

INSIDE

Message from ITV
Leadeer

Prayer

Ban the Bomb

Lockdown

Quarantine

R.I.P

Upcoming Events



FOREWORD

Jubilee for the Earth The theme for this year's Season of Creation was chosen well in advance of 2020, commemorating as it does the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. But, as we struggle with the unforeseen epidemic that is Covid-19, there is something very appropriate in it,

During the early global lockdown, when so much polluting activity was at a standstill, it was heart lifting to see how nature came into her own again. Our streets were free of noisy traffic; our skies were so much clearer; our water was cleaner; birdsong seemed clearer and sweeter. Some creatures, long consigned to the wilds, dared to roam our streets. The fox in 2 Aberdare Gardens, pictured above, is an example as he sits unconcerned, even with a proprietorial air.

In his message for Creation Season this year, Pope Francis dwells on the meaning of Jubilee in Holy Scripture, putting it into our present context. While regretting that the "cries of the earth and the poor have become louder and even more painful in recent years", he sees cause for rejoicing in the "gradual mobilisation of people *from below and the peripheries* who are generously working for the protection of the land and the poor", mentioning also the response of young people as well as local and indigenous communities.

It is becoming obvious that it is these groups who will bring about the profound transformation in attitudes and behaviour needed to awaken us to "*the sacredness, interdependence and interconnectedness of all life, to the inherent dignity of all people and the right of all beings and ecosystems to exist, thrive and evolve*".

Message from IVT Leader

How can I listen?



We are in the final days of the Season of Creation, where without a doubt the events of COVID_19 has enabled us to have a heightened consciousness of our surroundings and a

deeper connection with one another and all of creation.

During lockdown I experienced for the first-time total silence in London – not every day I note but especially on a Sunday morning. Each Sunday, I had the privilege of about twenty minutes of complete silence, coming to a close with the sound of a jogger or a parent offering words of encouragement to a child.

In the silence I found myself clearly seeing the growth of the tree outside my window, the birds that perched on the branches and the cloud formation. One of my favourite scripture passages is 1Kings 19:11-12 where the Prophet Elijah meets God, not in the great wind, or an earthquake, or a fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. Over these past months have you experienced moments of silence?

A few weeks ago, I came across this quote from the Jewish Sabbath Prayer Book *"Days pass and the years vanish, and we walk sightless among miracles. Fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with knowing. Let there be moments when your Presence, like lightening, illumines the darkness in which we walk. Help us to see, wherever we gaze, that the bush burns, unconsumed. And we clay touched by God, will reach out in holiness, and exclaim in wonder "How filled with awe is*

this place" I was stopped in my tracks to check out with myself how my seeing may have altered as the restrictions eased and we embark on "a new normal" It is so easy to get caught up again in the rush of each day. We have glimpsed the life that is possible, we are called to ensure that all of creation is treated with dignity and respect.

In 2015 when *Laudato Si* was published, Pope Francis challenged us to change. Five years on and the pandemic has forced us to change in ways we never imagined. I offer you two extracts which I feel offer encouragement on our journey of conversion and empower us to

recognise that each one of us has a part to play by including our concern for our common home in our conversations with others.

...a recognition that the world is God's loving gift, ... It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures but joined in a splendid universal communion. #220

A balanced lifestyle together with a capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life. Nature is filled with words of love, but how can we listen to them amid constant noise #225

My hope for you as you read this article is that you can easily identify one way in which you can respond to care more for our common home beyond this Season of Creation.

Sr. Catherine Lavery
(Inter Vocational Team)



Prayer of Praise and Invocation

*Having listened to some of the tapes by John O'Donohue and then turned to *The Celtic Wheel of the Year* by Tess Ward, Margaret Bradley felt inspired to offer this morning prayer.*

Praise to You O Hope bringer.

For even and all the terror we have seen with single eye,

There is no black place without chink or peep or crack,

Without seam of escape, or silver vein or glimmer,

Because there is no place that you have not visited

With your light of way-through.

