



*[Please stand if you are able]*

### Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our  
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be  
with you all  
**and also with you.**

### Hymn No. 330 (Abbot's Leigh)

God is here! As we his people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of his Spirit  
into open minds and hearts

Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold,  
here, as bread and wine are taken,

Christ sustains us, as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living  
to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel,  
help us work your purpose out.  
here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive:  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you, we believe!

### The Introduction to Baptism

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us  
that to enter the kingdom of heaven  
we must be born again of water and  
the Spirit,  
and he has given us baptism as the  
sign and seal of this new birth.  
Here we are washed by the Holy  
Spirit and made clean.  
Here we are clothed with Christ,  
dying to sin that we may live his risen  
life.  
As children of God, we have a new  
dignity  
and God calls us to fullness of life.

*[Please kneel or sit]*

### The Penitence

O God our Creator,  
we thank you for the gift of this

precious child Alex; pure and innocent.

We now turn to you, to ask you to take from us those things that on our lives' journeys, have tarnished our purity and shattered our innocence.

*[Silence as we bring to mind those things for which we desire God's forgiveness.]*

Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy, and confess that we need forgiveness.

Lord God, you created the world, and made us in your own image.

Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death.

Rescue us from slavery to sin.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord God, by your Spirit you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another.

Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Listen then to Jesus,  
feel his touch, know his love,  
for through him God says to us:

'Your sins are forgiven, you are loved, you are free.' **Amen.**

### The Collect of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth

and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works

and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit  
reigns supreme over all things, now  
and for ever. **Amen.**



### The Collect for St Brigid's Day

Father,

by the leadership of your blessed  
servant Brigid  
you strengthened the Church in this  
land:

as we give you thanks for her life of  
devoted service,

inspire us with new life and light,  
and give us perseverance to serve you  
all our days;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### The First Reading: Colossians 1: 15-20

*The first reading is from the Epistle of St Paul to the Colossians, chapter 15, beginning at verse 15.*

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

### The Gradual Hymn - Hymn No. 503 (St Francis)

Make me a channel of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me bring  
your love,

where there is injury, your pardon,  
Lord,  
and where there's doubt, true faith in  
you:

*O Master, grant, that I may never  
seek  
so much to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love with all my soul!*

Make me a channel of your peace:  
where there's despair in life let me  
bring hope,  
where there is darkness, only light,  
and where there's sadness, ever joy:  
*O Master, grant, that I may never  
seek  
so much to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love with all my soul!*

Make me a channel of your peace:  
it is in pardoning that we are  
pardoned,  
in giving of ourselves that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal  
life.



*[Please stand if you are able]*

## The Second Reading: The Gospel - Mark 10: 13-16

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Mark, chapter 10, beginning at verse 13.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



## The Sermon

## The Presentation

We welcome this child who comes to be baptized. I invite his sponsors to present him now.

*Sponsors:*

**We present Alexander Hunter Beatt to be baptized.**

Shannon, Karen, Erin and Liam, will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing Alexander Hunter for baptism and answer on his behalf? By your own prayers and example, by your teaching and love, will you encourage him in the life and faith of the Christian Community?

**With the help of God, we will.**

In baptism this child begins his journey of faith.

You speak for him today.

Will you care for him and help him to take his place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

**With the help of God, we will.**

## The Decision

In baptism, God calls us from darkness to his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

**I do.**

Do you then renounce the devil and all his works?

***I do, by God's help.***

Will you obey and serve Christ?

***I will, by God's help.***

*The priest says to the whole congregation:*

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.

Will you support them in this calling?

*The congregation answers:*

***We will support them.***

*[Please stand if you are able]*

### **Hymn - Father God, I wonder**

Father God, I wonder how I managed to exist

without the knowledge of your parenthood

and your loving care.

But now I am your child

I am adopted in your family

and I can never be alone,

'cause Father God you're there beside me.

