ISSUE 8
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Church News: Updates, and Prayer Points from Corboy & Mullingar

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"Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made." Luke *10:40*



Less than two months to Christmas! When you hear that, what goes through your mind? Do you get excited or does fear and stress set in? How many of you first thought of all the things you have to do, all the things you have to get sorted? Getting the Christmas lights up, the Christmas shopping, visits to make, presents to drop off, special TV programmes to plan for, and of course the Carol Services or Nativities to attend, at school and then at church, and perhaps other places too? Does that sum up your Christmas? Most of us love all this, and it's a great time, and strangely we often enjoy the busyness. Is it what makes a happy holiday season for you? But I've left something out? Hopefully you have worked it out, Jesus!

Even though we know Christmas is all about Jesus, who humbled himself to take the form of man, to come as a baby into this world, we know the reason it is called Christmas, yet all these other things, good as they are, can actually squeeze Christ out, moving Jesus, maybe unintentionally to the periphery? Is it possible to move from Christmas to Holiday Season without even noticing it, is it possible that over the next few weeks, we get distracted from the fact that, Immanuel, 'God is with us'?

*Mary and Martha were both in the midst of Jesus presence. Jesus was to be the centre of attention, and both were around Jesus, yet both had a very different experience. It appears that Jesus wasn't necessarily the main focus of Martha's attention, it was the preparations for Jesus and the house guests. Now she might have had good reasons for this. Jesus was an important guest, there was an expectation that Jesus should be treated well, that the food would have been right, that the guests were honoured properly. Everyone was depending on Martha, and expecting so much from her, that of course she began to stress. But Luke doesn't say in vs 40, 'Martha was **busy** by all the preparations,' he tells us 'Martha was **distracted** by all the preparations.' There is a difference. Martha is being criticised for letting all these other things take over, to become her focus, rather than Jesus being her focus. Jesus is more interested in the person of Martha, in building a relationship with her, Jesus, wanted her to spend time with Him, to enjoy his presence, to rest in his presence.Like Martha, we can so easily be distracted this Christmas.*

Mary, she had the opposite experience of Martha in her time with Jesus. Mary wasn't bothered what her sister thought, or what the others in the house and the onlookers thought. Mary was focused entirely on Jesus. Vs 39, Mary sat at the Lords feet, the place of a disciple, listening to what Jesus said. Jesus told Martha that 'one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which would not be taken away from her.' Mary's inheritance (portion) is Jesus, a relationship with Jesus which would not be taken from her now, or for eternity. Mary was right there with him, learning, talking with him, asking questions, getting to know Jesus better, developing her relationship with him. Jesus is more than just an acquaintance, he is her Lord, her friend, her teacher, her strength. If Jesus is more than an acquaintance to you, more than just a person you know off, and have heard about, then make the time to build up that relationship with him, make that your priority. Mary worked at her relationship with Jesus, and it was a priority for her, it took effort on her part, it cost her, but it was worth it. The 'one thing that is necessary' is to make the choice to live and be continually, in close proximately to, and in the presence of Jesus. Let's guard ourselves from being distracted from Jesus as we move through this advent season, let's prepare our hearts and our lives now, before the craziness starts, so as our Christmas is a time of worship to Him, a time of uplifting of our hearts towards God and a time of fellowship and service knowing Jesus, Immanuel, God is with us. May I wish you a Happy and Blessed Christmas.



Harvest @ Corboy

'Now the one who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will also provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness' 2 Cor. 9:10.

At the end of September we had the privilege of worshipping in the midst of a rural setting, and give God thanks for the harvest. Corboy church was well decorated, reminding us of the seed, and then the abundance of harvest. God is so good!

Dr Trevor Morrow spoke to us from Scripture, June sang Psalm 19, and we enjoyed refreshments afterwards in the hall. Thank you to all who helped make this a special service. Our offering of €520 was able to support PCI World Development Fund and Longford Meals



Find out more information about what has been happening, and what is planned by checking out our websites corboychurch.com and mullingarpresbyterian.com . Follow us on our social media.

