopes that it might encourage a few more people to volunteer for the flower rota, or to give occasional help mowing the churchyard. I even had a vague fantasy that someone might turn detective, and discover who had been eating the chocolate biscuits between Sundays, condemning the rest of us to munch on Rich Tea after Services.

Unfortunately, your course turned out to be inspirational, and it has fired up our members to take on all sorts of new initiatives. Enthusiasm in a congregation can be a very dangerous thing, especially if people start making decisions on their own.

Naturally, all those offering to take the prayers, produce new Orders of Service and even to give the occasional sermon have been booked on the appropriate training courses. By the time they have been completed, I can only hope they will have gone off the idea.

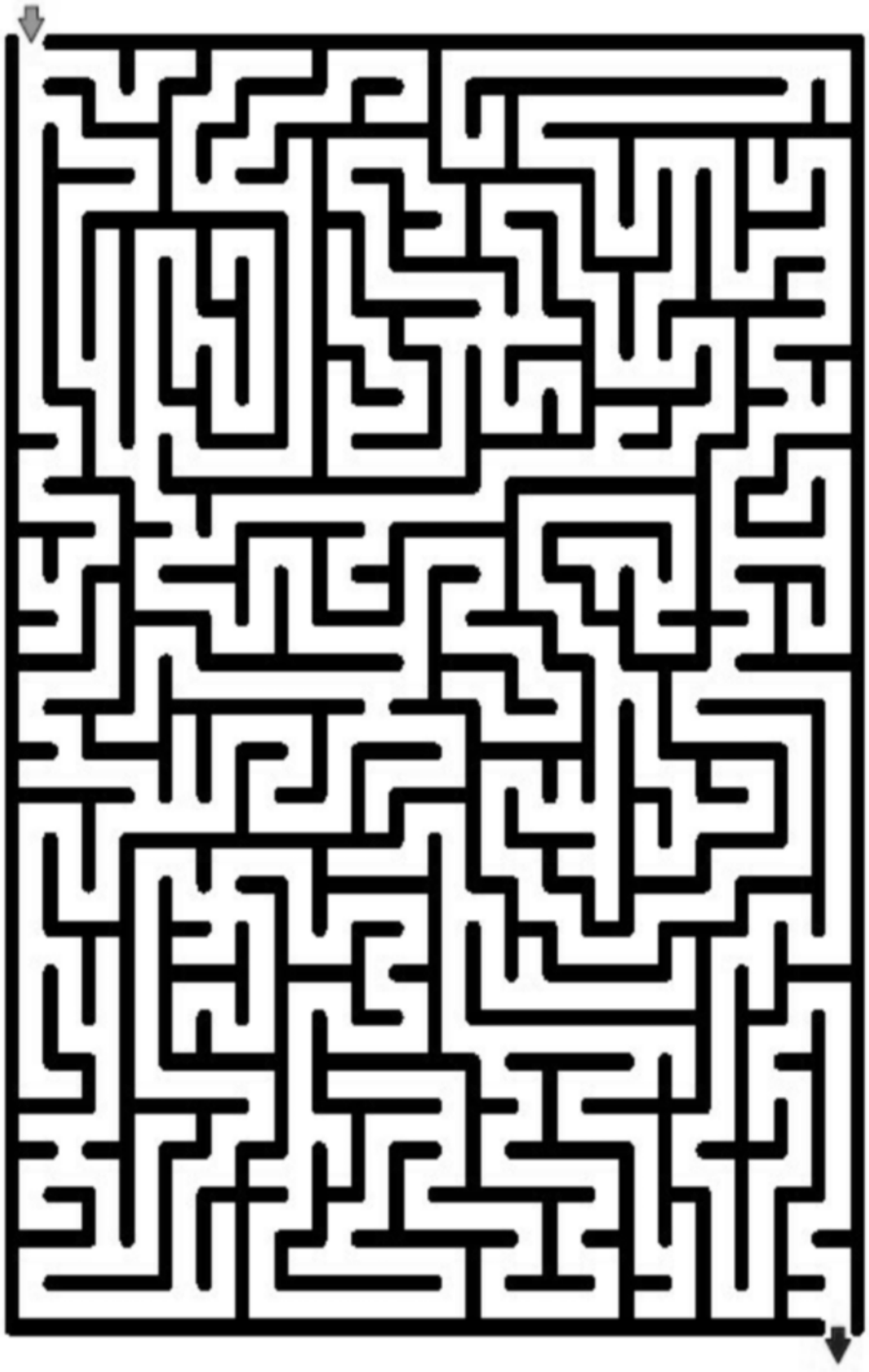
But it was the group which decided to "beautify" the church who have proved the most tiresome. Hanging the Christmas tree lights round the altar made it look as if I was standing behind a fairground stall, waiting to invite people to throw hoops round teddy bears – although I would have rather enjoyed making winners sit for the rest of the Service holding a polythene bag containing a goldfish.

