



# Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

September 2020

## The Rector writes.....

We are living in times that are unprecedented in our lifetime. It is hard to believe that it is a little over six months since the very first confirmed case of COVID-19 was detected in Ireland. Since then life has been very different for us all. However, we have adapted, and things which were unthinkable before, are now natural and normal.

The same is true in the parish. Our churches reopened safely in early July and services have been happening each week for the past two months. When we resumed public worship, I undertook to keep some video presence online, until the end of August. I have kept to that commitment and full services or short Sunday reflections were uploaded to the parish YouTube channel each week. However now as we are into September, it will not be possible for me to maintain this alongside everything else. My hope is that we will continue to have at least three and when the Revd Hazel Minion is available, four church services each Sunday. I know this is still a slightly reduced schedule, but I think in the circumstances it is the best that we can do.

I write this to encourage you, if you have not already done so, to come back to church. However, I do recognise that this can be a little daunting, and that some parishioners have specific health concerns. To facilitate those who may not wish to attend on Sunday, we will also be having a quiet mid-week Holy Communion service in the parish each week. This will be run on a trial basis in September to see if it meets a need and will alternate between St Luke's Church and St Michael's on Wednesday mornings at 11.00. Remember, if you wish, you may attend and receive Holy Communion spiritually, however it is good to note that when we have communion on Sundays, the vast majority of people are happy to receive the communion wafer as they depart, in accordance with the current Church of Ireland protocol. I also remind you that each Sunday the service from St Fin Barre's Cathedral can be viewed online. The link is <https://www.youtube.com/c/SaintFinBarresCathedral>.

Please keep in touch with each other and with the parish. For the foreseeable future, our church activities and organisations have had to cease. When it is safe to do so, I hope they will resume. Don't hesitate to contact me at any time. The current health restrictions mean that I can't visit people as before and will not be networking in the parish in the familiar way. It might be easy to miss someone who is in need. While I will do my best to phone and email periodically, I am relying on you to contact me too!

I end by reminding you that this will end! There have been pandemics before and there will be again, but with the help of each other and our trust in God, we will get through this. We pray for those working to find a vaccine or a treatment for COVID-19. Look after yourselves, look after each other and please stay safe.

Yours in Christ, **Adrian.**

**Ordination** On 30<sup>th</sup> August the ordination to the diaconate of Sabrina Cooke took place in St Fin Barre's Cathedral. Sabrina is from this parish and has been engaged in the part time training course in Dublin for several years. For the next year she will be continuing her studies while also working part time in Cloyne Union of Parishes with the Very Revd Susan Green. We celebrate Sabrina on her ordination and wish her every blessing in her ministry in the church of God.



**Worship Survey** A month after the churches reopened for public worship, I sent out an online survey to all parishioners on the parish email list which they could complete anonymously. This was an attempt to judge the reaction to and impact of online worship, as well as to help in establishing the worship needs of the parish going forward into what will inevitably be a period of flux. I received 172 responses and some interesting initial results emerged.

96% of respondents said that they had watched the parish online services and 69% of these watched them each week. 63% watched the service on Sunday. We can conclude therefore that there was a high degree of parish loyalty from respondents and that Sunday worship, even in the midst of lockdown, mattered. Place and a connection with the local clergy and parish clearly matters too as 94% of people felt connected to the parish from their homes, 75% felt that they had been 'at church' and 97% of people agreed that the prayers used in the different services helped them.

The concept of 'sacred space' seems important to people. In the initial weeks of lockdown, services were recorded from the Rectory, partly out of a sense of solidarity with the parishioners who at that time could not go into the church building, and partly due to the limitations of the sound recording technology at our disposal. A new microphone allowed us to record the last five weeks of service in the church. Of the 146 who responded to a question asking which they liked best, 72% who expressed a preference, opted for the church setting.