Praise to you.

(Be still in the silence and aware of the Love with and within.....)

Life- Giving One, I lay down before you this day

the dark night of this world

where I long for redemption and a brand-new day.

I yearn for a dawn, a dawn most blessed,

when every child has protection and is cherished;

every fist opened, every caress for giving not taking;

every word for kindness, every tear for joy.

every clenched heart that hits out, be melted;

every mouth fed; every head sheltered;

where weapons would be beaten once-for-all into plough- shares;

where difference could be celebrated

as the walls of dogma and division come down; where broken relationships may be restored; and unspoken family members hold each other in long embrace.

Give us faith to believe in hope as we set out this day.

(Celtic Wheel of the Year, P 90)



BAN THE BOMB

“At 12.15pm June 16th, 2020, the Mirror Pool in front of Bradford Town Hall was the site of a unique socially distant demonstration – a giant human peace symbol formed by 75 local campaigners to mark the 75th anniversary of the first atomic explosion. The demonstration remembered all lives lost as a result of the testing and usage of nuclear weapons and called on Bradford Council to formally support the UN Treaty to ban all nuclear weapons across the globe.

The event took place under very strict social distancing guidelines, something which has presented considerable logistical challenges for the organising group.

“We had to do something to mark this milestone, but wanted to ensure we didn’t put anyone at risk. The solution we came up with, was to mark out the symbol with 75 painted pebbles placed 2 meters apart. Every participant was given a specific number ahead of time to ensure we all maintained a safe distance. We didn’t know if people would go for it, but the only problem has been too many people wanting to be involved!” said Mike

Barrett a local artist and graphic designer, who mapped out the event”.



Over the past few days, the dropping of the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki has been highlighted in the media, especially as the 75th anniversary of this event was being held. I have followed different TV episodes, as well as participating in Zoom meetings, which have remembered those who died, as also the brave soldiers who were fighting in Burma at that time and were later held by the Japanese as Prisoners of War. The four-day Prayer Services by Pax Christi (Zoom), 6th – 9th August, were a beautiful and powerful way of promoting solidarity and hope for a more peaceful world.

I have always been an ardent protester against nuclear armaments and as I watched the actual bombings, my feelings were deeply enforced. Yet as I followed the remembrance celebrations for the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, I found my feelings were with the survivors of that war, who told their own stories of that event marking the end of the war. As they told of their sufferings during the war and expressed the joy at the thought of returning home, I empathised with them.

I still vehemently believe that nuclear bombs should never be used again. Maria and I were present at the above demonstration in Bradford City Square on 16th July. If you look closely you can see me on the far, left outside circle, (270 degrees from clock tower) in a bright lime-green coat. Behind me is a lady with a child in a push chair. Maria is in the centre line and therefore cannot be seen.

May the efforts for World Peace be a constant reminder to us of our Charism of Communion.

‘There is no room for hatred, only for forgiveness.’ (Pope Francis)

Sheila Griffiths (Bradford Community)

LOCKDOWN - SOME POSITIVES

* WHAT IS LUXURY? ... * They made us believe that luxury was the rare, the expensive, the exclusive, everything that seemed unattainable ... Now we realize that luxury were those little things that we did not know how to value when we had them and now that they are gone, we miss them so much ... Luxury is being healthy. Luxury is not stepping into a hospital. Luxury is being able to walk along the seashore. Luxury is going out on the streets and breathing without a mask. Luxury is meeting with your whole family, with your friends. Luxury are the looks. Smiles are luxury. Luxury are hugs and kisses. Luxury is enjoying every sunrise. Luxury is the privilege of loving and being alive. All this is a luxury and we did not know ..

Stay blessed. Stay grateful.

From Edel Mulligan, Lay Member

Stuck in Lockdown

I am stuck in lockdown in my house

I do not know what to do I know I thought I will plant some veg and do some baking too.