I will sing your praises,

I will sing your praises,

I will sing your praises for evermore.

I will sing your praises,

I will sing your praises,

I will sing your praises for evermore.

### **The Baptism**

*The priest, Alexander Hunter, his family and godparents gather at the font and the priest begins the thanksgiving prayer.*



Praise God who made heaven and earth.

***Who keeps his promise for ever.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*[Shortened version of the Blessing of the Water]*

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life, and we thank you for the water of baptism.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, he may be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may he walk by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

*The priest asks the parents and godparents:*

Do you believe and accept the Christian faith into which Alexander Hunter is to be baptized?

***I do.***

*The priest addresses the whole congregation:*  
 Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess, together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

*[Using a shortened version of the Apostle's Creed in question-and-answer form]*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.***

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. Amen.***

*The priest baptizes by pouring water over Alexander Hunter saying:*

Alexander Hunter, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The priest makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of Alexander Hunter, saying:*

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross.



Live as a disciple of Christ, fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.

***Confess Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, look for his coming in glory.***

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

*The priest continues:*

God has called you into his Church.

*The congregation joins the priest, saying:*

***We therefore receive and welcome you as a member with us of the body of Christ, as a child of the one heavenly Father, and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.***

### **Presentation of Bible and Candle**

*The Churchwardens, on behalf of the parish, present Alex with a Children's Bible and a lit candle. The Bible is to help him to learn more about God and his Son Jesus Christ and to grow in his faith, and the candle symbolises the light of Christ, which has been passed down through the centuries and which is today extended to Alex, that he may shine forth the light of Christ throughout his life.*





## The Peace

We are the body of Christ.

By one spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life together.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*[Let us offer each other the sign of peace. Please check that the person you are sharing the peace with that they are happy to shake, etc. It may be more appropriate to exchange a smile or a wave!]*



*[The offering will be received during the singing of this hymn.]*

## Offertory Hymn - Hymn No. 24 (Lasst uns erfreuen (Easter Song))

*[Verses 1, 2, 3]*

1. All creatures of our God and king,  
lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
thou silver moon with softer gleam:

*O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

2. Thou rushing wind that art so  
strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,  
O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
ye lights of evening, find a voice:

3. Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for thy Lord to hear,  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
that givest us both warmth and light:

## THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

Christ, our passover has been  
sacrificed for us,  
**therefore let us celebrate the  
feast.**

The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our  
God.

**It is right to give him thanks and  
praise.**

Father, almighty and everliving God,  
at all times and in all places, it is right  
to give you thanks and praise:

Because by water and the Holy Spirit,  
you have made us a holy people in  
Jesus Christ our Lord, raised us to  
new life in him and renewed in the  
image of your glory, and so with all  
your people, with angels and  
archangels, and with all the company

of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might.***

***Heaven and earth are full of your  
glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest!***

***Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest!***

*(Please feel free to stand, sit or kneel)*

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image; male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us; he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded:

***we remember his passion and death,  
we celebrate his resurrection and  
ascension, and we look for the  
coming of his kingdom.***

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him:

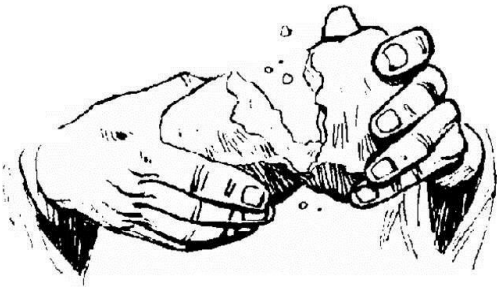
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
***all honour and glory are yours,  
Almighty Father, for ever and ever.  
Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father,  
who art in heaven:  
hallowed be thy name,***



*thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the  
power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.*



### Breaking of the Bread

The bread which we break is a sharing  
in the body of Christ.