At the end of the questionnaire, there was a place for optional anonymous comments. Some of the many received included;

*\*Even though I don't attend church on a regular basis, I watch the reflection. I have a strong faith and during these challenging times, it was great to join the parish services and to know that you were connected in word, prayer, song and music with others who share the same Christian faith. Thanks, your hard work is much appreciated.*

*\*The on-line services were a great connection & comfort during those dark, uncertain and terrible months of March, April & May.*

*\*I found the online services very comforting in what has been an anxious time for many. It was lovely to feel part of a caring community. Although I am not a very regular church goer, I appreciate that I am part of the community. Thank you.*

*\*The services gave me a sense of normality & peace. Many thanks to all involved.*

**No break in prayer!** Every day during Covid 19, in fact every day since 19th November 2007, the chain of prayer for those who are sick or in need has been maintained in this parish by the faithful band of parishioners in the Prayer Chain. Thank you to them for this important work.

If you are facing challenges or difficulties, we are there for you, to hear your needs in confidence and pray for you. You can contact us by a short e-mail to [hminion22@hotmail.com](mailto:hminion22@hotmail.com) or talk to either Adrian or Hazel. You need only give a name and a one line request and it will be passed on to those who pray separately day by day in their own homes.

**Easter General Vestries** Due to the Covid restrictions, the possibility of holding any meetings remains fluid. Tentatively it is hoped that the Easter General Vestry for Douglas Union will be held in St Luke's Church on Wednesday 23 September at 8pm in the context of a short act of worship. For Frankfield it may take place on Sunday 27 September at the end of our morning service. Both meetings will be short and socially distanced, purely for the purposes of transacting essential business, adopting the accounts and electing officers for the forth coming year and representatives for the triennium.



# Our parish worship: Survey

Douglas Union of  
Parishes with  
Frankfield



Survey July 2020



407 emails sent  
each week



171 replies to  
the survey

20 weeks  
online  
services up  
to end July



The recorded  
service was the  
right length

The  
prayers  
really  
helped me

The sermon was  
relevant

I felt  
connected to  
the parish at  
home

>94% respondents  
agreed...

The images  
were relevant

69% of those  
who watched  
the services  
watched them  
weekly

72% people  
preferred the  
service when  
recorded in church

63% of those who watched  
the services watched on a  
Sunday

**School News** We wish the pupils and staff of both St Luke's School in Douglas and St Michael's School in Blackrock every blessing now that they have reopened. The principals, staff and boards of management have worked very hard over the 'summer holidays' to ensure that all the correct safety measures and protocols are in place.

Obviously, the situation continues to unfold in the education landscape, and we hold them all in our prayers.

We also remember all our younger parishioners who will be getting their Leaving Certificate results. Their final months of education at second level must have been more stressful than normal given all the uncertainty at the time. We pray for them too as they embark on further studies, training courses or prepare for employment in these extraordinary times.



**Boys' Brigade** Tanya Meikle has announced that she is stepping down as the Captain of the 1st Cork Company. She has been in this role for 7 years and before that as a captain in charge of the Junior Section for at least 7 more years. We thank her for her service and for all the time and effort she put in to organising a programme of activities for each Thursday evening. She was always very dedicated and interested in the welfare of all the boys and girls.



I am delighted to announce that Catherine Campion will assume the role as Captain of the company. She has had many years of involvement in the Boys' Brigade and so is well equipped to lead the company into the future. We wish her well. Unfortunately for the foreseeable future, the weekly Boys' Brigade meetings have had to stop until government regulations allow physical youth activities to resume. Some contact with the current members will be retained through online activities.

**The Parish Office Reopens** In March the Parish Office had to close as the lockdown took hold. Since then all the parish administration, service copying etc. was done by the Rector from the Rectory. Now that we are in the month of September, Paula will be working again. While there will be no physical access for parishioners to the Parish Office, please keep in touch with Paula by phone and email. In exceptional circumstances, specific arrangements in line with Covid requirements can be made for the collection of printing and other parish material.

# Church Services – September 2020



<b>Sunday 6 September</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
13 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Trinity	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Green	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
<b>Wednesday 9 September</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<b>Sunday 13 September</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
14 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Trinity	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
<b>Wednesday 16 September</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Sunday 20 September</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Harvest Thanksgiving</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Green	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Wednesday 23 September</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<b>Sunday 27 September</b>	10.00	Service of the Word	Frankfield
16 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Trinity	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
Green	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<b>Wednesday 30 September</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas

*Please note that this is an indicative list and is subject to change at short notice. It assumes that none of the clergy must self-isolate and that government guidelines for worship continue in their present form.*