And then I thought of planting fruit and making my own jam and had a go of doing craft and renewing clothes I have.

I planted flowers outside my house and in my garden too, with different colours which made me feel brand new.

I then began to phone my friends and wrote a letter or two, then began to read the books I never got round to do.

I then sat down and began to write a couple of poems a new like writing this in lockdown to encourage you.

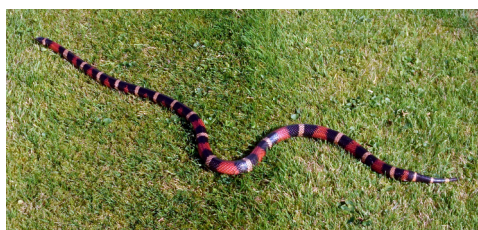
So, at this time when you are on your own don't feel there is nothing to do, just keep on being busy finding lots of things to do.

*By Mary McKenzie
Skelmersdale Lay Member*

A special visitor

What appears to be a milk snake, a common, harmless breed that people keep as a pet, has been seen in Rock Ferry Garden.

Sisters and Staff, are enjoying the presence of the guest, while keeping an eye on it in case someone comes looking for it.



Thanks to Sarah Baker for sending the photos.



Time

Time is one of the most precious gifts we are given, one to value, because once it has gone it will never come back.

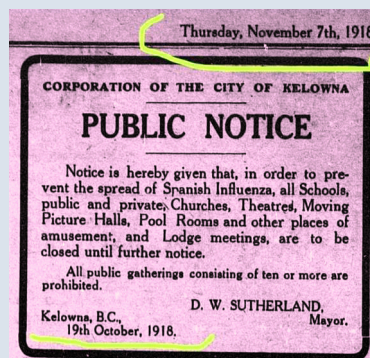
March this year 2020 was the start of lockdown, a daunting experience that no one had ever had before, but we had time, a time to turn negative into positive

A time not to be under the pressure of having to do things but to catch up on what we often put off - jobs done, books read, prayers and readings to have time to meditate on. A time to catch up with family and friends using telephone, writing letters, text, email, face time zoom video calls, all the things we say we have no time for.

Yes, it has been difficult and will be for quite some time but to help us, though, let's look at the positive and not the negative and focus on all the blessings ahead of us.

Marilyn Sutemire

Leader of the Holy Family Members Skelmersdale



Does it look familiar?
How it was during the Spanish Flu in 1918

FROM LOCKDOWN TO QUARANTINE

We thought lockdown was bad, but for anyone who has experienced quarantine, it might be considered a holiday. Our sisters from Sri Lanka, Dammika and Dilosyia have just finished 28 days of quarantine, 14 in a government-designated centre and 14 in their respective communities.

Since finishing their course at the beginning of June, they spent almost three months waiting for a flight home as only Sri Lanka Airlines flights were allowed into the country. During that time, they kept up the pressure on contacts in Church and State and friends close to these contacts. It must be said there appears to be a very cohesive network of people from Sri Lanka on our islands.

July and August went by and then, on Monday, the 24th August, a message came that they had been given a place on a flight leaving Heathrow on the following Thursday, a condition being they were prepared to go into quarantine for 14 days and pay for their accommodation. Confirmation that they were accepted arrived on Wednesday morning. Only then could a flight be booked on Aer Lingus for them to travel to Heathrow.

Arriving at Heathrow, they were informed they would have to leave the airport, together with all their luggage, until the time to register for their flight to Colombo at 10 pm. Once again, the Sri Lankan network came to their aid and they were picked up by a compatriot who took them to his home where they were fed and



even taken out to see some of the sights of London.

Their contact in C o l o m b o airport, who had undertaken to help them on their arrival, was powerless to do

anything. The whole procedure had been put into the hands of the army. All the passengers were tested and put on buses and brought to various hotels, after they had paid the required amount. It was nearly midnight on Friday before they got to their hotel. For 14 days they were confined to a room with meals being left at the door. They did have TV and Internet access, which kept them in touch with the outside world, and they had their own books to read. But..., the rest is left to our imagination.

