

the  
**Connection**

Summer 2019



## Mass Times

St Nicholas' Church, Carrickfergus

Vigil Mass Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 11:30am

Tuesday and Thursday 10:00am

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Whitehead

Sunday 9:30am

Monday and Wednesday 10:00am

## Confessions

Carrickfergus: Saturday 5:30pm to 5:50pm

Whitehead: Sunday morning before Mass

## Eucharistic Adoration

Carrickfergus: Saturday 1:00pm to 5:00pm,

Tuesday and Thursday 10:30am to 10:45pm

Whitehead: Monday and Wednesday 10:30am to 10:45am

## Baptisms

Carrickfergus: 3rd Sunday in the month

Whitehead: 1st Sunday in the month

One month's notice is required.

## Weddings

By arrangement. Three months' notice is required.



CARRICKFERGUS  
**PARISH**

**Parish Priest: Father Peter Owens**

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# Summer Message

Inscribed on a clock hanging in the hall of the parochial house where I live are the famous Latin words, "Tempus fugit" ("Time flies"), and time has certainly flown for me since I was appointed to Carrickfergus and Whitehead by Bishop Noel Treanor almost five years ago. At that time one of my fellow priests in the diocese wrote to me saying "I hope the antiquity of the town and the music of the sea bring you peace and happiness".



As I approach the fifth anniversary of my appointment to this parish, I find myself thanking God that He has allowed me to spend some of my years in this wonderful community of faith and this beautiful part of our country. Here I have known genuine peace and happiness, even in the face of most painful bereavement, mainly on account of the kindness, friendliness and support of so many parishioners.

I intend these words to be an expression of my sincere gratitude to the parishioners of Carrickfergus and Whitehead for all they have done and continue to do to help me personally in my life and ministry and to make our parish a spiritual home of which we can be proud.

May you find in the pages of the Summer 2019 issue of "The Connection" a real sense of the operation of God's love among us.

**Fr P.J. Owens, P.P.**

# My First Holy Communion

I celebrated my First Holy Communion on Saturday 18th May with lots of friends from my school.



Mrs Moloney and Mr Slane helped us prepare by talking to us about our baptisms and teaching us what Holy Communion means. It means that for the first time we are receiving the body of Jesus Christ.

We all had a special job during the mass; Mine was the Second Reading and being part of the offertory procession. Fr Peter asked us lots of questions and we got all of the answers right. After Communion he gave us a special certificate and we got lots of photos with our teachers, families and friends.

We went down to school for a little party and then went to a golf club for a big party with lots of food and a disco.

I had a great day and will never forget it.

**Article by Finn Johnston (P4)**



# Father Hubert



This is the story of a remarkable man named James Carruth, who was born in Carrickfergus in 1869, and whose parents came from sound Presbyterian planter stock. His father, Walter Carruth, was a successful local builder, magistrate and town councillor, who had originally come from Templepatrick; while his mother Sarah Picken came from the Commons at Woodburn. Educated at the Model Primary School, he was reared in the faith of his parents. Unfortunately, at the age of

14 he lost his mother, but his father remarried in the following year, this time his second wife, Margaret McCashin, was a Catholic, although his father remained a Presbyterian.

It is possible that James may have been influenced by his new mother, nonetheless after he had visited the Holy Cross Retreat at Ardoyne in Belfast, the reason for the visit is unclear, he decided at the age of 17 to convert to Catholicism. His fervour for this new religion eventually led him towards the priesthood, and at the age of 23 sought permission to the Passionist Congregation. He was professed at St. Saviour's Retreat in Worcester, taking as his religious name, Hubert of St. Mary Magdalen, for whom he held a special devotion throughout his life. After his full course of study he was eventually raised to the priesthood in 1898 by Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, the Archbishop of Dublin. As a young religious, Fr. Hubert was known to be possessed of great talents, and this manifest ability was recognised when shortly after ordination he was appointed Vice-Rector of St. Joseph's Retreat, Highgate, London, a position normally entrusted to men of more mature years. Following this he moved to Belfast, and between the years 1905 to 1914, held the Rectorship of Holy Cross Retreat, Ardoyne, the place of his original religious stimulus all those years before. In this position he was held in

great respect by the diocesan clergy, revered by his community, and beloved by the people. Under his Rectorship, extensive improvements were made to the Retreat House. Also during this time he held courses of lectures on controversial topics, orations that attracted enormous congregations and gained widespread attention.

Back at his old home in Carrickfergus, a source of great happiness for him was that his influence was to be instrumental in eventually converting his own father, along with other members of the family, to the Catholic faith. His sister Mary married Robert McKeown, and one of their sons, another Walter, followed his grandfather's footsteps by joining Carrickfergus Council, holding the position of Alderman, as well as being a Freeman of the Town. Fr. Hubert's half-sister, Margaret, became a Nun in the Order of the Good Shepherd, Belfast, taking the religious name Sister Genevieve.

