

Parish Matters



Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

June 2021

The Rector writes.....

Now that our churches are open again, I am indebted to both Wilfred Baker and Keith Roberts, who take services in this Union of Parishes when the Revd Hazel Minion is away or when I will be away for a couple of weeks of holidays later this summer. I know many parishioners really appreciate their ministry when they occupy the prayer desk and pulpit.

Lay Readers have a long and noble history in the Church of Ireland and in many places, they are vital to the maintenance of a regular pattern of Sunday worship in dioceses where there are clergy shortages. However, it should not be seen as a stop gap role. While they do cover clergy absences, in truth they are part of the liturgical ministry team in a parish who work along side their ordained colleagues. To emphasise this, in some parishes lay readers lead parts of the same service with the clergy.



This month I am delighted to announce that Dr Kieran Hogan will be licensed as a Diocesan Lay Reader at a service in St Fin Barre's Cathedral on Tuesday 8 June at 7pm, along with Alan Clohessy from Cloyne Union. Kieran is known to most of you in Douglas. He has been People's Churchwarden in St Luke's for a several years relinquishing this at the last Easter General Vestry. He is also Honorary Secretary of the Select Vestry so Kieran is a busy man. In his professional life, he is a consultant anaesthetist and intensivist at the Mater Hospital here in Cork. He is married to Rosie, and they have three children, Emily, Ben and Tom. In 2019 Kieran completed the Course in Christian Studies which is accredited by

Maynooth University. This is a first and essential part of lay reader training for those who want to pursue that path. He then felt a calling towards lay readership ministry and was interviewed and accepted for this. Kieran then went on to complete an additional unit of liturgical training so that now he is equipped in part for his new role.

In normal circumstances I would be asking you to turn out in large numbers to support Kieran at his licensing service in St Fin Barre's Cathedral. Unfortunately, due to the public health restrictions, those permitted to attend must be limited to family members, invited guests and officiating clergy only. However, the service can be watched as it is live-streamed on the cathedral webcam and so I strongly encourage to watch it on Tuesday evening and remember Kieran and Alan in your prayers as they take this new step in their discipleship and ministry.

I am delighted to confirm that the Bishop has placed Kieran with us in Douglas Union with Frankfield. In the coming weeks you will see him with me as we share in Sunday services together. I know you will continue to encourage and support Kieran, as you do Keith and Wilfred as well as others, such as Sabrina Cooke and Andrew Coleman, who have been with us for training purposes in the past.

Finally, I remind you that we need people to continue to offer themselves for the ministry of lay readership. There have been several retirements recently from the list of those who serve in this Diocese. We always need new Lay Readers. If you would like to have an informal conversation about what might be involved, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Christ, *Adrian.*

CONSIDERING CONFIRMATION?

I take this opportunity to notify parents and guardians of pupils currently in 6th class, or in secondary school, about the confirmation programme we hope will be running in the parish in the autumn. The impact of Covid-19 has meant that the programme will be slightly modified this year. There are still young parishioners who should have been confirmed in May 2020 who are waiting, and I look forward to their confirmation when it happens.

For those currently in 5th or 6th class or older, and are thinking about confirmation, I will run a series of classes, probably on Sunday mornings in Douglas at 12.15 after the 11.15 service. These will not start before October. All I am asking for at this stage is expressions of interest from the potential candidates. Once I have some idea of the size of the possible class(es), I will know how best to arrange things and how many groups I will need to plan and work with. In mid-September, an introductory meeting will be held for all parents of children considering confirmation.