*We being many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.*

### The Invitation

### **The Communion**

*It is the custom of the Church of Ireland to welcome  
to receive Holy Communion, all those who usually  
receive Holy Communion in their own tradition. If  
you wish to receive a blessing instead, please  
indicate this to the priest. Please feel free and  
welcome to do whichever is appropriate for you.*



### **The Great Silence**

*You are invited to take some time to reflect,  
having received Holy Communion.*

*[Please kneel or sit]*

### The Post-Communion Prayer

*God our guide,  
you feed us with bread from heaven  
as you fed your people Israel.  
May we who have been inwardly  
nourished  
be ready to follow you  
all the days of our pilgrimage on  
earth,  
until we come to your kingdom in  
heaven.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Prayers for Alex and his family

Father, we thank you that Alex has  
now been born again of water and the  
Holy Spirit, and has become your own  
child by adoption, and a member of  
your Church.

Grant that he may grow in the faith in  
which he has been baptized;

grant that he himself may confess it  
when he comes to be confirmed;  
grant that he may bear witness to it  
by a life of service to others;  
and that all things belonging to the  
Spirit may live and grow in him;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Almighty God, bless the home of this  
child Alex. Bless his mum Shannon,  
his granny Karen, all his family, and  
his godparents Erin and Liam. Give  
such grace and wisdom to all who have  
the care of him, that by their word  
and good example they may teach him  
to know and love you, through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As we come to the blessing, we have a  
time of quiet:  
we give thanks to God for the gift  
that Alex is...  
we ask God's blessing on all those who  
are a part of Alex's life, all who have  
helped to make him into the precious  
little person that he is...

### **The Blessing**

The God of all grace,  
who called you to his eternal glory in  
Christ Jesus,  
establish, strengthen and settle you in  
the faith;  
and the Blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy  
Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you  
always. **Amen.**

### **Hymn No. 24 (Lasst uns erfreuen (Easter Song))** [Verses 4, 5, 7]

4. Dear mother earth, who day by day  
unfoldest blessings on our way,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
The flowers and fruits that in thee  
grow,  
let them his glory also show:

*O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

5. All ye that are of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing ye, alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and on him cast your care:

7. Let all things their creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the  
Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:

### **The Closing Responses and Dismissal**

God has delivered us from the  
domination of darkness and has given  
us a place with the saints in light.

Alex, you have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

*Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.*

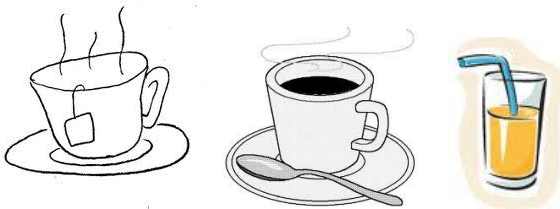
Go in the peace to love and serve the Lord.

*In the name of Christ. Amen.*

*In the interests of trying to keep all who come to our churches safe, please take away this service sheet and any other items that you may have brought with you or used in church this morning.*

*Thank you.*

*Stay well and stay safe.*



## Tea/Coffee/Juice

*You are warmly invited to tea/coffee/juice in the South Transept of the church after this Service.*

## **Extraordinary General Vestry Meeting** **re the future of St Thomas' Church and Mount Merrion Parish**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024**  
**7.30pm**  
**St Thomas' Church**

**All parishioners of Mount Merrion Parish are urged to attend this very important meeting.**

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

9.30 Morning Prayer in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Morning Prayer in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

**NB Sausage Service moved to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024 due to half-term**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Ash

Wednesday

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

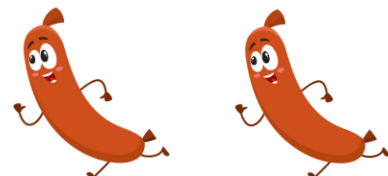
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

9.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion and Holy Baptism in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

**18.30 Sausage Service in St Philip and St James' Church, followed by sausages and wedges**



**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

9.30 Founder's Day Service for Scouting in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Service of the Word in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