In addition to the spiritual duties, Fr. Hubert devoted time to a special study of ancient Irish illuminated manuscripts; and his attachment to work of this kind made him a skilled and accomplished artist. His faultless painting of 'The Dead Jesus' in delicate Celtic design was exhibited for many years in the Central Hall of the National Museum, Dublin.

In later life his activities were somewhat curtailed by a rheumatic complaint, a condition that developed to such an extent as to cripple him, requiring him to be carried onto the altar in order to celebrate mass.. Although confined to the house, his passion for work found congenial scope in literary labour. He battled with his infirmity for many years and through sleepless nights of pain, continued to pray incessantly. He was to eventually find his reward with God, when in 1940 he died. His remains are interred at the monastic order's cemetery plot at Mount Argus in Dublin.

**Article by Robert McKeown**

# Our School Choir

Our school choir is an exciting part of our school community in St Nicholas'. Since I joined the school in 2014, it has been a pleasure to watch the choir grow from strength to strength. We are so lucky to have children who are enthusiastic about learning new songs and developing singing techniques. Our members are committed to attending their weekly rehearsals as well as spending time singing and learning lyrics at home. They are a truly talented and dedicated group of children.



**We are always grateful to our supportive parents for taking time to bring the children to events outside of school hours. A special thanks must go to Mrs Maeve Maxwell for her steadfast support, expertise and enthusiasm in helping our choir members to grow and develop. I remain extremely grateful to her for her continued support in weekly rehearsals and school performances.**



The school choir has a jam-packed yearly schedule of liturgical, seasonal and school performances. We enjoy contributing to school Mass, Sacraments, open day, carol services and special assemblies.

One of our favourite times of the year has to be Christmas; we have lovely opportunities to share our singing with the residents of local nursing homes and shoppers in the supermarkets in preparation for the festive season. Getting involved in the community is a very uplifting experience for the children and we have always been well received.



**Our choir have a really special group dynamic; whether you are a past or present member I know that our children feel they are part of something very unique. The future is looking bright for our choir in St Nicholas'.**

**Article by Miss Gallagher**

# Greetings from India



In a previous issue of the Connection we heard about Matt Monaghan's visit to India, and some of the work going on there with local communities. Matt has shared a recent communication from Fr. Chandran, which will be of interest to us in Carrickfergus and Whitehead.

## Greetings from India!

*First of all, let me once again acknowledge and appreciate the parishioners of Carrickfergus and Whitehead for their generous contribution during Christmas for the charitable works in India through the Guardian Project. We remain indebted to every*

*person who made a contribution, and to the Parish Priest of Carrickfergus for making it possible.*

*To you, Matt we are so thankful from the bottom of our hearts. The funds from your parish have been put to good use since this April, and as soon as they are completed we will get back to you with photographs.*

*Once again, thank you and God Bless.*

### **Fr Chandran Riymonds**

The projects in Varanasi Province have benefitted from money raised in our parish, and from others in Ireland. Without doubt, the money has been put to very good use in a place where need is great. People in rural communities will benefit from hand pumps to supply water, something we would regard as essential. Many families have received financial support, and more than thirty bicycles, or bicycle rickshaws have been supplied to individuals. Through these projects local people are enabled to become self sufficient.

We hope to hear lots more from Matt and Fr Chandran as the Guardian Project develops.

Thanks to Matt Monaghan for the information, and if anyone would like to support this work, he will be able to help.

**Article by Pauline Cowan**

# Woollen Woodstock in Whitehead

Whitehead Diamond Jubilee Wood is the only Diamond Jubilee Wood in Northern Ireland. It contains 60,000 trees including an orchard and on Saturday 1st June had its two kilometres of path transformed into a Woollen Woodstock for the day, with live music from Shindig, the Flame 'n' Ukes and the Gasworks Trad Session Group.



There were also plenty of activities for young and old alike along the way, thanks to the many volunteers including our own Chatty Crafters.

**Article by Paul Mayne**



# The Rosary Group

“Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother.” - Saint Padre Pio

Our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of the Rosary, asked us, implored us, to pray the Rosary every day and to contemplate its mysteries as a means of making reparation for the wounds our sins have inflicted on the sacred heart of her Divine son, Jesus. Everything she teaches, everything she says, asks and reveals, points us to,



or leads us to, Jesus. This request has brought us to pray the Rosary before vigil mass on Saturdays, from 5:30 to 5:50 in the Blessed Sacrament chapel. The Madonna procured for us, from her Divine son, that if we say the Rosary then contemplate the mysteries for fifteen minutes on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, receive the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist within eight days, all with the intention of making reparation to the wounded heart of Mary, then at the hour of our death She will obtain for us the graces necessary for our salvation.