I ask that you email me to register interest and let me know what class your son/daughter is currently in. This is not committing you at this stage but will be helpful to me as I plan. It is important that the decision to be confirmed rests with



the candidate themselves, so parents please take the opportunity to discuss it fully with them in advance of contacting me. *A. Wilkinson*



Prayers for the End of the School Year and for those sitting the Leaving Certificate

This past year has been one like none other in all our schools. We are mindful of those who are sitting the Leaving Certificate this year after 14



very disrupted months of secondary school. We also remember 6th class pupils who are preparing to move on to new schools in September but will not have the usual graduation services and prize days in front of their parents and peers. We acknowledge all that their teachers and other school staff have done, to prepare them for the next step in their education and life. I hope they will find these prayers helpful. *A. Wilkinson*

End of School Year Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all your goodness to us and for bringing us safely to the end of another school year. We thank you for all the things we have learned and for all the fun we have enjoyed. Thank you for our friends and for helping us to love one another as you have loved us. We thank you for sixth class. Bless them as they move to their new schools. May they settle in quickly, make new friends and know that you are always with them. We also pray for the children who will join us in September. Help us to make them feel welcome and to care for them. We pray that they will be very happy in our school. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Prayer for those sitting exams

Heavenly Father

Help and guide us as we sit our exams.

May we recall what we have learnt.

*Keep our minds focused as we analyse and solve problems,
let our imagination soar as we express ourselves,
but help us to remember to do the simple things well.*

May Jesus, be our example and inspiration as we are put to the test.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen





Wedding Celebrations

After many months of quietness, it was wonderful to celebrate a happy event in one of our churches recently. On Saturday 8 May, in a joyful and intimate family setting, Rebecca Sweetnam and Terence O'Donoghue were married in St Luke's Church in Douglas. We wish them every joy and happiness in their future together as husband and wife.

St Luke's School Notes

We have been making the most of the "Great Outdoors" in St Luke's School since our full return to school. We are very fortunate to have Ballybrack Woods within walking distance of the school and many of our classes use this beautiful amenity regularly, walking, studying nature and orienteering. 4th Class are taking part in the Cycle Right programme, 6th Class have completed a team marathon challenge and we have also had our Assemblies all out in the playground.



We were delighted that our After-School tennis, hockey and fitness activities could restart and children could safely enjoy these sporting activities.

The Student Council organised a "Crazy hair Day" and raised 432euro for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Well done to all concerned.

We are very appreciative of Tom Chambers, David Shine, Jamie Dorgan and Mark Gallagher for doing a superb job replacing the steps and edging in our garden area and repairing our playhouse in Tir na nOg. The pupils are now safely enjoying their hard work. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Caroline Bryan on the death of her grandmother, May Wolfe.



Christian Aid Week

Congratulations to the Revd Tony Murphy on his initiative to raise funds for an agricultural development project in Burundi, by doing a 5km walk in each parish in the Diocese. This is the project the Diocese has been supporting for several years through Christian Aid. On Tuesday 11 May the sun shone as he did his leg in this parish by walking around Blackrock. He was

joined by Adrian Wilkinson and a work former colleague who had travelled from County Kildare that morning to support him. The three walkers posed near Blackrock Castle before setting off.

Select Vestry Meetings:

Frankfield Vestry will meet via Zoom on **Wednesday 9 June** at **6.30pm**. The Rector will send the link to parishioners on the day before.

Douglas Union Select Vestry will meet via Zoom also on **Wednesday 9 June** at **8.00pm**. The Secretary will send out the link to the members in advance of this meeting.

CHURCH SERVICES – June 2021



Sunday 6 June	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>1st Sunday after Trinity</i>	9.45	Service of the Word	Passage
Green	10.00	Service of the Word	Frankfield
	11.15	Service of the Word	Douglas

Wednesday 9 June	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
<i>St Columba's Day (White)</i>			

Sunday 13 June	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>2nd Sunday after Trinity</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Green	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas

Wednesday 16 June	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
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Sunday 20 June	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>3rd Sunday after Trinity</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Green	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas

Wednesday 23 June	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
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Sunday 27 June	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
<i>4th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
Green	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30*	Morning Prayer	Blackrock

(* Note the usual 8.30 service in Blackrock is replaced by an 11.30 service on the last Sunday of the month for the present)

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