Our pulpit has also been given a makeover, with the various panels painted in contrasting colours; I am sure the sixteenth century Flemish woodcarvers would be delighted with the result, although the next time any medieval historians come to view it, I shall take the day off – probably travelling abroad.

My dear Darren, your course took the stopper out of the bottle; would you please run another to put it back?

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Patty cakes

I needed an easy recipe to make with my adorable 4 year old grandniece Erin. I found these, and so baking Patty cakes is a regular enjoyable fun thing we do together. It is an Australian recipe, similar to a cup cakes, but much easier to make.

225 grams Self Raising Flour	140 grams Caster Sugar
1 teaspoon Vanilla Essence	3 eggs lightly beaten
60 mls milk	125 grams butter softened

See optional extras at the bottom of the page.

****

Preheat your oven to 190

Line 2 x 12 hole cupcake tin with paper cases.

Add all ingredients to the bowl of an electric mixer and beat slowly for 1 minute until the ingredients start to combine. Increase the speed to high and beat for another 3 minutes.

Spoon the mixture into paper cases, pop into the oven and bake for approximately 15 minutes or until they are cooked through.

Leave the Patty Cakes to cool in the tin for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

Option 1, add grated ring of a half of lemon to the mixture. When cooked drizzle with lemon juice mixed with icing sugar.

Option 2, add chocolate chips to the mix and dip the cooked patty cake tops in melted chocolate

Option 3, Split and fill with you choice of butter cream, or jam, or both.

Option 4, dust with icing sugar



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UNITED PARISH OF WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE

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St Patrick's,Whitehead, upholds an ancient tradition

From the time of the ancient Hebrew priesthood and its vestments, there have been textiles, weavings and embroideries made exclusively for the service of God. Early Christian art and writings attest to the continuity of such liturgical vestments and the presence of ornate embroidery in the beginning of the Church.

"Liturgical Linens and Vestments should be seen as works of art. They enhance the beauty of a celebration, not only by their colour, but by the way they drape the altar, lectern and minister. They should add to the majesty of a procession, or the solemnity of the Eucharist." (Fr Timothy Deeter, *Vestments: Friends, not enemies*. 2009)



Underlining the importance placed by the Church on vestments and embroidered linens, they are always blessed before their first use, adding to their sacredness. Thereafter, they are generally handled with care and stored well when not in use, not stuffed into a crammed cupboard or carelessly tossed onto a shelf in the

But even with careful attention, liturgical linens and garments can become tired and worn out with use over many years. Linens that

are exposed to sunlight and dust especially suffer, particularly the linens used during the longer periods of ordinary time. Such was the case at St Patrick's Church, Whitehead, where the green linens had become very faded and tired looking.

Jean Gascoigne, a former contestant on BBC's Great British Sewing Bee, decided after the show to channel her creative talents to making bespoke Liturgical Vestments and Linens, aided by the new 10 needle embroidery machine she has acquired.



Jean's first project was to create a chasuble and stoles for the Benedictine Monks at Holy Cross Abbey, Rostrevor. For the decoration, she came up with a design based on the story of Creation from the Book of Genesis.