## Why five Saturdays?

Jesus appeared to Saint Lucia on May 29 1930 and when asked this question answered that it was because of five types of offences and blasphemies against the immaculate heart, namely;

- Blasphemy against the immaculate conception
- Blasphemies against her perpetual virginity
- Blasphemies against the Divine and spiritual maternity of Mary
- Blasphemies involving the rejection and dishonouring of her images
- Neglect of implanting in the hearts of children knowledge and love of this immaculate heart.

So come and join us in honouring our Holy Mother for twenty minutes before Mass with the prayer She gave to Saint Dominic in the thirteenth century.

In Las Lajes Columbia in 1754 our Lady left an image of Herself and the child Jesus on the rock face of the cave where she had appeared to Maria Mueses de Quinones and her daughter. In the image She is holding out a Rosary to Saint Dominic and a friars chord to Saint Francis. The image is not painted on but is the rock itself to a depth of at least three feet.

See you on Saturday?

**Article by the Rosary Group**

# Parish Youth Group

Since the launch of our Parish Pastoral Plan in 2017, one of the Pastoral Council's main objectives has been 'Passing on the Faith'. This is a broad category, but in practice has meant evaluating the Parish's existing ministries to children, young people and families; and looking at how these can be helped and developed further.

As in many parishes, a demographic that we have struggled to reach has been young people aged 11-18. Therefore, we made it a priority to launch a Parish Youth Group for these parishioners, not as something superficially religious, but as a vehicle for young people to share ideas, do good in their Parish, and to build community among themselves.



So far, our Youth Group have made food hampers up during Lent to be presented to those in need around Easter. Some of our young people spoke at Masses in Carrickfergus and Whitehead, to promote the idea of a 'Positive Lent' and giving rather than 'giving up'. We had an amazing response from

Parishioners, who donated far more than we ever could've expected, and we made up large hampers which were presented to St Vincent de Paul, to be passed on to people in need.

Our young people also organised and implemented our annual Easter Egg hunt, after 11.30 Mass on Easter Sunday. Instead of the usual method of hiding eggs on the grass and letting children gather up as many as they can, our young people



came up with the idea of writing down letters on sticky notes to be hidden, which would spell out a message once found. This encouraged the younger children to work as a team, and after all the letters – spelling “St Nicholas Youth Group wish you a Happy Easter” – were found, our young people handed out chocolate eggs.



There have been lots of other ideas from our members for activities in the future. These ideas include doing clean-ups, raising money for good causes, visiting older parishioners, hosting speakers and having pizza evenings.

We'd love to welcome more members, and if you're between P7 and age 18 and would like to come along, please speak to Siobhán Gilmore or David Gorman.

**Article by David Gorman**

# One Small Step



My name is Olivia. I am nine years old and I completed the nine-mile Belfast Marathon walk to raise £697.57 including gift aid for **Rosie's Trust**. I found out about Rosie's Trust in the last edition of the Connection magazine. It is a charity that helps people stay with their dogs if they are sick, elderly or unable to look after them. I walked with my mum Louise and my older cousin Reuben. It was a lot of fun but also a bit hard.

It was a very cold morning when we started at Stormont. There were a lot of nice people standing on the roadsides who had come out to cheer us on. Some were playing music and some were offering us Jelly Babies. It was great to talk to lots of other walkers on the way round and hear their reasons for fundraising.

When I got to the finish line I was exhausted but delighted to get my medal. I can't wait to meet Jayne from Rosie's Trust and hand over a big cheque.

I hope she can tell me more about all the people and their pets that the money raised will go towards helping.

Why don't you look up [rosiestrust.org](http://rosiestrust.org) to find out more for yourself?

Article by Olivia Mayne (P5)



# Craft Make & Take Day



On Saturday 13th April, Lourdes Pastoral Centre in conjunction with Mid and East Antrim Council hosted a very enjoyable arts and crafts afternoon. Artists and crafter's showed all age ranges how to weave leaves, make pom poms and tassels, tie dye material, print on material bags, decorate CDs, make felt flowers, knit, crochet and weave with wool. Light refreshments were added too. Well done to all and as you can see from the photographs it was very well attended.

