



# Emmaus The Link

“While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them” Luke 24:15

## Dublin Emmaus Walks-2018

This is the fourteenth year of the Emmaus walks in Ireland. For the first three years the previous walks were held at the Glenree Reconciliation centre in the Wicklow mountains. The mountain top experience was amazing and the Almighty poured out His blessings on the pilgrims and the team. This year, both walks are held at the picturesque Dromantine Retreat & Conference centre, Newry, Co Down in Northern Ireland.



Dromantine Centre

The Lord is waiting with arms stretched to welcome all and pour out His blessings. The prayers and preparation that have gone into this will not be in vain.

### From the Community Lay Director



Welcome to the Emmaus Community Ireland. Your Walk is over and as you reflect on all that you've experienced, I pray that you will find that you have learnt lots about our Lord and Father and feel more secure in God's love for you. The aim of Emmaus is to refresh and grow your faith and then to send you back to your own worshipping community to love and serve them. I hope you are filled with wonder as you revel in an expanded understanding of and gratitude for all God has done for you.

But it doesn't end here ..... Emmaus still wants to support and encourage you. Your Fourth Day meeting takes place at 4pm on March 24th in Dundrum (Dublin) Methodist Church where you can renew friendships you have made this weekend, meet others in the community and most importantly celebrate all God has done at this weekend. Secondly, if you wish, we will help you find a reunion group to support you as you return to your everyday life. Finally, there will be Gatherings of the community throughout the year that we hope you will attend when we share fellowship and worship. I pray that wherever your life journey takes you that this experience will give you unshakeable confidence that you are loved by an awesome God.

De Colores.

Marion Smith

### Board of Directors 2017/18

|                            |                |                     |                             |
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| Reunion Groups:            | Gary Dunn      |                     |                             |

Official News letter of  
Walk to Emmaus Ireland  
Dublin Community  
Number 15, February  
2018



### *From the Men's Walk Spiritual Director*

It's my very great pleasure to be Spiritual Director of the Men's Walk for 2018. I follow in a long line of very eminent Methodist clergy, so I hope, with God's help, that I can measure up to this noble and holy task.

I did my 'Walk' back in 2013, I believe, and enjoyed and profited from the devotion and commitment of the people I met, among both the team and the pilgrims. It's a wonderful opportunity to experience the talks on the Christian life being shared and explained again, especially by people experienced in living these God-given truths.



We are living in an increasingly secular Ireland, an Ireland that is fast moving away from the wonderful Christian culture that has sustained it for hundreds of years. The speed of this change is astonishing, and daily I meet people for whom walking with Christ is a brand new concept, as much as eastern cultures and religions are.

So, this time, I believe, is a wonderful opportunity for believers to go out and preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We're getting to the sort of days the early disciples encountered, sharing something new. Among the many evangelistic movements the Church is engaging in, the 'Walk to Emmaus' is one, and whether you are renewing your faith or exploring Christ for the first time, you will find in the walk, the meat of the gospel presented in a framework of loving fellowship during your weekend in Dromantine. You'll get time to talk, discuss, think, and pray, and it's our hope that you'll commit afresh to Him who lived the life we couldn't live and died the death that we deserve.

Everything to do with 'Emmaus' is bathed in prayer. For months the team have been praying and meeting to pray and seek the Lord's will for this work. Even during the Walk itself, prayer continues much further afield, in many places in the world, in fact, wherever there is an established 'Emmaus' community. So while you're asleep in Dromantine, faithful Christians the world over are remembering you and the other pilgrims before the Throne of grace and mercy. And remember, prayer is the engine-room of the Church, as all activity is useless unless it has been first bathed in prayer. John Wesley said once, "God will do nothing but in answer to prayer."

So, enjoy your 'Walk', and with expectancy and humility, watch the living God move upon you by his Spirit. With Christ, you'll never be the same again!

Ivan Dungan

### *My Fourth Day*

My name is Katriina Garcia, walk # 6, table of Clare.

Life is a journey, life as an immigrant has a very literal meaning to it. I was hardly settled in Ireland when I was asked to do my walk. At the time, I was physically, emotionally and spiritually empty. During the walk God showed up, He gave me a place to stop and enjoy His presence and to feel His love more than I have ever felt before.