Money Coaching

We have completed our ***'Pilot' Money Coaching Course***, *with 10 participants. This was well received, and thank you to all you helped and attended. We used fictional families to help apply the tools.It is planned to run a course again next year.*

Watch this space!



Coming Up...

Sunday Services:
10:00am Corboy
11:30am Mullingar

Ministers Holiday Cover

Wallace, our minister will be on Holiday from Monday 9th to Sunday 15th November. If in need of a minister during this time, contact one of our elders.

November

- **Wednesday 4th/11th/18th/25th, 10:30am,** Oodles & Doodles (Mullingar)
- **Wednesday 4th, 7:30pm,** Congregational meeting, Corboy
- **Thursday 5th/19th, 7:30pm**, Praise Group (Mullingar)
- **Friday 6th/13th, 7:00pm**, Grounded Youth
- **Monday 16th,** St Patrick's Hope Planning Meetings, **7:00pm Longford, 8:00pm Westmeath** (via Zoom)
- **Tuesday 17th/24, 7:30pm,** Bible Study (Mullingar)
- **Wednesday 18th/25th 7:30pm,** Bible Study (Corboy)
- **Saturday 21st, 7:00pm**, Signal Fire Youth Event (Mullingar)
- **Monday 23rd, 7:30pm,** Committee (Mullingar)
- **Sunday 29th, Compassion Service** (Corboy) **Communion & receipt of new members** (Mullingar)
- **Sunday 29th, 7:00pm** Advent Service (All Saints)

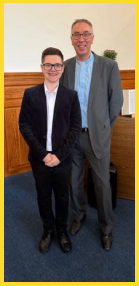
December

- **Wednesday 2nd/9th/16th, 10:30am,** Oodles & Doodles (Mullingar)
- **Wednesday 2nd, 7:30pm,** Bible Study (Corboy)
- **Friday 4th/11th, 7:00pm**, Grounded Youth
- **Saturday 5th, 7:00pm**, Presbytery Youth Christmas Party (Drogheda)
- **Sunday 13th, F**amily Service (Corboy/Mullingar)
- **Saturday 19th**, 6:00pm, Film Night - The King of Kings (Mullingar)
- **Sunday 20th, 3:00pm/7:00pm**, Carol Service (Corboy/ Mullingar)

Note: Church WhatsApp, Social Media, Website and weekly announcements will keep you updated with other events and activities.

New Communicant Membership

On Sunday 4th Oct, Corboy welcomed Leon Delannoy into full Communicant Membership. This was a special day as Leon shared his testimony, professing his faith in Jesus and made his membership vows, and committing to Corboy Congregation. We thank God for Leon, and pray His blessing on him.



Youth Outreach Worker

Update

Following advertisement unfortunately we did not find a suitable candidate. With a few minor adjustments to the Job Specification we will be advertising again in January.



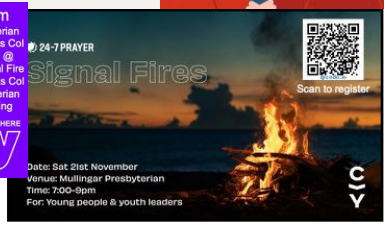
If you feel God is calling you to use your gifts to help in our ministries please speak with Wallace. Help is needed in various capacities in both congregations.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.' 1 Peter 4:10









Ploughing Championships 15-17 September, Screggan



With close to a quarter of a million people over three days, PCI had a Gospel outreach and hospitality stall funded, organised and run by the three Republic of Ireland Presbyteries in partnership with the Council for Mission in Ireland. We pray that the seeds of the Gospel planted during the week will take root, grow and yield a harvest in people's lives.



Welcoming Rachel & the Civil Defence

PRAYER POINTS

- For the recruitment of a Youth Outreach Worker.
- For Leon, and all in our church families.
- For the events planned in the run up to Christmas, and that Christ remains the focus.
- For those who will struggle, financially, emotionally over the Christmas period.