Her next project was closer to hand as Jean directed her talent to making a new set of green communion linens, plus matching lectern hangings and minister's stole, for use at St Patrick's Church of Ireland, Whitehead, as a way of thanking the rector, the Rev Canon Mark Taylor, and congregation for their kindness and friendship. After discussion with the rector on the theme for the embroidery, it was agreed that the church logo, incidentally designed by Jean's partner who belongs to the church, should be featured, as it perfectly symbolised elements that are central to the church and parish, namely a Celtic cross for St Patrick's Church and eagle for St John's Church, accompanied by shafts of light shining from the centre, to symbolize the Whitehead Lighthouse and also the light that comes from the spreading of the Gospel.

These were dedicated for use by Canon Taylor.



Jean said: "I find immense pleasure and fulfilment creating sacred vestments and linens designed for the service of God and it is a great joy to see my work being used in a place of worship."

Jean has now been invited to produce a chasuble and altar hangings etc for St Patrick's Episcopal Church, Washington DC. Jean's work can be viewed on her website: www.arttherapyworks.uk.

Easter Word search
Christ is Risen

Clues and Answers

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! April brings us to Easter – the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life. But because He does live, we have a sure and certain hope for our future.

Passover
bread
wine
body
blood
betrayal

Jerusalem
Pilate
Judas
gethsemane
trial
crucifixion

soldiers
cross
nails
vinegar
temple
curtain

tomb
angel
stone
risen
gardener
Mary



Maundy Thursday 17th April 2025

(from Parish Pump)

The last Supper and the washing of feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is '*mandatum novum do vobis'*. The word 'maundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.





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GETHSEMANE ANGUISH

His heart was racing, his heart sore, why should I have to do this for them. Please Father no, no, no, don't make me go through this. I don't want to suffer death on a cross - the terrible pain, the humiliation, the loneliness. Please Father why would you sacrifice me, your own son, for them. I know, I know it is your will, Your will be done.



He had asked them to wait and watch and stay awake, but they slept.
His anguish was so deep he felt he was dying
He knelt and prayed 'Father, take this cup of suffering from me. Thy will be done'.
He found them sleeping, he chastised them, 'you want to do the right thing but you are weak.'

And in that same garden his loved one, Judas arrived betraying him with a kiss, as an entourage of soldiers, officials, chief priests and pharisees looked on. So in deep anquish, Jesus gave himself up for us, and is heart continuing to pray, Father let this cup pass from me.

When we face something that we fear, we dread, that terrifies us, we also pray Father, let this cup pass. Jesus knows

how we feel; facing his terrible death on the cross, he felt immeasurable anguish, fear, terror of what was coming.

And so, we pray, knowing that when something bad is about to happen, the risen Christ understands and is with us in spirit.

May the person facing a terminal diagnosis for themselves or family, know your presence, Lord.

May the person facing the loss of their job, their home, know your presence Lord.

May the person facing the loss of loved ones know your presence, Lord.

And may the people who live in crisis day after day, know your presence, Lord.

Father, as Jesus prayed, we pray that the cup of war, starvation, immense suffering will pass, knowing it may not. Help us to pray Thy will be done.

We pray that those facing the worst will know and be comforted by your presence and your understanding Lord.

Help us to be strong, to stay awake and pray each day for those who suffer.

Thy will be done
Amen

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In the Garden
(much loved hymn)



I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses...

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other, has ever, known!

He speaks and the sound of His voice,
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that he gave to me,
Within my heart is ringing . . .

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other, has ever, known!

And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other, has ever, known!

Words and Music by C. Austin Miles, 1912

The story behind the hymn

Austin Miles, writes “One day in April 1912, I was seated in the dark room where I kept my photographic equipment, and also my organ. I drew my Bible toward me and it opened at my favourite book and chapter, John chapter twenty. I don’t know if

this was by chance or by the work of the Holy Spirit. I will let you the reader decide. That story of Jesus and Mary Magdalene in John 20 had lost none of its power and charm.