God had given me and my family a church family, and then soon after He gave me an "extended family" which I call the Emmaus community. The whole experience has opened my eyes to see God is bigger than our church walls. God is at work everywhere and we are all part of it!

Emmaus community has been a great place to serve, grow in my confidence and at the same time being fully reliant on God. Being accountable on my walk with Christ has been the key to stay close to God and grow in my faith. Gatherings have been a place to meet up and hear what God is doing in people's lives. It is so encouraging to see others growing in their faith and doing things beyond their comfort zone.

My fourth day journey has had lots of ups and downs. Moving across Europe twice had its challenges. We as a family got close to a breaking point. In the middle of the rollercoaster ride of life, I have had a confidence in God that He is with me. He held my family together. He really really loves me and is with me in my journey.

God bless you all as you are going on your 4th day, De colores!



*From the Men's Walk Lay Director*



The Walk to Emmaus is centred around the amazing experience of those two disciples who met with Jesus on that wonderful journey. I was reminded recently of another meeting some of Jesus' disciples had with Him after His resurrection described in John Ch 21. Again, He turned up unexpectedly – only this time on a beach; again, there was a meal – only this time it was breakfast, cooked by Jesus Himself! We don't know what he said to all the seven men there, only Peter. He asked him a question "Do you love me?", and gave him an instruction.

On your Walk you have learned about, and hopefully, experienced either for the first time or in a new way, God's love, grace and desire for you to live your life out for Him. I believe it all comes down to our response to that question; can we reply, "You know that I love you."?

If this weekend has stimulated us to love Him, no matter how falteringly, it will motivate our Fourth Day – to pursue a life of piety, to take up the challenge of studying, to be involved in Christian action, to be a lifelong disciple facing the challenge of those obstacles to grace while relying on His sanctifying grace.

Jesus may have given you some instruction too - said something specific to you about your life, perhaps some changes to make, or some way He wants you to serve Him. This may be daunting – as it may have been to Peter, but soon the Spirit was sent to help him. The same Spirit is with us.

I pray as you set out on your Fourth Day you will be very aware of God's love and purpose for you. May we all grow in the knowledge of our Jesus Christ and our love for Him. Grace and peace in abundance be yours.

De Colores

Chris Mathison

*From the Women's Walk Lay Director*



Welcome to the Emmaus Community

I hope you have enjoyed your 3 day Walk to Emmaus and that you have been richly blessed. I wonder has it been anything like you expected. The walk tends to be full of surprises for most people. One of the surprises for me came at the end of my Walk when I discovered that there was a wonderful community of fellow walkers and the Walk itself was just the start of an ongoing journey. In March 2012, as I set off for Dromantine, I thought I was just going to a nice little retreat and that would be the end of it but no, there was so much more to come. I discovered that the Emmaus Community provides a wonderful model for church life with many opportunities for service and ministry. The community brings people together from all over Ireland from many different church backgrounds at the monthly Gatherings.

This weekend you will have been encouraged and inspired to go back into your own churches with renewed confidence and enthusiasm and that is one of the primary aims of the Emmaus Walks. However, through Reunion Groups and Gatherings, you will be further encouraged to step out in faith and move into areas of service that you might not have imagined for yourself previously. You may even find yourself serving on a conference room team or support team for a future Walk and will benefit from the training sessions that precede every Walk. One thing for sure is that, as you have opened yourself to God's leading this weekend, He will have many more surprises in store for you, so walk on in faith and do not be afraid for He is with you always (Matthew 28:20). May God continue to bless you richly in our fourth day.

De Colores,

Joyce Lee

**The Men's Team**

Ivan Dungan  
Alan Wardlow  
Rosemary Lindsay  
John Corrie  
Ken Wilson  
Stephen Barrington

Chris Mathison  
Ken Mutton  
Jim Thorpe  
Perry Chitombo  
Leslie Finlay  
Ken Gillanders

Mick Redmond  
Mick Kelly  
Richard Zipser  
Neil Morris  
Brian Hughes  
Eric Chaloner

Eric Luk  
Julian Plant  
Simon Maxwell

**The Women's Team**

Alison Gallagher  
Richard Johnston  
Alan Wardlow  
Rosemary Lindsay  
Louise Donald  
Anne Gillanders  
Jean Kingston  
Joyce Lee