As their sequestration was ending, everyone in the hotel was again tested, with one proving positive.

Dammika and Dilosyia, with all the other negatives, were free to go with the stipulation that they spend another 14 days in quarantine at their place of residence.



We wish them every Blessing as they re-join their communities!

Sr. Maureen O'Mahony R.I.P

This article, written by Sr. Catherine Moran, Holy Family Convent, Newbridge, was requested by a local Newspaper, the **Kerry Eye**, when news of Sr. Maureen's death became public.



Sr. Maureen O'Mahony who died recently was a well-loved member of the Holy Family community at Naas Road, Newbridge, Co. Kildare. She grew up in Firies, Killarney, Co. Kerry. Coming from Kerry – in the words of John B. Keane – gives one a head start above everyone else! Maureen was educated locally by the Sisters of Mercy.

Maureen entered Religious Life in the Holy Family order on 15 August 1946. In her early years as a Religious Sister Maureen was known as Sr. Lawrence, but when Vatican 2 put a strong emphasis on the importance of Baptism in the life of every Christian, Maureen reclaimed her Baptismal name.

Maureen died unexpectedly on Thursday, 13 August 2020, at the age of 95 after a very short illness. Due to the prevailing restrictions, only a limited number was allowed to attend the funeral which took place two days later. The main celebrant of the mass in St. Conleth's parish church, Newbridge was Rev. Joe McDermott, assisted by priests from the local Dominican community. What a coincidence that Maureen was buried on the 74th anniversary of her final profession, Saturday 15 August, the feast of Our Lady's Assumption!

It has been said that part of our eternity will be spent processing our memories and making sense of our yesterdays. What memories Maureen will be processing of what happened on her journey! In his homily Fr. Joe recalled some events from Maureen's life. Her main outreach was in the area of pastoral care of families in the parishes where

she lived and worked – in England, Scotland and Ireland.

Maureen was an exceptionally gifted and careful driver and was always ready to visit homes where families were in need. She worked with a local priest, Fr. Hardiman O.M.I who was unable to drive – and the local people who knew Maureen when she was named Sr. Lawrence often remarked that 'Laurel and Hardy' were a great team! The community washing line was often a strange mixture of clothing from different sources! Many families benefitted from Maureen's kindness and generosity.

Kerry football ranked high in Maureen's field of interests when she was young. She followed the commentary by Micheál O'Hehir from a little transistor. If Kerry were victorious, she would display the green & gold Kerry flag on her bedroom door – if not, it was put aside for another year!

Fr. Joe did not forget Peig Sayers' reflection. He concluded his homily with her final words:

"Is baois gach rud ach grá Dé." which translates as "All is folly except for loving God." Each person has his/her own unique way of journeying to God and God fulfils Himself in many ways – Maureen's way was unique to her. We thank God for the gift she was to the 'Holy Family Association' and for the many ways she enriched our lives.

Ar dheis láimh Dé go raibh a hanam dílis!

Maureen is survived by her brother Frank and his wife Sheila and their family in Chicago.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 2020	
Thursday, 1 st	International Day of Older persons
Sunday, 4 th	Feast of St. Francis. Season of Creation ends
Monday, 5 th	World Habitat Day
Saturday, 10 th	World Mental Health Day
Sunday, 11 th	International Day of the Girl Child
Friday, 16 th	World Food Day
Saturday, 17 th	Poverty Eradication Day
Sunday, 18th	WORLD MISSION SUNDAY EU Anti Human Trafficking Day
Tuesday, 27 th	Birthday of our Founder, Ven. Pierre Bienvenu Noailles

Pope Francis message can be read [here](#).



This determined petunia came up through a chink in our paving and flourished.