It was though I was in a trance, as I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene. I became a silent witness to that dramatic moment in Mary's life when she knelt before her Lord and cried, "Rabboni". I rested my hands on the open Bible, as I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. A woman in white, with head, bowed, hand clasping her throat, as if to choke back her sobs, walked slowly into the shade. It was Mary. As she came unto the tomb, upon which she placed her hand, she bent over to look in and ran away. John, in a flowing robe, appeared, looking at the tomb. Then came Peter, who entered the tomb. As they departed, Mary reappeared leaning her head upon her arm at the tomb, she wept. Turning herself, she saw Jesus standing there, so did I. I knew it was He. She knelt before Him, with arms outstretched, and looking into His face cried, "Rabboni"

I awakened in sunlight, gripping my Bible with my muscles tense, and nerves vibrating, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I wrote as quickly as the words could be formed the lyrics exactly as it is sung today. That same evening, I wrote the tune. It is sung today as it was written in 1912."

Having sung this hymn many times I had not associated with the resurrection. Now it holds more meaning for me (Janet).

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Brasso Club

Keeping our brasses in tip top shape

This small, merry band meets on the third Thursday of each month at 10 am, usually for an hour or so. New folks are welcome to join the chat and the cleaning. We aim to keep the shiny things in Church bright and beautiful!

Enter at the front of the Church by the smaller door on the right-hand side.

Cleaning supplies are provided but if you can, bring rubber gloves, cloths, and an old toothbrush for little corners!

Next date:

Thursday 17th April

Thank you for all you do.



We would love to see you.
Why not join us at 10.30am on Sunday

You Are Welcome Here

No matter:

- Where you've come from or are going;
- What you believe or doubt;
- What you are feeling or just not feeling;
- What you have or don't have; and
- No matter whom you love!

CHANGING ATTITUDE IRELAND

April Church Activities

Together in Faith Group

The first and third Monday of the month

(7th and 21st April 7.30 pm)

Meet in the Boucher Room, Parochial Hall at St Patrick's Church.

Book Club

Book Club meets on the last Wednesday of the month

(Contact Paddy Rodgers tel 07720 404071

Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group (Second Wednesday in the month)

Next meeting 9th April at 11am in the Boucher Room.

New members welcome. We start with refreshments and fellowship .

Circus Skills Class

Come along and try some light exercise and may be learn a few manual dexterity skills on Tuesdays @ 10.30am - Parochial Hall

Indoor Bowling Club

Tuesdays from 7pm - Parochial Hall

New people always welcome to join in all the groups

Parish Announcements

The Select Vestry meeting, second Thursday in the month at 10.00 am in the Boucher Room.

Next meeting on Thursday 10th April

Counters for April

7th	**April**	**Scotty Hayes**
14th	**April**	**Trevor Peoples**
21st	**April**	**Bert Thompson**
28th	**April**	**Valerie Kincaid**

April Refreshments Rota,

6th April Heather Cupples
13th April Messy Church
20th April Scotty Hayes
27th April Heather Craig

Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle
Tel 07787561517

Game On Meeting April

Meeting in the Library on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month 9th and the 23rd at 1.30 pm

Some members play Mexican Train, others played Backgammon. New participants always welcome. Come and join us for Tea and biscuits, even if you don't want to play.

Youth Fellowship Sunday Brunch

will meet on Sunday 6th April in St Patrick's, Whitehead.

We join everyone else in the church for the start of the morning service before moving into the hall for some Bible study, prayer and games. Anyone of secondary school age or young adult under 25 is welcome to join us. If you want to find out, please come along or contact Stephen Martin (stepheneddu@gmail.com)



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Reader

This months magazine reflects the sadness of Lent, and the joy and hope of the resurrection. When editing this magazine, it was Gethsemane that got to me, big time. I became so aware of the Anguish of our Lord as he pleaded to God to let the cup of suffering pass for him. The times in life when I experienced dread for what I knew was coming, came rushing back to me. In those terrible times, I was not aware of His presence with me, but I did cry out asking God to turn that situation around. I wanted to wake up and think I was dreaming but no every morning I faced it again. Looking back now to two such events, I can see in retrospect his hand on me, consoling me as I pleaded with him, No! No! No, why me, why my family. So for the first time ever, Jesus's Prayer, let this cup pass from me resonated with me. He understands what we are going through, personally, in our family and communities. Somehow his prayer in Gethsemane gives us the ok to cry onto God No! No! No! when we feel anguish even if we know nothing is going to change.