Carol Hennessey  
Trina Hanlon  
Sylvia Sloane  
Lynne Morrison  
Leesa Beal  
Yinka Parm  
Daphne Wood  
Heather Christie

Grace Kingston  
Oonagh Soden  
Michelle Meah  
Lisa Boyd  
Winifred Graham  
Brenda Scarff  
Geraldine Brown  
Katriina Garcia

Ruth Gyves  
Caroline Stewart

## *From the Women's Walk Spiritual Director*

Welcome to the Emmaus Community Ireland. It's a joy and privilege to have shared with you in your Emmaus Walk. Every time I have the opportunity to serve on an Emmaus team, I see God's transforming hand and amazing grace. I remember my own walk 12 years ago when God healed me in a deep way: "my chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed thee" (Charles Wesley). Nothing was the same after that weekend. I may have returned to the same circumstances but I was not the same. I was forever changed and couldn't continue the same safe, comfortable way of living. Instead God took me on an adventure, in directions that challenged and stretched me, and through it all God loved and supported me.



Your experience of the Emmaus Walk is unique. You may have found it challenging, inspiring, encouraging, healing, or a struggle. As you prepare to go home, the situation you are returning to probably hasn't changed but thanks to God's dynamic power and love, you have changed. My prayer for you is, that all you experienced during these 72 hours continues to inspire you and lead you into a life lived more deeply with Christ. "It only takes a spark to get a fire going" (Kurt Kaiser). Be the spark in your communities and watch God's transforming love and power at work, becoming the fire of renewal and revival. Embrace the many opportunities you will have to serve God – in your church and through Emmaus. Not only will you continue to grow and develop, but you will help others to grow too.

The unconditional love and support experienced during an Emmaus walk is a great blessing. The monthly gatherings and reunion groups will enable you to both give and receive this love and support. I encourage you to make every effort to be part of these. Finally, "let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another..." (Hebrews 10.24-25).

Rev. Alison Gallagher

## Fourth Day

**Venue:** Dundrum Methodist Church

Saturday, 4.00pm

24th March 2018

**ALL ARE INVITED-bring your family too!**

Gatherings are usually held once per month.

For an update on the gathering dates, visit [www.emmauswalks.ie](http://www.emmauswalks.ie)

## *Reunion Groups*

My name is Gary Dunn and I coordinate the reunion groups on behalf of the board.

I would encourage all of us to be part of a reunion group, even if you already meet in a bible study or life group.

My own reunion group had grown to six and so we recently split into two groups of three. We meet on Saturday mornings once a month in a local cafe. A reunion group ideally should have between two and five people and meet together regularly. What is discussed in the group, is of course confidential and it should be a place where you can build real relationships with like minded people and pray for and encourage each other in your fourth day journey.

There are reunion groups meeting in lots of different areas and at different times so hopefully there will be one that matches your time and location. I am happy to chat with you at any gathering or by email to help you find a group or start one. Maybe your sponsor will also be able to help you find a group or start a new group with you.

So why be in a reunion group. Your reunion group will pray with you and for you. You will be encouraged to think about your Christian action and how you can live out your faith in practical ways everyday. Your fellow group members will hold you accountable and also be accountable to you. The little reunion card that we all got on our Walks helps to keep the group focussed. Meeting in a group with people that have also done an Emmaus Walk is also a great way to stay connected to the community and maybe together help run a gathering or just travel together to a gathering or other community event. A lot of the agape gifts you got on your walk will have been made by a reunion group.

Finally your commitment to a reunion group doesn't have to involve a lot of time, my group meets from 8.30 to 9.30am and in that time share breakfast together, and by being honest and real we discuss the struggles and victories in our lives.

I hope this encourages you to be in a reunion group whether you have just done your Walk or you did your Walk many years ago.

May we all be richly blessed in all our fourth days.

De Colores Gary

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Published by Walk to Emmaus Dublin Community.

Articles, thoughts, Emmaus activities and prayer requests may be mailed to the Editor below. If you wish to share some of your experiences, memories of the walk or fourth days and pictures, either on the web site or newsletter, please send them to us. Contact Eamon Kelly : [communications@emmauswalks.ie](mailto:communications@emmauswalks.ie)