9.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

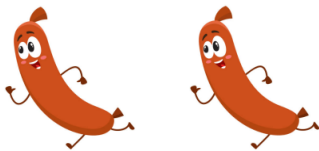
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

9.30 Morning Prayer in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Morning Prayer in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

**18.30 Sausage Service in St Philip and St James' Church, followed by sausages and wedges**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – St Patrick's Day**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

9.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Palm Sunday**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.30 United Daffodil Service in St Philip

and St James' Church (live-streamed)

*followed by Daffodil Coffee Morning and Bring-and-Buy in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre.*

**Holy Week****Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

20.00 Evening Service in St Thomas' Church

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

20.00 Evening Service in St Philip and St James' Church

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

20.00 Evening Service in St Thomas' Church

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - Maundy Thursday****Thursday**

20.00 *The Last Supper – Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church*

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Good Friday**

14.00 *Meditation on the Cross in St Thomas' Church*

20.00 *Ecumenical Prayers at the Cross in St Philip and St James' Church*

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 –****Easter Day**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

9.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Tuesday afternoon—3.30pm—4.10pm  
In the Canon Osborne Barr Room of St  
Philip and St James' Parish Centre  
Contact Irene on 087-2755423  
[irene.reid1052@gmail.com](mailto:irene.reid1052@gmail.com)

## BOOTERSTOWN AND

## CARYSFORT

### SELECT VESTRY

THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

19.30 HOURS

*IN THE PARISH ROOM (BACK ROOM)  
OF ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES'  
PARISH CENTRE*

## MOUNT MERRION

### SELECT VESTRY MEETING

MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

19.30 HOURS *VIA ZOOM*



### Confirmation Class for teenagers

*Next class is on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>*

*February 2024 at 18.30*

*St Philip and St James' Church*

Please note that Confirmation preparation  
for adults will take place separately – please  
contact the Rector.



# Sunday Clubs

Our Sunday Clubs have had very  
enjoyable gatherings over the past few  
months.

St Philp and St James' Sunday will meet  
on the following dates:

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024

St Thomas' Sunday Club will meet on the  
following dates:

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024

All children who are toilet-trained are  
welcome!



## **Daffodil Service and Daffodil Coffee Morning with Bring-and-Buy**

*Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024*

8.30 United Service of Holy  
Communion - St Thomas'  
Church

10.30 United Family Service  
for Daffodil Day - St Philip  
and St James' Church



*followed by Daffodil Coffee Morning  
with Bring-and-Buy in St Philip and St  
James' Parish Centre*

At this Service, we will pray for those who are undergoing treatment for cancer, and for all who are involved in the healing and care of people with cancer; and for those who are undertaking research into the treatment and cure of cancer. We are going to give thanks for the recovery of those who have survived cancer and remember those who have died from cancer.

Tea/coffee will be served after the service in the parish hall, in aid of the Irish Cancer Society, and there will also be a Bring and Buy Stall in aid of the Irish Cancer Society.



## **Lenten Challenge**

**Gillian is off again!**

**She is walking at least 5km  
every day of Lent 2024.**

***Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February –  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024***

Lent is the season for examining ourselves and seeing how we can more fully reflect the life and love of

Christ and his commandment to us to love our neighbour as ourselves. That means respecting and caring for others and for ourselves.

Therefore, again, this Lent, I am encouraging people to take up something that gives you a focus each day and that benefits you physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

This year, I be walking each day for my physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing and for the victims of the conflict between Palestine and Israel.

*(channelled through the Bishops' Appeal to Christian Aid who are working on the ground with local agencies).*

I look forward to being joined by the Cub Scouts one Friday evening in Lent and will also be inviting others to walk with me on various days during Lent.

You can make a donation by online banking to

**Boooterstown and Mount Merrion  
Account**

**IBAN: IE30IPBS99062932796541  
BIC: IPBSIE2D**