As a counsellor when I work with clients going through anguish, I am aware that I or they cannot change the situation. I do know that being able to cry out helps as I know he hears, It is good to know that Jesus understands our suffering from his life on earth. May you know his presence and understanding in the good and bad times in your life.

I was glad then to find the hymn, bringing me to another Garden, where the risen Lord was reunited with his beloved friend Mary, bringing hope and joy to her and the world. May this resurrection joy bring you and those you love many Easter Blessings.

Janet

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH

Rector: Revd Canon Mark Taylor,

72 Riverforde T: 028 9337 3300 E: mark205@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07719 619286

Facebook: St Patrick's & St Johns Whitehead & Islandmagee
Twitter: @Whitehead_CoI
Email: churchofirelandwhitehead@gmail.com
Website: **www.whitehead-islandmagee-parish.co.uk**

CHURCHWARDENS

	St. Patrick's	**St. John's**
Rector's:	Colin De Fleury	John Hall
People's:	Mabel Allen	Pauline Riddle

GLEBEWARDENS

St. Patrick's - Trevor Peoples St. John's - Jim Reid

SELECT VESTRY (includes Churchwardens & Glebewardens)

Hon Secretary

Sandra Thompson - Hon Treasurer 07912478331

Ann Mulholland; Bill Pollock; Alison Higginson;
Janet Peoples Alan Hayward ; Priscilla Carlisle;
Austin Jenkins - Graveyard Manager St John's Inez Moore

Messy Church

in the Parochial Hall on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m.
Contact the Rector if you plan to come.

Youth Fellowship Leader

Stephen Martin - stepheneddu@gmail.com

Safeguarding Trust Evelyn Powers 9337 2535 Valerie Kincaid 9335 3748

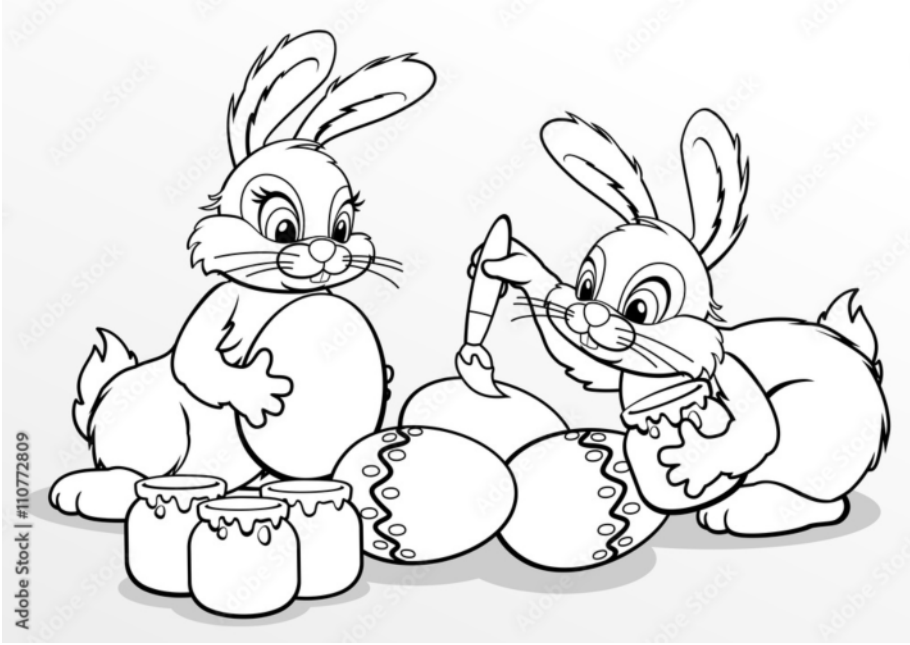
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Editorial communications- to: Janet Matthews
jem.matthews2@gmail.com or tel: 07581031915

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Colouring in time.

Get out the colouring pencils.

Then enjoy your chocolate eggs

Happy Easter