**Article & photos by Joanne Campbell**



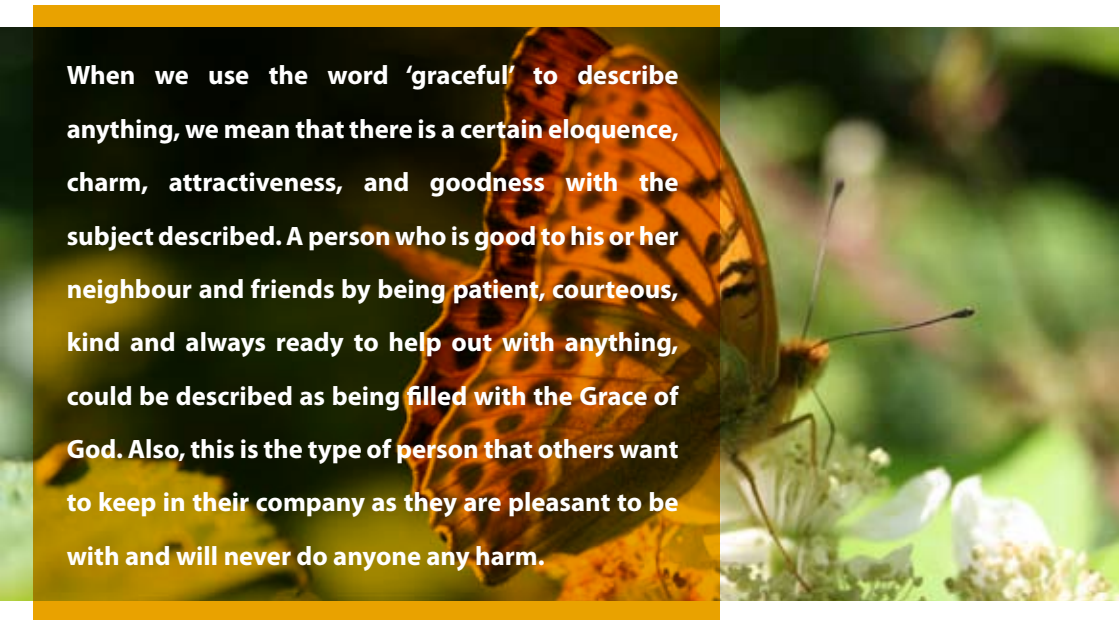
# BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD GO I

According to The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations these words originated from a saying by the Evangelist and Preacher John Bradford (1510-1555). When he witnessed a group of young men being led to the gallows he exclaimed **“But for the grace of God there goes John Bradford.”** Bradford preached reform and repentance to England and was executed for his beliefs on 15th July 1555 under the reign of Queen Mary (1516-1558). Of course long before Christianity reached Europe, St. Paul tells us, **“But by the grace of God I am what I am”** (1Cor. 15-10). So we have to ask ourselves, what is Grace and where does it come from and most importantly, how do we receive it and what does it do for us?

From a Christian perspective the ‘Grace of God’ comes to light in a variety of different ways within the Bible and has never had a single meaning in Catholic Theology or Doctrine. According to Genesis, **“Noah found grace in the eyes of God”** (Gen. 6. 8) and saved all life on earth by building an Ark. God also declared Himself to Moses as **“merciful and gracious, slow to anger”** (Ex. 34:6). God made a Covenant with Moses promising to perform marvels for all the people. These promises are seen as the gifts of the graces of God. The evangelist, John, tells us in the New Testament that **“we have all received, grace upon grace and grace has come through Jesus Christ.”** (John. 1:16-17). As Christians we firmly believe that we were created in the likeness of God, therefore, we must also have the graciousness of God. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) argues that grace comes from God alone and is caused by the Sacraments, and by the power of the Holy Spirit working in the Sacraments.

In the New Testament, especially after the Resurrection, grace is mentioned continually. Here are a few examples: St. Paul writes **“Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace”** (Rom.1: 4-5); **“We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**through whom we have obtained access to this grace”** (Rom. 5: 1-2) Peter writes **“May grace and peace be yours in abundance.”** (1 Peter. 1: 2); Stephen, the Apostle chosen to replace Judas, was said to be filled with the **“Holy Spirit”** and also **“full of grace and power.”** (Acts. 6:5-8).



**When we use the word ‘graceful’ to describe anything, we mean that there is a certain eloquence, charm, attractiveness, and goodness with the subject described. A person who is good to his or her neighbour and friends by being patient, courteous, kind and always ready to help out with anything, could be described as being filled with the Grace of God. Also, this is the type of person that others want to keep in their company as they are pleasant to be with and will never do anyone any harm.**

Finally, when we received the Holy Spirit at Baptism and Confirmation we were given gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Council, Fortitude, Piety and Fear of God. When these gifts are used continually throughout the path of life by a person, that person will not only remain in grace with God but will also grow in grace with God. Grace does not impede on our free will but is a condition or state with which we live our lives, and cannot be something added to us but must well up from within our being as God grants it to us as we receive the Sacraments. So, the next time you have a close shave with someone or something and survive to tell the tale, or have an accident which could have been more serious, or completed an extremely difficult task or exam, perhaps you could use the words: **BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD GO I.**

**Article by Patsy Bell**

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